

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting minutes—APPROVED

February 22, 2021

Electronic Meeting via Zoom

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:30 eastern time by Chair Arthur Anderson (Harbert). Also present (and location) were board members Kathy Sellers (Florida), Sherri Curry (Harbert), Joclyn VerLee (Harbert), Steve Ellis(SanJose del cabo), Garth Taylor (SanClemente,CA). Excused absence: Shelly Taylor. Also present staff member Alex Schraeder.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Anderson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Moved by Anderson. Approved as submitted, no objection.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: John Chipman, retired residential and community design architect; currently chair of Chikaming Township Plan Commission. John presented power point of work in progress of joint project between the following government agencies:

- Chikaming Township,
- New Buffalo Township
- Berrien County Park Dept
- Berrien Cty Road Commission
- Berrien County Sewer Department

The project encompasses Red Arrow Highway from Rt 12 to Bridgman.

Plan includes:

- “road diet” or reduction from four to three lanes, one being a middle turn lane
- “linear park” including all-purpose trail together with landscaping
- pedestrian crossings, lighting
- parking, including a trail head possibly located in Harbert Community Park
- new sewers for Union Pier and Harbert

The first phase from Community Hall to Berrien St. has been under construction for several months and will be complete in 2021. Next phase from Sawyer Rd. to Harbert Rd to start in 2021 and third phase (Harbert Rd to Berrien) completion 2023-4.

Mr Chipman noted that the overall plan will soon interface with Harbert Community Park that is the pervue of this committee. He encourages Park Board to submit details of it's long term plan and review and comment on developing ideas. Comments and question may be submitted directly to Mr. Chipman, Chair of the planning committee. The following is a summary of possible interface with Harbert Community Park:

1. Linear park

- on lake side of Red Arrow Hwy
- under aegis of County Parks Department

2. Crosswalks from lake side to Township Park

- site to be determined. Opportunity to coordinate with Township HCP plan
- funded by County Park

3. Traffic Cuts to Access HCP:

- current design calls for two, one-way entrance and one way exit.

POSSIBILITIES:

1. Trail head:

- Location to coordinate with HCP Plan if possible
- bicycling and car parking, toilets

2. Beautification:

- 30' right of way on railroad side of Red Arrow
- sidewalk on railroad side of /red Arrow—connecting HCP to Senior center
- streetscape and lighting

MISC COMMENTS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARKS:

- This Spring Berrien County Board will vote to collect millage for County Park development.

District 9 (includes Chikaming Township) County Board representative Ezra Scott has indicated opposition to millage but favorable to linear park?

- Berrien County ranks last in the State of MI for Parks funding
- Mr Chipman designed street improvements in Three Oaks where economic development followed
- Union Pier (Townline intersection) project required an "overlay" zoning ordinance between two townships:the first of its kind in the State of MI.

Mr Chipman briefly reviewed the Township's Lakefront ordinance with photos of armoring.Sandbags are temporary. Mountain of stone is not. Final vote by Township Board Thursday 2/25.

Harbert Road was once called "Greenbush Street"

Longer term plan calls for road diet and pedestrian improvements for Sawyer Rd from Red Arrow to past downtown Sawyer.

Final funding incomplete: \$35,000 for Harbert plan approved.

Acknowledgments:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 25 MEETING:

two amendments to Jan 25 minutes offered by Chairman Anderson: 1)delete budget discussion in "new business" section. 2)

Motion to approve subject to changes by Anderson, second by G. Taylor. Roll Call vote: Anderson, yes; G.Taylor, yes; Curry, yes; Sellers, yes; VerLee, yes; Ellis, yes. motion to approve 1/25/21 minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Submitted by Kathy Sellers, discussion followed.

budgeted spending:	\$61997.8
approved, not spent	3687
amount spent	58228.6

REPORTS:

- previously approved Minutes-FYI Dec PB minutes approved
- Proposed township Minutes-FYI
- Work Reports:
- Parks and beaches Reports: Josh – Ice Rink a huge success. increased usage due to better awareness and ideal winter weather. Many positive comments from the community.
- HCP: Architect Bill McColn will have plan for March PB meeting. Garth requests board members review the Park's master plan for HCP.

CORRESPONDENCE: Link to open meetings act available in agenda. From Paula Dudiak ; reviews current MI state rules regarding public meetings. Members of the public body must state physical location from which they are attending: "county, city, township or village"

OLD BUSINESS:

- MILLER Beach:S. Ellis submitted summary of conversation with Kurt Lindland, property owner adjacent to Miller Beach (south) and his request for Township signs delineating boundary. Ellis reported ongoing discussions on ways Township and Lindland can cooperate to foster respect for one another's property and goals for serving public beach goers and private beach use. Comments are welcome regarding any avenue of compromise or mutually beneficial activity.

mPARKS: Conference feedback from participants:

- Steve participated in two sessions during one day. One concerning development of trails. The second session involved development of youth program that promote leadership skills, role modeling, and park related activities important to that demographic.
- Alex Schrader attended welcome/info/awards and keynote for all three days. Also attended following programs over the three day conference: Maintaining Safe play Environment, Sustainable park design, Michigan Natnl Trust Fund Board Round Table, and Community Gardens. All conferences

programs were enlightening. Playground safety, Community Gardens, and Sustainable Park Design particularly relevant.

- Sherri and Arthur electronically attended all three days of the conference. Sherri attended 13 sessions over 3 days.

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NEW BUSINESS::

- new power source and lighting for dog park at HCP: discussion re: timing and cost of installing new meter/ circuit box and lighting. Greg Olsen has reviewed and will submit proposal with cost. Power company will install meter and line no charge. VerLee: lighting is safety issue as park used after dark. Curry: solar lights from Home Depot could be short term solution. Alex will review options and continue with Olsen and AEP.
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- computer purchase for office for Alex to use. Discussion about desktop vs. laptop vs. tablet. Arthur and Alex will review as to needs and cost. Anderson motion to approve \$1500 purchase. Second by Sellers. Roll Call vote: Anderson, yes: Sellers, yes:G. Taylor, yes: Curran, yes: VerLee, yes: Ellis, yes. Motion carries.
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- Cherry Beach extension of fencing on bluff near picnic table. Motion by Curry, second by VerLee to approve \$1500 for fourth section of fence and miscellaneous maintenance of current fencing. Roll Call vote: Ellis, yes; Anderson, yes; VerLee, yes; G. Taylor, yes; Seller,yes; MOTION PASSED

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER PERIOD: PUBLIC INVITED

- NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ IMPORTANT DATES:

- Next regular Meeting March 22, 2021: 6:30PM
- Township Budget Workshop Tuesday February 23, 2021 3:30 PM
- Township Special Meeting on Shoreline Armoring Thursday, February 23, 3:30 P
- EGLE Public Hearing on Seawall Permit at 14414 Swift Lane March 2, 6:PM
- Township Meeting and Public Hearing on Budget Thursday March 11, 6:30 PM

Adjournment of Meeting approx: 8:30 P