

Chikaming Township Park Board Special Meeting -APPROVED

May 10, 2021

Electronic meeting via Zoom

The May 10, 2021 special meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:34PM by Chair Arthur Anderson (Harbert). Also present were board members Shelly Taylor (Three Oaks), Kathy Sellers (Lakeside), Sherri Curry (Harbert), Steve Ellis (Sawyer), and Garth Taylor (Harbert), along with members of the community. Jocelyn VerLee is not present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Anderson

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: No objections, Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Will acknowledge Harbert Beach stairs crew on May 24 regular meeting. Thanks John and Josy from Altamanu, Inc. for being here tonight.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: John Mac Manus and Josy Bellalta from Altamanu, Inc. Reviewed Phase 1A and Phase 2B proposals for Harbert Community Park.

Need controlled entry-way as there is no clear entry right now, approximately 33 parking spaces. Ideas - splash pad (long term), discovery area with natural elements, native pollinator planting, pond overlook. Keep volleyball courts and ice rink. Improvements discussed also include performance platform, cement walkways, landscaping, and benches.

Motion by Anderson to Adjourn Special Meeting, No objections, Motion Carried.

SPECIAL MEETING ADJOURNED

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON HARBERT PARK REDESIGN

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jill Underhill - area around pond gets very swampy, agrees with dismantling ball field as it is not getting regular use, used to be well-used in the past.

Arthur Anderson - Thanks John and Josy for work, ideas, and willingness to pull in elements of 5-year plan.

Garth Taylor - amazed at how far we've gotten, much effort put in, focal point for Harbert and Chikaming township.

Sherri Curry - thanks to all participating, outside music events are great! Looking forward to seeing all this go on.

Joseph Reed - appreciate everyone's feedback. This is a park in nature and of nature, a lot of thought has gone into this project, lots of other forces behind the scene.

Bernie Dahl - well thought out, questioned active recreation in park, recently saw local daycare there and there was lots of activity in the park with them. Should we include more active recreation such as basketball court with adjustable height hoop, pickleball, etc.?

Kathy Sellers - Questioned that Phase 2 cannot be done without Phase 1 in regards to the path, which would raise the estimate a bit.

Nicolette Wands – She is in area mostly Thursday-Mondays and sees most activity at playground and covered patio with birthday parties and gatherings, dog park is also highly used. We could weave in some physical activity areas, possibly disc golf.

Thomas – walking track would be great, with exercise stations.

Steve Ellis – this park is designated for active recreation in the 5-year plan, part of linear trail so exercise stations would fit in well, heard of interest in pickleball (would be well-used).

It was questioned whether there would be a noise conflict between pickleball and the music venue, or if it's perceived as those two being mutually exclusive. There is a wall or mound being built along Red Arrow Hwy to mitigate noise. Is that for the music venue? This area could be a central location for a market one day a week. Johh and Josy's response – In regards to pickleball court, they want to allow movement with no fence, could have fence on one end or another but not in the middle. There is lots of space in the middle to keep it open, like idea of pulling farmer's marker together. Anderson responded that the berm along the highway is not related to the venue.

Jill Underhill – Could the splash pad use recycled water? Josy said not likely, maybe for irrigation. Very expensive to clean and recycle water. Reservoir could be used for irrigation and other uses. There would be touch timers and a seasonal shut-off. Touch timers run 1-1.5 min. then shut off until started again. Jill wants to be sure the stage isn't where the swampy area is. Jill praised Shelly Taylor for trying to get people to the ball field. Times have changed and no one wants to use it. Public can make new attachments and memories of things at the park.

Anderson commented there is not a lot of use on little league field. Could it be repurposed for adult use? Outfiled is too small currently for adults, designed for little league.

Enrico Heirman – sent a letter to board and would like to keep the ballfield open and revamp it.

Anderson is pushing performance stage because of the grant. Great opportunity!

Nicollette Wands – Opportunity to add rest area/seating areas that are viewable from the street. Nice rest area on benches for bikers, etc. closer to Red Arrow so it looks inviting. How about seating for performance stage? Anderson responded that public would bring own chairs to performance venue.

Shelly Taylor – Really excited about new things in park, many memories are tied to the ball field but it's just not being used, so we can all make new memories there. Wanted to be sure lights and concession will remain for skating rink.

Marge Spears – Suggested prairie grasses that require no mowing in areas that are not developed.

Anderson asked that we keep collecting ideas from friends and neighbors.

Motion to close public hearing, No objections, Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

RE-OPEN SPECIAL MEETING

REPORTS:

Harbert Beach Stairs are completed and open, lots of positive feedback.

Harbert Community Park – G. Taylor and Anderson doing a great job!

Cherry Beach – work is done, nice and safe, working on putting parking spaces together. Anderson mentioned possibly increasing number of spaces from the 27 we had last year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Harbert Community Park enhancement ideas – Sellers suggested benches, internet, pickleball, bocce ball.

QUESTION AND ANSWER:

Jill Underhill – Dogs on beach opened a can of worms, the old park board wrote a letter to the paper saying no dogs on beach, and now have changed their mind. Anderson responded that another member was upset about dogs on the beach in the morning and was trying to channel dog owners to pick up litter in the morning for a win-win. Hopeful that time set aside to do it legally would help. Beachfront owners can bring their dogs to the beach, just restricts public beach. Are there loose dogs from private beaches? This will be on the township's agenda on Thursday's meeting. Underhill thanked Anderson for being good natured.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next regular meeting is Monday, May 24, 2021 at 6:30PM.

Township Regular Meeting is on Thursday, May 13, 20201 at 6:30PM.

ADJOURN MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Taylor