

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
August 26, 2019

Adopted Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paula Jefferson at 6:34 pm.

2. Roll Call

Park Commissioners present: Paula Jefferson, Marion Morris, Bernedia Word, Sandi Lopez, Terry Lee Lansing, 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 Communications 8.C. CHNP Reservation Form and New Business 10.B. 2020 Budget Prep. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. July 22, 2019

It was moved by Terry Lee Lansing and supported by Marion Morris to approve the minutes of 7/22/19 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

Ellen Kurath addressed the Park Commission about plants, both intentionally planted and invasive, found in North Prospect Park and Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP). She also delivered a memo to the commission that detailed her findings.

North Prospect Park

The following intentionally plants are still growing: Yellow Coneflower, Brown-eyed Susan, Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, several kinds of Grasses. Ellen planted Cup Plants and Compass Plants but they are gone. She thinks deer ate them. Redbud trees were planted, but did not survive. She recommends trying blue ash.

Cherry Hill Nature Preserve

Nuisance Plants

Stick Tights (Hakelia) are not as present. This is a biennial plant, and next year more may be present. Park staff removed some stick tights last year, and this should be helping.

Asian Bittersweet is present on the hillside near the SW corner of the park. Many young plants were present. Ellen recommends a controlled burn.

These plants have not seeded yet. The plants could be cut near the ground now, before the seeds mature. This will decrease the likelihood of spreading next year.

Supervisor Ken Schwartz addressed the Park Commission about plans for Schock Park. He presented copies of photo maps of the township properties in the northeast corner of Cherry Hill and Prospect Roads to each park commissioner. He reviewed the history of how the township acquired the property known as Schock Park and proposed changing it from a park maintained by the Park Commission to a part of the township grounds complex. Ken stated he was addressing the Park Commission now because the agenda tonight contained Schock Park Plans under New Business. Marion Morris asked if that meant turning Schock Park property over to the township board for their maintenance. Ken responded that he thought the Township Board and Park Commission should mutually consider this idea. Sandi Lopez asked if Ken had a sketch of his idea for the property in Schock Park. Ken did not. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai recommended we consider this suggestion from Ken Schwartz.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Paula Jefferson reported that attendance at the Movie in Oakbrook Park on August 10 was low. Commissioners discussed possible reasons for this. Bernedia Word commented that the yard signs were very similar to the signs for the Dixboro movie in July, that some people may not have realized this was a different event. Other commissioners suggested a Marvel action movie may be more popular with families. Marion Morris suggested a craft event instead of a movie. Several other commissioners commented that children are into high-tech and we should appeal to that. Marion also suggested only hosting one movie event per year instead of two.

The block party in Harvest Moon Park took place on Saturday, August 24. Approximately 25 neighborhood residents attended. Several local elected officials and township fire fighters attended. Paula thanked Martha Kern-Boprie for attending. Several other community events took place on the same day as this block party. Patrick Pigott suggested that "freebies" such as food, prizes, t-shirts often draw participants to events.

B. Administrator

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He spoke about a few items in more detail. Two events took place or will take place in Fireman's Park that were hosted by other agencies. One event was hosted by Washtenaw County Health Department on August 22. It ended up having a much higher attendance that Juan expected, and there were some calls from concerned neighbors. The future event is planned for Saturday, September 7. A discussion took place about how much notice Juan should provide to park commissioners about events hosted by other organizations in township parks. Bernedia Word suggested emailing the park commission about all such events. Paula Jefferson suggested doing this only if a certain event size was expected. A consensus was not reached on this issue.

Juan participated in a wrap-up meeting with the Dixboro Green organization about the movie event in July. The group would like to plan a Christmas themed event with the Park Commission.

On 10/11/19 a ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for the Dixboro Pavilion.

On 10/12/19 the grand opening for Staebler Farm Park and Folk School is planned by Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation.

On 9/25/19 Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation is holding a public meeting on their Five Year Plan, in their facility on Platt Road.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Alex Williams reported that Ellen Kurath addressed the township board about the dangers of Wild Parsnips. Bill McFarlane spoke about a rumor that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners would absorb the responsibilities of the county board of Road Commissioners, and dissolve the Road Commission. There is a window of opportunity in state law to do this, and that window closes 12/31/19. Greg Dill, County Administrator and County Commissioner Ricky Jefferson

were both present, and both said they did not support taking this action. Absorbing Road Commission responsibilities into Board of Commissioners is viewed as a cost saving tool for some counties. Commissioner Ricky Jefferson commented that the Washtenaw County Road Commission will not use herbicides this year on roadsides. Township Supervisor Ken Schwartz reported that the ribbon cutting for the Dixboro Pavilion is scheduled on 10/11/19 and the Washtenaw County Staebler Farm Park and Folk School grand opening is planned for 10/12/19. Supervisor Schwartz met with Sycamore Meadow management, which is trying to improve conditions in the apartment complex. The Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) is seeking to decrease the phosphorus limit in the river. The township is hiring an attorney to review the township personnel policy. The Personal Development Rights (PDR) ordinance is undergoing review. Superior Township does have an adopted PDR ordinance. Superior Township hopes to use Connecting Community Grants to fund a non-motorized path along the east side of Prospect Road from Geddes to Berkshire. The township board approved paying the HRWC dues and replacing a culvert on Warren Road. The township is splitting the culvert cost with the county road commission. The township approved an agreement with the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) and a water rate increase with YCUA. The township approved a driveway placement for Fire Station #2, repaving several streets in Tanglewood subdivision and engineering for a sewer section on MacArthur Blvd near Harris Road. Discussion took place concerning a sewer replacement on Harvest Lane. This is the oldest segment of sewer in Superior Township. Cost is estimated at \$1,500,000. The township board is divided on how soon to begin this project. The sewer is currently functioning, but the whole street is likely to experience sink holes should the sewer break down. Replacing this sewer now would require either borrowing the funds or expending a significant portion of the fund balance. Glen Oaks housing coop on Stamford amended their development agreement to move their office to another unit.

Alex Williams offered a comment that outdoor movies are a positive community recreation experience.

- D. Board Meeting Attendee
Bernedia Word attended the board meeting. She reported that Alex Williams' report was thorough, and she had nothing to add.
 - E. Park Steward – no report
 - F. Safety
Dave Buterbaugh reported there were no accidents or injuries in the past month. He added that some of the seasonal park maintenance staff have quit to return to school. We are down to four maintenance staff, and this is sufficient. Harvest Moon Park and Fireman's Park were mulched recently. Harvest Moon was in very good condition for the block party.
8. Communications
- A. Thank you letter from Oakbrook Sports, LLC
 - B. Educational: Stinging Nettles/Poison Ivy/Poison Oak
 - C. Kickball Day Flyer
 - D. Fireman's Park Reservation Form: Washtenaw County Health Department
 - E. Safety Social at Fireman's Park Flyer
 - F. CHNP Reservation Form

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

- 9. Old Business
 - A. Special Events Sign-Up Information

The list of all 2019 special events from August through December was presented for commissioner information. No action is needed. There is no one to staff the Dixboro Farmers Market on August 30, so the Park Department will not have a table that day.

10. New Business

A. Schock Park Plans

Commissioners discussed the suggestion made by Ken Schwartz during Citizen Participation. Marion Morris commented that Ken's suggestion is serious. She is concerned about giving up a park. Marion asked for Juan Bradford's opinion. Juan responded that there is much to absorb and contemplate. He noted that it can be hard to give something up, but there may be value in reconsidering uses. Some commissioners suggested a committee to consider options.

B. 2020 Budget Preparation

Juan presented a 2020 Budget Worksheet, with only salary information entered. We have not received a funding recommendation from the township board yet. Our preliminary budget recommendation is due to the township board by 9/16/19. Marion Morris will work with Juan Bradford to draft the preliminary budget.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Nahid Sani-Yahyai and supported by Marion Morris to pay the bills for a total of \$31,798.90. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

A. July 2019 Revenue & Expenditure Report

B. Movies on the Green 2019 Expenditures

C. Movies in the Park 2019 Expenditures

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Paula Jefferson to receive the Financial Statements. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Marion Morris reported that some people attending the Movie in Oakbrook Park asked if a power outlet was available. She asked if this could be accomplished. Juan Bradford said he would investigate, but it may be expensive to install and protect from illicit use of power and electrical accidents.

Paula Jefferson reported that the spot where a drinking fountain was removed from Harvest Moon Park has several sharp pieces of metal sticking out of it, and people tripped over them during the block party. Paula asked that these pieces be removed, or capped so they are no longer a trip/fall hazard. Juan and David Buterbaugh will investigate.

Martha Kern-Boprie informed commissioners of a large invasive weed called "common pokeweed" that grew nine feet tall in her front yard over just six weeks. The MSU Extension Staff helped her identify it, and made suggestions how to get rid of it. Martha dug out and burned the plant, berries and root.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Sandi Lopez and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,
Martha Kern-Boprie
Park Commissioner and Secretary