

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting – APPROVED

September 27, 2021

Chikaming Township Large Meeting Room

The September 27, 2021 regular meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:37PM 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.

**PLEDGE:** Led by Anderson

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Zoe Elrick – Interested in teaching nature classes and establishing ABC Garden

Olga Georgiev – Wondering if anyone has an update on Pier St. Road

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Curry acknowledged woman and husband for work on Sept. 18 Alliance of Great Lakes “Adopt A Beach” cleanup.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Alan White interested in donating parcel of land to be used as bank-shot basketball and arts area. We will hold public hearing in future. Cost runs between \$30,000-\$50,000. Will only donate if certain conditions are met but he will entertain almost anything. Board agreed it’s a generous offer and looking forward to hearing what community wants. Great focal point for Union Pier.

Joseph Reed – Spoke about woods adjacent to Harbert Community Park. Proposed keeping existing woods to north a wildlife corridor in lieu of putting in a trail. Wildlife corridor ranks #3 on survey, not worth destroying wetlands and should not be overdeveloped.

Sellers questioned who oversees wetland development, answer is EGLE, who would like a pre-application in the future, no permits have been gotten for Harbert Community Park and we need to have master plan in place first. S. Taylor appreciated time and effort put into presentation. Sellers understood HCP was going to be developed in stages so no need to worry about north end while so much going on at south end. Anderson said it’s not in phase one so no time table has been set.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August Regular Meeting Minutes, No objections, approved as corrected

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** \$88,606.12 is current balance. Eliminating negative amount from Cherry Beach.

**REPORTS:** In packet

Parks and Beaches:

Harbert Community Park – Four PB members a Twp. trustee and several community volunteers have completed demolition, now working on landscaping

The list of volunteers is growing

- People attended meetings on Red Arrow and HCP (County Commission, Red Arrow charrette) and have become interested in helping out
- This needs to be nurtured – will need a volunteer corps for landscape stewardship (invasives grow back);
- this group will drive the core of a program committee in 2022

Someone donated benches for placement around the park

- gives us a chance to see how the park gets used – live data speaks loudly as a guide to policy
- Twp Trustee Rich Sullivan pointed out AEP Foundation as a possible funding source for outdoor recreational improvements –
- small grants are important because they require less match and are on a shorter cycle

Plan for next year (2022)

Put funds into 2022 budget...

- To continue to develop concept plans and budgets
- As match for small grants
- For programs

Develop large scale proposals

- DNR, State Recreation Passport, Federal
- For submission in late 2022, award in early 2023
- Matching funds in 2023 budget

Pier St. – EGLE making visit to beach Thursday, community group having Zoom call to discuss options

Miller Beach – Invasive species being worked on, EGLE won't require permit for trees cut down by hand, handrail extended as per request by Chris Dudiak at last meeting

CTPP – Plantwise, may not give a clean look this time of year but good to do it now

Dog Park – fix gate and get padding under shelter, G. Taylor said expansion should be based on actual usage

Schrader reviewed the maintenance schedule

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

2022-2023 budget meeting on Oct. 4

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sawyer park acquisition by Kohn family

Moved by Anderson to have public hearing at regularly scheduled Oct. 25 meeting for comments on proposed acquisition of a parcel of land in Union Pier for a public park to be managed by the Park Board. Further moved the sum of \$300 for a public notice before the hearing. Supported by G. Taylor.

All in favor: 7, All opposed: 0, Motion Carried

Agreement on Harbert Community Park has been postponed, township has to finalize language

Moved by Anderson for Park Board to approve the contract with Abonmarche to manage construction of performance stage and related improvements, amended to \$400. Supported by G. Taylor.

Correction that the client needs to be Anderson, not G. Taylor, no objection to this change. Phase 1A and 1B doesn't exist, all just Phase 1, Anderson will call and have "A" and "B" removed.

All in favor: 7, All opposed: 0, Motion Carried

Motion on Bylaws - Motion by Anderson to have changes introduced into record, Supported by Sellers.

Authorize manager to make repairs, tell manager when repair or maintenance needed, over \$1,000 comes back to board. Should include approval of treasurer. Would funnel everything through Alex then to Kathy for approval. Postpone vote and discussion.

Conduct of Committees -

Sellers feels committee should report to board before things go into action.

Underhill said board members need to be careful with words to other committee members, and hold a level of respect that never waivers. Would like email updates in committees and wants transparency.

Anderson will address on a case by case basis.

S. Taylor reiterated that committees may discuss ideas but cannot make decisions without bringing it to the board.

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

Enrico Heirman - Harbert Community Park has been made to look very nice and excited for upgrades. Reed family put a lot of time and effort into park so lets try to keep all parties happy. Insofar as budget meeting, has thoughts for all of us and would like to do a special presentation, talked about fundraiser success.

Olga Georgiev - Property lines are unclear, Berrien owns road all the way down to the water, she will send pictures to keep things moving.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next regular meeting is October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:02PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelly Taylor