



Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, February 23, 2015

**Chikaming Township Park Board
Regular Meeting**

Monday, February 23, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Chikaming Township Hall
13535 Red Arrow Hwy
Harbert, MI 49115

MINUTES	INDEX to MINUTES
<p>Park Board Chairman Leona Waldo called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m.</p> <p>Members present: Leona Waldo, Janet Schrader, Chris Thompson, Joseph Reed, Kathy Sellers and Karen Tarpley. EnRico Heirman was absent.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Roll Call</p>
<p>Approval of the meeting's agenda.</p> <p>Moved by Thompson, seconded by Schrader, to approve the agenda with one amendment that the meeting agenda is to include "a public meeting" following "public comments."</p> <p align="right">CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA APPROVED</p> <p>AGENDA AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL</p>
<p>Motion to approve preceding January 26th meeting minutes.</p> <p>Moved by Thompson, seconded by Schrader, to approve the minutes of the January 26th meeting.</p> <p align="right">CARRIED</p> <p>Approval of the December 15, 2014 minutes was tabled until the March meeting.</p>	<p>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p>MINUTES APPROVED</p>
<p>Schrader mentioned that past Park Board member, Joanne Sims, provided her with information regarding prairie burns.</p> <p>Waldo volunteered to obtain more information regarding the burn.</p> <p>Reed shared a few positive emails given to him by absent member Heirman. The messages applauded the board's progress with their master plan.</p> <p>Waldo stated that Paula Dudeck contacted her to request use of the Harbert Community Park on March 28th at 11:00 a.m. to host an Easter Egg hunt.</p> <p>Tarpley stated that Water Department administrator, Julie Schroeder, suggested the board contact Merritt Engineering and speak with Rob</p>	<p>Correspondence</p>

<p>Andrews regarding the safety of their beach stairs. Tarpley contacted Andrews and he offered to write up a proposal. Sellers advise the board asses all beach accesses in May.</p>	
<p>Sellers reported that the board currently has \$5,109.90 remaining in their budget to last until the first of April. The rink currently has \$1,450 left in the maintenance portion of the budget.</p> <p>Sellers stated that the township is standing firm on a 3% increase in the budget from last year which means there will need to be a focus on volunteering.</p> <p>Thompson questioned Supervisor Wayne Warner about the possibility of requesting additional funds from the township if they were to find a grant that requires more matching funds than they are able to budget for. Warner answered that it is a possibility but they should contact the township board prior to application.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>
<p>New Buffalo resident Pat Fisher came forth to offer support on the proposed five year plan. He referred to recent park renovations New Buffalo has made as a good example of creating a community gathering place. He continued that he is happy to see Chikaming headed in the same direction.</p> <p>Warner provided the board with fire number signs and shared that the Harbert Community Parks fire number is 13411.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>Waldo called the public hearing for review of the proposed master plan to order at 7:20 p.m.</p> <p>There were no speakers from the audience other than Pat Fisher, who made his comment earlier during the regular public comment time.</p> <p>Reed began by stating that the Park Board had a productive meeting with the township last week and that the Master Plan Subcommittee met to revise the draft plan accordingly. Hackley spent time over the weekend making the updates they suggested.</p> <p>Hackley stated that he is also making edits suggested by the South West Michigan Planning Commission. He continued that they requested the mention of ADA accessibility on a project-by-project basis. Hackley added that he deferred design vocabulary and some other items to year two to accommodate the revised budget numbers, and also deleted mention of shuttle transportation all together.</p> <p>Hackley mentioned that the New Buffalo five year plan mentions targeting Townline Beach improvements and that it may be a good idea to pool efforts with them.</p> <p>Thompson provided Hackley with a proposed insertion into the plan from himself and Peg Kohring. The update would highlight the importance of cleaning waterways to provide safe and swimmable</p>	<p>Master Plan Public Hearing</p> <p>MOTION TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY</p>

<p>areas. Reed agreed that if mentioned in the five year plan this may help with grant winning. Hackley expressed that he would rather not add it as a goal as it would be better placed as an objective under goal two.</p> <p>Moved by Thompson, seconded by Tarpley, that Reed and Hackley take the language provided by Kohring and Thompson and incorporate it into an objective under goal two.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Moved by Reed, seconded by Thompson, to approved the Park Board Master Plan with discussed edits and submit a copy to the township for review as well as the state for approval by midnight on February 27th.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>Waldo closed the public hearing to discuss the master plan at 8:23 p.m.</p>	<p>AS AN OBJECTIVE UNDER GOAL TWO</p> <p>MOTION TO APPROVE PARK BOARD FIVE YEAR MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED WITH EDITS</p>
<p>Townline Beach - Nothing new to report.</p> <p>McKinley Beach Access – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Miller Beach Access– Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Berrien Beach Access – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Pier Street Beach – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Cherry Beach – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Harbert Beach – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Warren Woods Park and Preserve – Nothing new to report. Thompson mentioned he had been skiing there.</p> <p>Harbert Road Park and Preserve – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Harbert Community Park – Schrader thinks the board with have enough funds to take the rink down. She added that the Saturday night skating was a huge success with many kids playing hockey. Tarpley added that she thought the turnout was great.</p>	<p>Beach/ Park Reports</p>
<p>Waldo stated that a request for bids on contracts for trash removal, snow plowing, and mowing needs to be posted in the newspaper. Tom Krieger of TDK Services stated that he will give the board a full list of his services so they can better determine what the bids should cover.</p> <p>Sellers offered to meet with Krieger on the upcoming Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. to review the scope of work. Krieger also mentioned that the board needs to make sure to send a bill to New Buffalo for half of the work done at Townline beach.</p>	<p>Old Business</p>

<p>Reed reported that the website has space available to post documents for the public to download. He continued that the master plan was made available to the public this way.</p>	
<p>Waldo stated that she would like the Park Board to consider presenting at the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce lunch and learn program. She continued it would be a good opportunity to inform the public of board goals and need for volunteers. Tarpley stated that she will gather more information on the details of doing an event at the chamber.</p> <p>Waldo informed the board that Earth Day and Arbor Day fall within days of each other this year and the board should start considering possibilities for a community event. Schrader suggested some sort of volunteer day and advised that a committee be formed to begin planning.</p> <p>Thompson reported that two upcoming grant opportunities the board should look into are the Berrien Community Grant and the Upton Foundation Grant. He mentioned that he believes no match is required for the Berrien Community Grant.</p> <p>Moved by Sellers, seconded by Schrader, that Thompson apply for the Berrien Community Grant with the condition that it is confirmed there is no need for matching funds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTION CARRIED</p> <p>Schrader stated that she and Sellers spent the day at the county register of deed searching for deeds that could better define Park Board property boundaries. She stated that further searching for surveys need to take place, specifically for Harbert Beach. She continued that it was discovered that some of the houses neighboring Berrien beach do not own their own beach and that half of Pier St. right of way shows deeded rights. Hackley advised Schrader to keep track of time spent researching as it is volunteer hours.</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>MOTION TO APPLY FOR BERRIEN COMMUNITY GRANT</p>
<p>There were no comments from the public at this time.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>Moved Schrader, seconded Tarpley, to adjourn meeting at 9:20 p.m. CARRIED</p>	<p>ADJOURNED</p>
<p>MONDAY, March 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>
<p>Minutes signed by Jessica Miller</p>	<p><i>Jessica Miller</i></p>