

Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting - APPROVED

June 22, 2020

Electronic meeting via zoom

The June 22, 2020 meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:31PM by Chair Hall-Kayler. Also present were board members Reed, Underhill, Anderson, Schrader and Taylor, along with members of the community. Sellers was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Hall-Kayler

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Moved by Anderson, supported by Taylor. No objections

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Anderson, supported by Underhill. All ayes, motion carried.

Update on catwalk – more signs are needed, as well as snow-fencing to be put up (leftover from Cherry Beach). People continue to try to get past signage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Hall-Kayler acknowledged Mr. Bunte, Chief Davidson, and Chief Taylor for their investment in beach access.

Hall-Kayler acknowledged the beach access committee for their efforts and announced that Mr. Sipek is now head of that committee, as she has stepped down.

Hall-Kayler acknowledged Mr. Higgins for his outstanding work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Annie Hickman – Suggested Rafal Piskiewipz at 773-941-1136 to build stairs

Fran Wersells – a lot of debris in back of shed at Miller beach

Steve Siddall – suggested we use screws instead of nails, like down in years past, and relocate the stairs to where they used to be at Cherry Beach.

Layton Olson – remote learning opportunities

Shelly Taylor – Park and Read summer program through the River Valley School District

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was presented to the board and placed on file as read.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. Lakeside Parks: Presented park beatification plan
2. Beach Access: Through volunteer efforts and a GoFundMe, they'd like to build stairs to get down to Cherry beach. It is currently a safety hazard so there will need to be tree cleaning, etc. Looking for board approval to move forward on a plan.
3. Acorn Theater – Music in the park: Looking to do an "Acorn Anywhere" program, July 25, at Harbert Community Park. They'd use the ball field, with the stage being at home plate. They'd apply for liquor license, looking at 200 people (according to MI mandates) have one entrance, and check ID's.

OLD BUSINESS

Work projects update

Cherry Beach project update

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Lakeside Association special presentation: Moved by Anderson to accept proposal of beautification project. Supported by Underhill.

Maintenance plan inquiry, answered in MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

Questioned how to water without a water source: They have commitment from one neighbor, with the agreement to reimburse water expenses. There are several people in the area who may be willing to supply water, but also want to be reimbursed by the Lakeside Association.

This project is a 3-phase plan.

Roll Call vote:

Underhill: yes

Reed: yes

Schrader: yes

Anderson: yes

Hall-Kayler: yes

Taylor: yes

All ayes, motion carried.

Discussion on Cherry Beach access:

It was addressed that trees are falling, and answered by saying we can safely/legally cut trees above the root to provide clean access to the beach sand. Approximately 5-10 trees would need to be cut (Schrader noted that more than 10 on a critical dune requires a permit from EGLE). Trees are a safety concern so PD and FD approval is wanted. Public Safety currently are using Berrien Beach access if there was to be an emergency at Cherry. Underhill inquired how much the GoFundMe is trying to raise: \$2-3,000. There has not been a conversation with the township building department but they will be having one with Van Thornton.

This is a "Slumping Dune." The dune at Harbert pulled the stairs away. They'd like to secure the stairs with cables so that can't happen, and attach at various spots.

Stairs should be able to withstand reasonable weather, which they are basing that definition on years past. Working on how far down posts will have to go. It was also requested that they work with the township inspector to be sure they're cleared with insurance.

Moved by Anderson to accept the proposal of the beach access committee, subject to approval of all affected township agencies, including the board of trustees, and subject to obtaining private funding. Supported by Underhill.

Roll call vote:

Schrader: yes

Hall-Kayler: yes

Anderson: yes

Taylor: yes

Underhill: yes

Reed: yes

Reed would like a special meeting for follow-up and things get moving.

Discussion on Acorn Anywhere:

Anderson moved to accept the proposal by the Acorn Theater, subject to approval of township for parking and approve for obtaining liquor license. Supported by Hall-Kayler.

The executive order currently allows 250 people outdoors, BYOB has less logistics, no food sales, and band is a Rolling Stones tribute band. There have been no other concerts in that park yet so now might not be the time to try it out, amidst a pandemic. They've explored other venues but Harbert Community Park accommodates all their needs. They may spray paint circles to show 6 feet apart, they'll have signage and they'll require masks to be worn. Sanitizing stations will be brought in, as well as port-a-johns. Guests will need to bring their own chairs. The good neighbor policy should be looked at. Cost of tickets are \$35, with an extra \$5 to bring in your own beer/wine. The BYOB will have to go through the trustees and police.

Roll call vote:

Schrader: yes

Hall-Kayler: yes

Anderson: yes

Underhill: no

Taylor: yes

Reed: abstain

4 ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstain, motion carried.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Not comfortable with a concert at Harbert Community Park, in the midst of a pandemic.

Watering tubes could be used at the Lakeside park, suggested by Anne Smith.

Cherry beach could have an extractable platform and stairs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A flag has been dedicated to Cherry Beach.

Next meeting is Monday, July 27 at 6:30pm.

ADJOURN MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Taylor