

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting – APPROVED

March 28, 2022

Chikaming Township Large Meeting Room

The March 28, 2022 of the Park Board was called to order at 6:32PM by Chair Arthur Anderson. Also present were board members Jill Underhill, Garth Taylor, Steve Ellis, and Shelly Taylor, along with members of the community both in-person and via Zoom.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Led by Anderson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Take out special order of business

Moved by Underhill to add approve additional grading expense, Remove Item 3 under New Business because it was discussed at last meeting so no need to bring it back up, Supported by Ellis,

All in favor: 4, All Opposed: 1, Motion Fails

Moved to approve agenda as amended with additional grading expense, Supported by S. Taylor

All in favor: 5, All Opposed: 0, Approved as amended

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jess Reed (Harbert) – Letter attached

Joseph Reed (Harbert) – Finished reading Jess’s letter

Larry Anderson (Sawyer) – In regards to Harbert Community Park outdoor even center Ordinance 6.27 addresses issue of more than 500 people, no standards for less than 500, 7.3 A-4 addresses requirements for parking, defer any decision until ordinances are looked at.

Conrad Murkey (Union Pier) – No need for allowing gate access at Miller Beach, unsafe paths

Chris Dudiak (Warren Woods) – opposed to Miller Beach access, dangerous for people using beach, heavy ruts and mud, construction company should be able to use driveway, big safety issue and takes away access.

Joan Arquila (Lakeshore Rd.) – agrees to statements regarding safety, put containers on 4 other family sites

Mary Kay Minaghan (across from Mudd Property) – Ord. 126 cannot block beach access, fines on a daily basis, blockage makes it impossible to pass-by, plenty of room in driveway

Fran Wersells – board read Anderson’s resignation so why are you chairing the meeting tonight and April if unwilling to serve?

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Bill McCollum – local architect, not closing beach, applied at MI Dept. of Transportation and almost ready to approve and needs park board approval, neighbors would be protected, only losing few trees next to house, not using it on weekend, will clean up for each weekend. Ellis questioned why they have to use park board property? Give same concession as when built, only access is 10 foot driveway, could be done. Ellis asked if they could work in tight spaces, Bill said yes but it will cost more. Tourist community shouldn’t give up beach. Cannot guarantee it won’t be a repeat of the mess last time because he’s not the contractor. Up to owner if they can delay it until October. Underhill wants written assessment that they will leave it better than how they find it.

Janet Schrader – Cherry Beach Centennial – Turning 100 in June so would like a committee, ideas include a commemorative pass like a “golden ticket” potentially using her photos, Three Oaks Museum is doing exhibit and putting aside showcase for Cherry Beach, possible history marker, update website to include additional footage, 4th of July celebration, camping with fire department and police department, ask on Facebook how public would like to celebrate. Low cost and simple, great volunteer opportunity, thank you to everyone who participated with acquisition, kick-off fundraiser.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Anderson acknowledged Friends of Pier St. Beach for the work with the board for a long-term solution for quality of beach and rebuilding stairs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Anderson moved to approve minutes as submitted, Supported by G. Taylor

Moved by Underhill that a correction be made to the February meeting minutes under Old Business: "this would be half of consulting fee to look at Pier St. in partnership with Lakeside Association." Please correct Lakeside Association to Friends of Pier Street Beach, Supported by G. Taylor

All in favor: 4, All Opposed: 1, Motion Carries

All in favor of adopting minutes as amended: 5, Opposed: 0, Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$9,977.39 current balance.

REPORTS: In packet

Previously approved minutes

Work Reports

Parks and Beaches

Alex will have files in One Drive of all work, receipts, etc.

Gave update on work being done including: Fishing deck is out of code, Pier. St. walkway repair, Chikaming Township Park and Preserve bathroom ramps need additional cement.

Union Pier acquisition – donation decision made after April 15, donate vs. selling.

CORRESPONDENCE: In packet, marked as read.

8-9 letters regarding Miller Beach construction, all opposed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Moved by Anderson to proceed with construction of Pier St. stairs, using most recent design by Joe Sipek and Dan Menitoff, Supported by S. Taylor.

All in favor: 5, Opposed: 0, Motion Carries

Change of scope of Harbert Community Park to include electrical work, additional paving, and wetland permit

Moved by Anderson to accept change of scope as proposed by Abonmarche, Supported by Underhill.

All in favor: 5, Opposed: 0.

Moved by Underhill to approve an additional \$1,280 above the original approved amount of \$5,000 for grading at Harbert Community Park and Chikaming Township Park and Preserve pre the invoice submitted by A. Benke and Sons Excavating, for a total of \$6,280, to come out of this year's budget, Supported by Ellis.

All in favor: 5, Opposed: 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Moved by Anderson to accept bid to ELD, Supported by Underhill.

ELD construction is mid-price range, difference being how many beams installed.

All in favor: 5, Opposed: 0

Moved by Anderson to accept employment agreement with park board assistant, Supported by Ellis.

All in favor: 5, Opposed: 0.

Moved by Anderson to approve a pay increase to Park Manager to \$18 hour to FY 2022/23; pay increase to be funded by reallocating \$2500 from Beach Construction to Salaries, subject to approval of change by Township Supervisor and Trustees, Supported by G. Taylor.

Discussion involved: 20% increase after last meeting is too much, no salary survey or benchmark for this position, consider what other employees of township make at entry level, a lot of thought was put into this decision at last meeting with a plan to be revisited at later date.

Roll call vote:

Ellis - yes

Underhill - no

Anderson - yes

S. Taylor - yes

G. Taylor - yes

4 yes, 1 no, Motion Carried.

Motion by Anderson to amend the Park Board by-laws to specify that the Park Board Chair and Vice Chair are solely responsible for directing the Park Board employees in their work. Any task or work order that Board Member wants done an employee or any direction in their work or assignments must be given to the Chair or Vice Chair for their approval. Any change in work orders must also be approved. Any requests for work orders for a property should be requested by the board member responsible for the property. Supported by S. Taylor

Discussion included that township supervisor suggested this as well as members of the public, friendly discussions between board and manager can still be had, intolerable and senseless to report to 7 people.

All in favor: 5, Opposed: 0, Motion Carried.

Moved by Anderson that Park Board not give out parking passes for Cherry Beach this season (2022), Supported by S. Taylor.

Discussion included that they cause confusion and are unenforceable, public doesn't understand that they're not required, state law requires that public parks must be open to all residents or lose their tax-exempt status, the original Warren grant required the beach and property be open and free for all visitors.

All in favor: 5, Opposed: 0, Motion Carried.

Moved by Underhill to approve the spending of no more than \$4,500 from this year's budget for a combination of trees and bushes for the Harbert Community Park project, said landscape materials to be procured by design team Altamanu per their landscape plan, Supported by Ellis.

Discussion included great enhancement to existing project and reliance on Altamnu, opposition because it's not well considered where trees will go or part of boulevard plan, scatter shot approach to park.

All in favor: 4, Opposed: 1, Motion Carried

Response to Harbert Community Park letter from Jess Reed - letter from G. Taylor attached. Supervisor Bunte would like us to address issues at public meeting, would like response drafted with committees looking it over to be sure we are on legal ground, attorney may or may not review it.

Motion by Anderson to make a draft to be submitted for review by park board and other township officials. Motion Failed.

Motion by Underhill we each compose a summary of communication with Reed family that would help us reach appropriate response to most recent letter, Supported by Anderson.

Discussion included considering letter read by Jess tonight and understand they are looking for transparency.

All in Favor: 5, Opposed: 0, Motion Carried.

QUESTION AND ANSWER:

Bill Dugan – seems like a lot board doesn't know, what about parking? Answer: 35-50 people at park, 35 would be large number, parking spaces in boulevard and township building has around 100 spaces.

Larry Anderson – Had trouble finding parking at dog park, didn't know he could park at township, address issues in 6.27 and review that.

Chris Dudiak – Miller Beach access corridor path suggested is where all plantings have been put in, weight of going in and out will cause equipment to sink, area was never returned back to way it was, hardship to owner is family expense vs. what they make on renting out house.

Joan Arquila- 15 feet to left hand sign and fence area, cannot use own property sites, would prohibit at least 6 months use of beach house, they have to bite the bullet and expect expenses and not interfere with community.

Mary Kay Minaghan – Are the reports available that McCollum referenced? He has another option but he said, "We did it before." Excavator is 80,500 pounds, neighbors won't want to see that at their back door for 6 months. Answer: contact Kim Livengood for documents McCollum referred to.

Marius Stropus – Will Pier St. be ADA compliant? Answer: will ask engineer but assumes too expensive.

Sue Coningsberg – since McCollum said there's a way to get there, they should do that so they should be forced to use other way.

Janet Schrader – motion regarding passes, should have asked public, short-sided. Will we still have parking attendant? Yes. Was there a motion listed? No requirement to have agenda, just notice of meeting.

Bill Dugan – Why not bring in attorney? If 200 people come, then what? Jess wants to clarify guidelines and law, he wants them to get due respect as neighbor, steam-rolling concerns. Answer: our transparency is how we are going to arrive at response. The community has asked for a music venue.

Jess Reed – decibel has been heavily weighed, no policy. Answer: permit required to have event in park, follow event process in park.

Marius Stropus – What's the plan for Union Pier Parcel if it's a park? Answer: will share design by landscape designer.

Barb Price – Mill Beach house is a hazard and needs to be torn down immediately.

Chris Dudiak – On April 1, April 30 letter was sent out with public notice from building/zoning. If project is pushed back it could be dangerous.

Janet Schrader – Regarding Miller Beach, would you entertain checking into permits? What's the permit McCollum referred to? Answer: it wasn't a beach access permit, will clarify with McCollum tomorrow.

Joan Arquila – letter says 30 days, McCollum said it could never be done in 30 days. Answer: Jill will ask Kim to forward letter.

Jess Reed – change of scope that was added tonight, what are those? Answer: adding outlets. What will permission be based upon with event vs. performance? Answer: we have a form and will modify it as needed, committee to draft guidelines, puppet shows on Saturday, children's films.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting is April 25, 2022

ADJOURN:

Moved by Ellis to adjourn, Supported by G. Taylor.

All in favor: 5, Opposed: 0, Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelly Taylor