

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
May 28, 2019

Adopted Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Paula Jefferson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Park Commissioners present: Paula Jefferson, Marion Morris, Bernedia Word, Terry Lee Lansing, Sandi Lopez, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Martha Kern-Boprie

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Trustee Alex Williams, Juan Bradford, Park Administrator; David Buterbaugh, Maintenance Supervisor; Patrick Pigott, Recreation Coordinator; Ellen Kurath

3. Flag Salute

Chair Paula Jefferson led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Sandi Lopez to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business C. Schock Park. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. April 22, 2019

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to approve the minutes of 4/22/19 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

Ellen Kurath spoke to park commissioners. She noted that ticks are present on her property, and this is unusual based on previous experience. Ellen provided a list of trees and shrubs that are likely to thrive in Superior Township parks, and particular locations best suited for the plants on her list.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Paula Jefferson noted she will save her comments regarding issues associated with Schock Park until the item comes up in New Business.

B. Administrator

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. Juan reported that as of today, the summer playground program has 60 spot for children, and all 60 are enrolled. Terry Lee Lansing commented that she will be the Board Meeting attendee for the June 17 Township Board meeting, rather than Sandi Lopez who is listed in the Administrator's Report.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Alex Williams reported that some requirements for remodeling of Dixboro House (formerly the Lord Fox restaurant) were amended to facilitate completion of the project. Framing of the Dixboro Pavilion is underway. Clean-up of the Burley house is underway. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed sports complex at M153 and Plymouth Roads. Significant citizen objection was voiced. There is no update on the proposed sewer coming through Superior Township from Salem Township. Rules are in development for Staebler Farm Park, a new county park

in Superior Township. These rules will be presented to the township board at their June meeting. The township administrative staff of Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer met with Ypsilanti Community Schools (YCS) officials. This school district is in serious financial trouble. It faces high debt and 50% of the children who reside in the school district attend school somewhere other than YCS. Many new homes are being constructed in Superior Township. The drive way for the new Ypsilanti District Library (YDL) branch in Superior Township was approved. The annual audit of township 2018 financial reports will be presented to the township board at the June meeting. Membership dues for the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) were paid. Nate McMullen was hired full time in the Utility Department. Membership dues for the Ann Arbor area Art Alliance were paid. A wage increase for Saxon Lee, Township Assessor was approved. Discussion took place concerning the trees cut in Schock Park.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai attended the May 20 township board meeting. She commented that Trustee Williams gave a thorough report. Nahid added that the board deferred action on the proposed sports complex at M153 and Plymouth roads to the June board meeting, in light of all the citizen objections raised. Many people were concerned about the outdoor lighting associated with a facility of this nature.

E. Park Steward

Rick Collman met with Juan Bradford, and reported that trails are very muddy in the nature preserves. Juan and Rick reviewed many old documents associated with the nature preserves

F. Safety

David Buterbaugh reported that all Park Department staff have completed Hazardous Material training and their certifications are up to date.

8. Communications

A. 2019 Parks & Recreation Contact Information

B. Educational Info: Health.gov Top 10 Things to Know About Second Edition of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans

C. Cherry Hill Nature Preserve Burn Pictures

D. Bird Watching Pictures

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to receive the Communications. The motion carried.

9. Old Business – none

10. New Business

A. Cherry Hill Nature Preserve Boardwalk Maps

Juan Bradford presented a map with suggestions about locations for the final phase of the boardwalk construction. General discussion ensued among park commissioners and staff over different options and maintenance that may be needed on boardwalk segments constructed a few years ago. Final decisions will be made later this year.

B. Procedures

Discussion took place about the appropriate procedure to follow when a park maintenance need is observed. Marion Morris recommended all park commissioners and park staff review the Five Year Park Plan for responsibilities and procedures. Marion believes the Park Administrator should bring maintenance recommendations to the Park Commission before acting on them. Administrator Bradford recommended that the Commission form a small working group to review any current written procedures and create new ones where needed. No action was taken on this suggestion.

After extensive discussion by park commissioners and staff, a consensus developed that when a park staff member notices a maintenance need, or it is suggested to them by someone else, park staff bring that maintenance issue to the Park Administrator. The Park Administrator will communicate it to the Park Commission chair and/or entire Park Commission. If the issue is an urgent safety matter, that can be conveyed to the Park Commission.

C. Schock Park

Discussion took place about the types of trees and other plants to place in Schock Park. The general consensus was to select a variety of plants, both for aesthetic appeal and as protection against pests and disease that can wipe out all vegetation if a single type of plant is present that is vulnerable to an infestation.

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Sandi Lopez that the Park Commission send a memo to the Township Board of Trustees, that the Park Commission concurs with the removal of box elder tree stumps, concrete and other debris from Schock Park; and the Park Commission will discuss plantings in Schock Park over the next few months. The motion carried.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Sandi Lopez to approve payment of the bills totaling \$22,908.57. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

A. 2018 Revenue & Expenditure Report FINAL

Contains adjustments ordered by auditors.

B. 2018 Balance Sheet FINAL

Contains adjustments ordered by auditors.

C. April 2019 Revenue & Expenditure Report

D. Bird Watching Event Expenditures

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Marion Morris to receive the financial statements. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Marion Morris informed commissioners the Native Plant Expo and Market Day takes place at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds on June 1.

Bernedia Word presented color samples for Park Commission shirts. Green and black was the preferred color combination.

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai asked about disposition of dead animal carcasses found on roadsides. Park Commissioners suggested she bring this issue to the township board.

Martha Kern-Boprie asked when volunteers should arrive at Oakbrook Park on June 8 for Superior Day.

They should arrive by 10:00 am at the latest. Be prepared for muddy conditions unless we get a lot of dry weather between now and June 8.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Sandi Lopez and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

The motion carried.

Submitted by,

Martha Kern-Boprie

Park Commissioner and Secretary