

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting – APPROVED

July 26, 2021

Chikaming Township Large Meeting Room

The July 26, 2021 regular meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:35PM by Chair Arthur Anderson. Also present were board members Kathy Sellers, Sherri Curry, Steve Ellis, Garth Taylor, and Shelly Taylor, along with members of the community both in-person and via Zoom.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Led by Anderson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Addition to discuss next meeting date, No objections, Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Olga – Pier St. revetments are under stairs, 88yr. old mom can't go to beach, rocks from private beach are drifting in water, worried that beach is closing. Berms to South are partially on public parking lot, wants stairs at Pier St. Beach this year.

Joe Sipek – was waiting on survey response to see when Pier St. stairs will be built.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

G. Taylor had 8-10 volunteers at the transfiguration of Harbert Community Park, will compile list of names.

Anderson gave a shoutout to Rich Sullivan for spearheading a lot of the construction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June Regular Meeting Minutes approved as submitted

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$98,492.65 is current balance. Money from donations is still there for us from township.

REPORTS: In packet

Harbert Community Park demolition has begun. August 18 film showing by Coast Children Film Festival, Conference room available for rain date. We will provide port-o-toilets.

Berrien St. Beach – trees down, TDK removing debris, step repair needed

CORRESPONDENCE: In packet, marked as read

OLD BUSINESS:

Park Board Vacancy: Moved by Anderson who allow each candidate to make 3 min. statement and board ask questions, less than 5 min., Supported by Sellers

Joseph Reed – Thanks for the work the board does, it is a large audience we serve and he admires all our board has accomplished already. He would be honored to join the team, but feels Jill is extremely qualified. He will make things easier by stepping aside and let Jill fill the position, out of utilizing the good neighbor policy. He will volunteer when he can and would like to be considered down the road if the opportunity arises again. He will volunteer from the sidelines.

Jill Underhill – Thanks to Joseph for his very gracious statements. She has mutual admiration and respect for him. Joseph cares deeply for the community. She has a lot to give and a desire to serve. She'd like to help finish the pathway to the pond at Harbert Community Park, is excited about the new stage and the ball field being gone.

- Ellis – No questions
- Curry – wants Joseph to remain as candidate. He declined and said he will serve as a volunteer and work closely with us

- G. Taylor – Appreciates the lively intellect of Joseph, correct rationale, this helps our group come together and move forward.
- S. Taylor – Thankful for Joseph’s continued close work with the board, welcome to Jill
- Sellers – admires Joseph, thrilled to have Jill, it’s all good
- Anderson – Joseph has enormous wealth of history of park board, will call on him frequently and enjoys his humor and commentary. Asked Jill how she would resolve conflicts of opinion on the board. Jill answered that there has to be communication, have a conversation and address it head on. Takes a firm hand to keep everyone reigned in.

Anderson moved to recommend Jill Underhill to fill the vacancy on the Park Board and to bring it to the Township Board for approval, Supported by Sellers.

Roll Call Vote:

Curry – yes

Sellers – yes

Anderson – yes

S. Taylor – yes

Ellis – yes

G. Taylor – yes

6 Yes, 0 No, Motion Carried.

Motion by Anderson to thank Joseph for his volunteer efforts on the board and in the community, Supported by Sellers. No Objections, Motion Carried.

Harbert Community Park Improvements –

- Phase 2 Planning will begin
- Infusco donating for work day on Friday
- Funding: Twp. Trustees July meeting approved \$50,000 with potential \$50,000 match, encourage PB to come back if need more
- Demolition: Trustee Rich Sullivan is providing leadership, 8-10 volunteers on Friday, 7/23, most cyclone fencing – recycling metal material, half of bleachers, on 7/30 they’ll work on remaining fencing, batting cage, roofs of dugouts, out building, rest of bleachers
- Expenditures: Dumpster ordered (metal will be recycled), Versaw will provide reduced fee quote for demolishing dugouts and out building, Arborist Altamanu designated trees and bushes to be removed in overgrown area by pond
- Critical Path: Meet with designers and construction supervisor to set final task list and get contractors ASAP
- Anderson asked G. Taylor to organize the meetings with Altamanu and McCollum to begin construction

Pier St. Stairs :

Moved by Anderson that reconstruction of Pier St. Stairs be postponed to 2022, Supported by Sellers.

Discussion:

- Anderson thinks we should do it but majority of rough survey from history walk said wait (11 wait, 6 do it this year). Negatives include not knowing what winter erosion and storms will do, small and rocky, hazardous boulders in water. Positives include stairs to go down, can walk and swim in area.
- Sellers wonders what the revetments will cause to happen and feels we should save it for next year.
- Curry asked for clarification on June minutes, we just approved money. Beaches are overflowing so maybe it would spread a few cars out.
- G. Taylor said beach might be wiped out
- S. Taylor wants to wait and see what the winter brings

- Ellis said rocks look dangerous, township has been busy showing how damaging revetments are. Many townships have been looking at our example.
- Chair allowed Olga from audience to speak: 3 households would vote for stairs, owner to North doesn't want a public beach, owner to South is using parking lot as own driveway, setting precedent for those homeowners that are getting away with it.
- Joe Sipek – Joe is available both this year and next to build stairs, agrees with Olga's comments, could move 80% of rocks at beach. So many people enjoying Harbert Beach.
- Sellers thought winter weather might move rocks, Sipek said it shouldn't. Curry suggested we let Sipek get in a work day before August meeting then decide in August. Sellers questioned why we would put it in this late in summer, so close to wear and tear of winter.

Curry moved to postpone vote until Sipek gets a work crew together and gives board more information in August, No Support, Motion Fails.

Roll Call Vote:

Curry - no

Sellers - yes

Anderson - yes

S. Taylor - yes

Ellis - yes

G. Taylor - yes

5 Yes, 1 No, Motion Carried

Will be put on agenda to look at timeline again, not necessarily wait until April 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donna Dutton Donation: Motion by Anderson to approve donation program application for Donna Dutton, Supported by Sellers.

Roll Call Vote:

Curry - yes

Sellers - yes

Anderson - yes

S. Taylor - yes

Ellis - yes

G. Taylor - yes

6 Yes, 0 No, Motion Carried

Traffic Congestion on Cherry Beach Rd.: July 4, Sherri helped Josh, citation issued by PD. July 18 Police came, 4-5 cars lined up, told to disperse immediately. Josh directed them to Harbert Rd. Beach and those residents complained. He was then told to direct them to Weko or Warren Dunes. Beach Safety Meeting was held and decided no parking on road as it is a safety hazard, per Chief Taylor. Anderson proposed pass holders only, Bunte said no. Gave slip directing cars to Weko or Warren Dunes or give name and number to be called when space becomes available. 20 cars were turned away, 4-5 left numbers. On Sunday, many turned away, one pass holder was called back. We will continue with call-backs. Cannot do passes only, have to have access to all to keep tax exempt status. Chief Taylor is strongly opposed to passes. Anderson suggested we charge money for passes to pay for a shuttle, or charge daily fee. Curry looked into grant language and says we could charge from a penny up to what the state park charges. G. Taylor suggested this sounds like a committee but likes the ideas of offering more freedom because it keeps the conversation going. S. Taylor suggested parking be free on weekdays. Ellis thinks shuttle is a good idea but needs legal advice to have valid comment or opinion.

Planning for Next Year's Budget – Wishlist due by Aug. 31. Finance committee will be comprised of Arthur and Kathy, and Arthur will appoint Steve or Jill.

Next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 23 but Anderson will be out of town.

Motion by Anderson to change next meeting to Monday, August 30, Supported by G. Taylor.

No objections, Motion Carried

QUESTION AND ANSWER:

Olga – consider handicap not being charged at Cherry since car is the only way to access beach. Bikes and golf carts show up and people bring too many things (mats, coolers, boombox, etc.). Maybe we need a noise ordinance.

Joe Sipek – will schedule a work day at Pier St. to clean up rocks and people can see what it's like. Plenty of time to rebuild stairs before Memorial Day.

Jill Underhill – Would like more info on Donna Dutton bench.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting is August 30. Film Festival is Aug. 18. Friday is next work day at Harbert Community Park

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelly Taylor