

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
August 24, 2020

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paula Jefferson at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Park Commissioners present: Paula Jefferson, Marion Morris, Terry Lee Lansing, Sandi Lopez, Bernedia Word, 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 Marion Morris to approve the agenda as drafted. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. July 27, 2020

It was moved by Sandi Lopez and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to approve the minutes of 7/27/20 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

Ellen Kurath gave a detailed report to park commissioners about her efforts to remove "Stick Tites" from Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP) and Schroeter Park. "Stick Tites" are invasive plants that grow on a bi-annual cycle. Every two years they flourish, growing tall and producing many burrs that stick to animals, which spread them further. Ellen has spent at least 42 hours pulling "stick tites" from these two parks. July is the best time to pull these plants, as the horizontal seed bearing branches develop and are easy to distinguish from other plants. Ellen removes the seed burrs from the plant and bags them, so they are removed from the site. She then pulls up the plant and leaves the roots up in the air, which will kill the roots. "Stick Tites" are present in both parks. Other volunteers have removed some from Schroeter Park in addition to Ellen. More volunteers are needed. Ellen recommended teams of volunteers move through a site in parallel formation, to ensure all plants in an area are found and removed.

Marion Morris asked Ellen if the "stick tite" presence was as intense in areas that were burned this spring. Ellen responded the plants were present, but not as thickly. Ellen will work with Juan Bradford to prepare maps of areas containing "stick tites" and garlic mustard, for use by staff and volunteers.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Paula Jefferson spoke with Harold Gonzales about the Little Free Library he nailed to a tree in Fireman's Park. Their discussion included any potential liability the Park Commission may hold for contents of the Little Free Library. Paula has learned the Park Commission has no liability for the contents. Mr. Gonzales may attend a future Park Commission meeting.

B. Administrator

Approved by the Superior Township Park Commission on 9/28/2020.

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He further informed Park Commissioners that the signs purchased with funds from the Rapid Response Grant cost less than budget. Additional signs will be purchased. Park Commissioners also suggested preparing bookmarks with COVID-19 safety messages to hand out at recreation events. Park Commissioners supported installing security cameras at Schroeter Park to help apprehend vandals who continue to damage our signs with graffiti.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Alex Williams reported on the Township Board meeting held 8/17/20 via zoom technology. The sewer repair on Stamford is nearly complete. Total cost exceeds one million dollars. Insurance will not cover any of this, and water/sewer rates will increase to cover the cost. The Clark Road pumping station replacement is underway. The township board approved sale of several used pick-up trucks owned by the Utility Department.

The 2019 audit of township funds is complete. The year closed well. A detailed report will be presented later. The Ypsilanti District Library (YDL) will give a presentation on its request to construct a turn lane at the entrance to the new library on Harris Road, due to the current Harris Road speed limit of 50 miles per hour. The Eyde Company is proposing a development plan for their properties in Superior Township. Salem Springs is the development in Salem Township seeking to bring a sewer line through Superior Township. Superior Township's attorney has met with their attorney.

Planning for the 2021 township budget is delayed due to lack of information on State Shared Revenue. Bill Fishbeck will hire professional deer hunters to cull some of the deer from his property. Limestone has been placed on several township roads.

Bernedia Word asked if the sale of used pick-up trucks was advertised to the general public. Alex responded it was not.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Paula Jefferson attended the 8/17/20 township board meeting. Paula commented that the truck sales should have been noticed to the public via the township clerk's office.

E. Park Steward

Rick Collman submitted a written report. He complimented park staff on good maintenance of Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP) and Schroeter Park. He also liked the small maps in CHNP at several points along trails.

F. Safety

There were no accidents or injuries in the past month.

8. Communications

A. Educational: Benefits of Risky Play

B. Norfolk Park Reservation

C. Community Park Bridge Graffiti Pictures

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

9. Old Business

A. Pumpkin Carving and Christmas Tree Lighting events

Juan Bradford asked park commissioners what their thoughts were about holding the Pumpkin Carving and Christmas Tree Lighting events. The consensus was to hold the Pumpkin Carving event, but simply give each child a pumpkin with a pattern and a treat. By not carving the pumpkins on site, it will minimize contact and the risk of COVID-19 infection. Decisions about the Christmas Tree Lighting event can be made later in the autumn.

10. New Business

A. Riding Mower Quotes

Approved by the Superior Township Park Commission on 9/28/2020.

Juan Bradford and David Buterbaugh presented three quotes from Weingartz for a riding mower. The lowest price option also has the feature of shooting grass clippings out the side, which is desired by staff. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Paula Jefferson to approve purchase of Lazer S-Series Diesel 3TNV80FT Yanmar 72" riding mower for an amount not to exceed \$17,878.00. The motion carried.

B. Fireman's Park Sidewalk Quotes

Bids were obtained from two vendors to construct a sidewalk in Fireman's Park. The bids were:

Vendor

Midwest Construction, Concrete & General Contractors, Inc from Saline MI

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Option #1 | towards driveway approach | \$17,255.00 |
| Option #2 | towards parking area | \$17,255.00 |

Mike Andrews Concrete Construction, LLC from Tecumseh MI

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Option #1 | towards driveway approach | \$15,200.00 |
| Option #2 | towards parking area | \$16,750.00 |

During discussion there was consensus to choose Option #2 and orient the sidewalk toward the parking area. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Sandi Lopez to approve the bid from Mike Andrews Concrete Construction, LLC - Option #2 for an amount not to exceed \$16,750.00. The motion carried. Juan Bradford reminded commissioners that we have the Building Healthy Places grant for \$10,000 to cover a portion of the cost. The remaining \$6,750 will come from Park Funds.

C. 2021 Budget Ideas

Park Commissioners were asked for idea for the 2021 budget. Martha Kern-Boprie noted that it will be reasonable to expect a reduced allocation from the Township General Fund, as all local governments are facing revenue challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have saved some by canceling several recreation events this year, and those savings may help us fund programs next year. There was a general consensus that we probably will not seek any capital improvements in 2021. Real budget planning cannot take place until we have more information on funding from the township general fund.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to approve payment of the bills totaling \$26,428.40. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

A. July 2020 Revenue & Expenditure Report

It was moved by Sandi Lopez and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to receive the July 2020 Revenue & Expenditure Report. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Paula Jefferson commented that during her discussion with Harold Gonzalez he asked if there was a fee to use the park for an organized purpose. We have not charged a fee in the past, and may want to make this more formal.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Terry Lee Lansing and supported by Bernedia Word to adjourn at 7:45 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,
Martha Kern-Boprie Park Commissioner and Secretary