

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting – APPROVED

October 25, 2021

Chikaming Township Large Meeting Room

The October 25, 2021 regular meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:31PM by Chair Arthur Anderson. Also present were board members Kathy Sellers, Sherri Curry, Steve Ellis, Garth Taylor, Jill Underhill and Shelly Taylor, along with members of the community both in-person and via Zoom.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM:** Led by Anderson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** 2 revisions, No objections, Approved

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CLOSE PUBLIC MEETING:** No objections

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:**

- Karen Dowdy (Union Pier) – Excited about what could be but doesn't want to see trees go down. Likes artistry but fearful basketball won't enhance art part for kids.
- Marius Stropus (Union Pier) – wondering about parking, wants no lights or port-a-johns, does want privacy fence, would like more trees but many existing are rotting.
- Richard Augustine (Union Pier) – parking concerns, noise from basketballs, wondering about zoning, concerned about quality of life for residents' property values. Do we have any veteran memorial parks?
- Nora Gillis – parking concerns, property values may diminish for deeded beach rights, create more traffic.
- Fran Wersells – densely wooded area so require a lot of money to remove trees, basketball sound is annoying
- Lidija P. – Concerns over traffic, noise, parking, and safety with kids running from Whistle Stop to park. Basketball already set up in New Buffalo.
- George and Leah Augustyniak – doesn't seem large enough for all activities, wants hours posted, rules of park, and wonders how rules will be enforced and how often it will be maintained. Parking and privacy concerns, prefers no lights, could a smaller project be undertaken with picnic tables but keep wooded area, grateful for generous donor.
- Leah Sherman – grateful for donor's generosity, concern about basketball noise and traffic, woodland creature's sanctuary, would like it kept as natural as possible.

Sellers said NCR1 water lot, would have to be re-zoned. Hasn't seen if it's a conforming residential lot, can't do projects depending on if its residential, Underhill said no zoning change on property yet.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

**RESUME REGULAR MEETING**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** September Regular Meeting Minutes, No objections, Approved

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** \$71,057.61 is current balance.

**REPORTS:** In packet

G. Taylor – Harbert Community Park – been too rainy to spread topsoil so will do when its dry, pre-bid conference tomorrow at 11, begin construction in Spring, more options for skating rink location. 108 visits to

dog park, 2/3 of time no dogs, 25% 1-2 dogs, 10% 3 or more dogs. Shelter is good congregation point, playing almost always in use, volleyball never in use so consider leaving nets down and have alternative use.

Underhill – met with Dennis Kreps from Bridgman Public Library and refreshed Little Free Library at welcome center.

S. Taylor – Amy Baumgartner (RV Elementary PE teacher) offered to take skates to get sharpened. She will get quote to bring to board, more skates found inside of concession.

Curry – Stairs were cleaned before TDK sealed them, needs to be put on maintenance schedule, gate will be reinforced at dog park.

Ellis – Had 23 invasive species (Tree of Heaven) removed from Miller, wants to find other plants that are good for wildlife and birds.

Alex Schrader – bench at McKinley is secured until something better gets put there, fountain at HCP cleaned and removed, volleyball nets are down, water is off, some fixtures intentionally left on. Getting quotes for fishing dock, cleaned concession with Josh, spring burn at CTPP (March, then April), pressure washed stairs, pit toilets and pavilion, CNA did tree trimming at Townline viewing platform, installed boot brushes at 2 preserves.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** In packet, marked as read

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2022-2023 budget items are being worked on by committee. Curry suggested stain for stairs instead of clear coat.

Amendment to By-Laws – pending motion, formalizes what we already do.

Motion by Curry to change language in Article 8, Operations Maintenance, Section 3, from “less than once a year” to “quarterly.” Supported by G. Taylor. All in favor 7, Opposed 0. Motion Carried.

Moved by Anderson to close discussion, Supported by Underhill, All in favor 7, Opposed 0, Motion Carried.

Motion to change by-laws, Roll call vote:

Ellis – yes

Curry – yes

G. Taylor – yes

Sellers – yes

Anderson – yes

Underhill -yes

S. Taylor – yes

7 yes, 0 no, Motion Carried, Secretary will publish.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Caroling at Lakeside Park, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 4PM – NB choir director will be called and possibly Harbor Country Singers, G. Taylor said we need lyrics, set up cider, hot chocolate, need Santa, cookies, paper goods. Committee will be Sellers, Curry, and S. Taylor.

Motion by Curry to approve additional \$1,000 for materials to construct platform under existing dog shelter, in addition to the \$500 already budgeted, Supported by Anderson.

Wood structure would be built by Josh and Alex. Big C is \$1,300 for lumber, free delivery. Alex talking to Kelly about making it ADA compliant. Need to price it out at Lowe’s and Menards as well. G. Taylor said wood gets

slippery so may need to consider usability, perhaps stone inlay or moss, Underhill prefers concrete pad. Sellers has been wanting a floor for a year now, suggested a non-skid stain.

Amended by Anderson – subject to permit approval of township, No objection to amendment.

Roll call vote:

Ellis – yes

Curry – yes

G. Taylor – yes

Sellers – yes

Anderson – yes

Underhill – yes

S. Taylor – yes

7 yes, 0 no, Motion Carried.

Motion by Anderson that the Park Board create a memorandum of understanding between the Chikaming Township Park Board and the donor of parcel 11-07-4730-0014-015 regarding conditions of donation and any other matters of mutual concern to be submitted to the Township with our recommendations to Township on proposed donation, Supported by G. Taylor.

Sellers and Underhill – decide if we want to look into it further or if we are moving too fast. G. Taylor says we won't do anything without substantial community support. We will look at public comment at next meeting.

All in favor of drafting an MOU for future: 7 yes, 0 no, Motion Carried.

#### **QUESTION AND ANSWER:**

Marius – Would like update on Berrien Rd. reconstruction. Would like Berrien Beach to be ADA compliant. Ramp is too steep, can't get daughter to beach, hill going up is extremely steep, could use ATV? Chief Davidson said no. Underhill hopes this board will make Berrien Beach ADA accessible. Sellers says we have been working on beaches and would like to concentrate on Berrien next.

Richard – Menards has lots of composite grain lumber. Curry said price is comparable to Big C. Also, Berrien improvements will naturally increase traffic so safety concerns with kids.

Nora – Wants our next meeting to address parking, access, and lighting of proposed park. We plan to.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next regular meeting is November 22, 2021.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelly Taylor