

Superior Charter Township Park Commission  
Regular Meeting  
March 28, 2022

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marion Morris at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Park Commissioners present: Marion Morris, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Martha Kern-Boprie, Riley Schofield, Greg Vessels, Terry Lee Lansing, Guy Conti

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Park Administrator; Patrick Pigott, Maintenance Supervisor and Recreation Coordinator; Angela Miller

3. Flag Salute

Chair Marion Morris led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the agenda as drafted. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. February 28, 2022

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to approve the minutes of 2/28/2022 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

There was none.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Marion Morris spoke about a sense of adversarial tension developing among park commissioners. She asked commissioners to speak in turn about their background, history in Superior Township and reasons for serving on the Park Commission. Terry Lee Lansing asked to do this at a future meeting, as she is not prepared to do this now. Marion said we could do this at the April Park Commission meeting.

B. Administrator

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added that he continues to work with Jason Gold from the Michigan Folk School to find instructors for a wildcrafting event this spring and summer. Marion Morris suggested Juan contact Jack Smiley and Bill Secrest, as they may know people who could do this. Juan informed commissioners that he continues to work on obtaining bids for purchase of mowers. There are two distributors he usually works with: Wolverine Rental for Kabota products and Spartan Industries for Toro products. Spartan Industries said they might not have anything available until September, and could not guarantee the price quoted now would hold when a product was available in the fall. Wolverine Rental said prices were increasing by 10%. Juan will continue to look for other distributors. Marion Morris commented she did not think he would be successful. Juan said he had hoped to acquire two mowers this year, and it looks like now it will be only one, if he can find

one. Prices are up, and it is hard to find what you need. Juan is also working on hiring summer staff. Previously we paid \$15.00 per hour, and he proposes paying \$17.00 per hour this year, as competition for staff is up. Wendy's pays \$15.00 per hour. Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County raised their hourly pay rates. He hopes to get better candidates with the higher wage. The Park Department will advertise in the township newsletter coming out next week. If we still don't have positions filled by Easter, advertisements will be placed on the township website and on the marquee at the Utility Building at Clark and Prospect. Greg Vessels asked if advertisements were placed at EMU and WCC. He did this type of work when he was a college student. Juan responded that he advertised at WCC in the past, but did not receive many responses. Greg asked how many hours a week do the seasonal workers put in. Juan responded 32 hours per week through October, perhaps the first week of November. Jacob worked for us last year, and has not responded to Patrick's messages. Patrick said Andrew may be interested. Juan noted that the Live! Here! Now! pop-up concert will be the premier one put on by the Ann Arbor Summer Festival this year. The Gabriel Brass Band will perform. Martha Kern-Boprie asked if Ypsilanti Community Schools had responded. Juan said they would be involved with food. Martha asked if a student jazz combo could serve as a warm-up act. Juan said there would be a business mixer for minority owned businesses before the concert. Martha asked if all of this would be outside, and Juan said it would be. Juan informed the park commissioners that a picture would be taken of the commission at the April meeting.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke reported on the 2/21/2022 Township Board meeting. She noted that the Board Attendee report submitted by Martha Kern-Boprie was thorough. She finds much tension among advocates for the Community Center about the composition of the Community Center Advisory Committee. She senses frustration about people who are not included on it, and about people who are included that do not reside in Superior Township. She finds a lack of trust by the advocates with the township board, and frustration that the process is not moving forward faster. Marion Morris commented that the list of people appointed to the Advisory Committee did not contain background, expertise or what group the person represented. Bernice responded that initially the list did contain this information, but other township board members wanted it removed. Marion requested Bernice provide the list with all information, and Bernice said she would. Hobbs & Black is an architectural firm that is conducting a study of the Cheney School building. The study is done at no cost to the township. The study is taking longer than expected, but it is difficult to ask the firm to hurry when they are not being paid. Bernice thinks the study may be complete by the April township board meeting. The Township Board thought the Advisory Committee would drive the process, but the advocates appear to expect the Township Board to know what it wants. We are dealing with that. Marion said she understood the Community Center will be used by people from outside Superior Township. Bernice responded, no, it will be used by Superior Township residents. Marion then asked why is there entertainment of people from outside Superior Township on the Advisory Committee? Bernice responded some hold particular expertise or represent a demographic or group. Lavada Weathers has a long association with Cheney School, but does not live in Superior Township. She could provide a lot of wisdom to the committee. Kelly Goolsby is well acquainted with and supportive of residents of the Danbury Green and Sycamore Meadows neighborhoods. Kelly recommended a mom and her teenage son for appointment to the Advisory Committee. We are trying to get a cross-section of different people and ages. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai asked if it is legal for people who do not live here, serving on the Executive Committee and making decisions. We have people in Superior Township with expertise. At a township board meeting, people from outside Superior Township talked so long, township residents did not get to speak. Bernice responded that the Advisory Committee does not make decisions. Only the Township Board does. Nahid commented that occupying space on the Advisory Committee with people from outside the township can eliminate people who do live in Superior Township. Bernice noted that there was controversy at the Township Board meeting when advocates for the community center found out the Advisory Committee cannot make decisions.

Marion commented that at the last park commission meeting there was a motion by Guy and supported by Martha that you have voice but no vote. The motion carried. I am curious how you will handle this? Bernice said thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond. The way I see it, if I have something of value to add, I can do so. Or if I were asked a question. I don't see myself jumping in if I did not have something to contribute. Did you see it differently? Marion stated OK. It does need to be clarified. Martha Kern-Boprie stated that would be voice. She would have the opportunity to speak if she had something to contribute, but not vote. Probably if we were discussing something, and wondered what the Township Board thought, she would raise her hand, and hopefully someone would call on her, and ask Trustee Lindke for her comments. I don't see what other clarification is needed. Marion said OK.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Martha Kern-Boprie attended the 2/21/2022 Township Board meeting and submitted a written report. Marion commented that it was very thorough.

Martha said that some of the positions on the Advisory Committee do not live in Superior Township but have a role that can impact Superior Township in a positive manner, including the County Sheriff Dept, Commissioner Ricky Jefferson, Juan Bradford, and Theresa Gillotti of the Washtenaw County office of Community and Economic Development. Martha knows about half of the people appointed to the Advisory Committee and does not want to throw out the baby with the bathwater.

She added her perception that many of the advocates were frustrated that the process to open a community center is not moving faster, and did not seem to understand that it took over 20 years to make the progress toward a new library in the township, and four months is not that long.

Guy Conti commented If I may, any board or commission can decide who their advisors are. Some are professional. The board has to answer to it politically. It is good they want a representative from our world here. It could be Juan or one of us. I don't think anyone will be thrown out of a meeting. Um It is not a decision-making body. It is probably less formal than we think.

Juan Bradford asked if it would be subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Guy responded "No". If a committee is given authority, it is subject to the OMA.

E. Park Steward

Juan Bradford reported that he spoke with Ellen Kurath last week. Supplies were ordered for her. Ellen is ready to work.

F. Safety

Patrick Pigott reported there were no accidents or injuries in the past month. Marion Morris asked Patrick when park maintenance work would begin, and Patrick responded it would begin next week.

8. Communications

- A. Educational: Landscape Alternatives
- B. Superior Township Master Plan: Dixboro Presentation
- C. 2022 Summer Playground Camp

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to receive the communications. During discussion on the motion, several park commissioners noted they were surprised that some landscaping plants used in our neighborhoods are non-native invasives such as burning bush. The motion carried.

9. Old Business

A. Five-Year Plan Update: April meeting

Juan spoke with Chris Nordstrom of Carlisle Wortman on Thursday. The Dixboro Open House takes place on April 2. An open house meeting on progress on the Five-Year Park & Open Space Plan and Township Master Plan will take place later in April. The date has not been selected yet. This open

house will take place in the township hall board room with stations on different topics spread around the room. Nahid asked how the public will be informed of the date. Some of her neighbors asked her. Juan said the date will be announced via the township website, next door app and Laura will put out an email blast about it.

B. 2022 Special Events

A schedule of 2022 recreational special events was provided. This schedule includes:

Easter Egg Hunt	April 9 11:00 am – noon	Fireman’s Park
Kite & Rocket Day	May 14 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Fireman’s Park
Live! Here! Now! Pop-up concert	June 4 5:30 – 8:00 pm	Fireman’s Park
Movies on the Green	July 9 8:00 pm	Dixboro Green
Movies in the Park	August 13 8:00 pm	Oakbrook Park
Movies in the Park	September 10 7:30 pm	Oakbrook Park
Nature Hunt Bingo	October 8 1:00 – 3:00 pm	CHNP
Pumpkin Carving/Arts & Crafts	October 22 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Norfolk Park
Christmas Tree Lighting	December 3 6:00 pm	Township Hall

In addition to these events, Summer Day Camp will run from June 23 – August 18 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at Christian Love Fellowship Church 1601 Stamford Rd.

Tennis lessons will be offered, but dates and times are not confirmed yet. It will be highlighted in the township newsletter. The wildcrafting event will be scheduled if instructors can be found.

Marion asked if any commissioners were interested in helping at these events. Juan responded he did not create a three-month sign-up list this year. Signing up for three months ahead can be difficult. Marion said OK. I do think we should sign up for the Easter Egg Hunt.

10. New Business

A. Easter Egg Hunt Sign-up

The Easter Egg Hunt takes place on Saturday, April 9 from 11:00 am – noon at Fireman’s Park. The following park commissioners volunteered to help:

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai	Greg Vessels
Terry Lee Lansing	Martha Kern-Boprie

Guy Conti said if we have to use the rain date of April 16 he can help on that day, but not on April 9.

B. Prescribed Burn Proposal

David Borneman, LLC submitted a proposal to conduct a controlled burn in Schroeter Park. His proposal included a map of Schroeter park with a prairie section outline and a woodlot outlined. His proposal is to burn the prairie unit alone for \$2,500.00 or the prairie unit and the woodlot together for \$4,300.00. Martha Kern-Boprie asked Juan if we could afford to burn the two sections, and Juan responded we budgeted \$4,400 for controlled burns this year. Martha said there appeared to be an economy of scale to doing both, and she recommended doing that. Juan said they save on set up cost.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Marion Morris to approve the proposal from David Borneman, LLC to conduct a controlled burn in Schroeter Park of the prairie unit and the woodlot unit for an amount not to exceed \$4,300.00. The motion carried.

C. Commissioner Decorum

Marion Morris state the last two meetings have been contentious with yelling and hollering. As adults this should not be tolerated. If it happens again, I will bring the gavel down and the meeting will be closed. We need to respect one another, even though we do not know one another.

D. Commission Minutes Detail

Marion Morris stated there has been a question about how much detail should be in the minutes. The minutes should reflect what has occurred in the meeting. Who said what, when, how and where. Unless it is stated it is not part of the record. You can say "I do not want this to be part of the record".

Martha Kern-Boprie actually Michigan law requires that minutes contain motions and votes and that's it.

Marion let me finish please. And if that is stated, you then tell the individual to take it to Pleas and Petitions. We will discuss it then. And also because there was a huge question about how much detail there should be, there now is a recorder. There should be no question about what is in the minutes. Are there any comments? Thank you Martha for your extremely good minute taking.

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai I just wanted to respond to Martha's email. I am not certain if I should bring it up now because it is somewhat related to what you said.

Marion I am not certain what you are talking about. I am not familiar with the email.

Nahid I think you are. I am talking about a specific email I sent to Martha, about her behavior at the last meeting. She responded to me. Out of respect for Guy's comment that we should not discuss on email, I said at the next meeting I would answer her comments.

Marion OK go ahead at this point.

Nahid OK As you all know last month I was bringing up a concern, a very important comment that Martha had left out. That in the first place I think had to be in there. Because Martha as you said always does a great job. I am the first one always to compliment her. So I started it with thank you, you did a great job. However I think you left out an important comment. Which was, I was talking on behalf of those commissioners who did not agree with your statement. Which I strongly believe was incorrect. However you have a right to bring up your opinion and record it. When it came to our comment you completely left it out. And I felt like I had to bring it up. It was a very familiar subject to you because we talked about it at the previous meeting. I was very clear about it. But you really gave me a hard time. Ten times you asked me, you have to tell me what to write. How come everyone else got it but you. At the end, I said I didn't know what to do. Because I had a choice as Marion said, to end the meeting and walk out, but I didn't want to. And then you raised your voice to me which is unacceptable. In your email you tried to justify it. That because I asked for this and that, you were not giving it to me. Probably that is why I raised my voice. Do you think you can justify raising your voice? Because in a very respectful and friendly manner. I was bringing up a concern about very important comments you left out.

Martha May I respond?

Marion and Nahid Yes Martha

Martha I am asking the chairperson.

I raised my voice because I asked on multiple occasions for the text that you sought to enter into the minutes. You did not have it. You kept talking and talking, but I was looking for the text. Starting sentence here, dot dot dot, end. And that is not what I got. Finally when I did raise my voice, you did that. But I personally believe when the minutes are released three weeks in advance of the next meeting, that is more than sufficient time to get your amendment ready and have it present at the next meeting. And that didn't occur.

Nahid May I answer?

Marion Yes.

Nahid First of all, this was very new to me. When you said you didn't bring a written document. We always brought up concerns, comments, if you had questions, and you were comfortable with that. I do remember very well in the past, after you issued minutes, I right away wrote to you and I said I think you left out this after thanking you. And you said no, you have to talk about it at the meeting. And I respected your wish.

Martha Right. No, you didn't bring it.

Nahid As I told you. This was something you were very familiar with. Can you tell me why you left it out? When commissioners express concern regarding your comment.

Marion I need to bring it down a couple notches. Uh Martha, obviously you don't know what it is she wanted added. Is that what I'm getting?

Martha Right. That is absolutely correct. I did not know what exact words, and I did not want to be responsible for paraphrasing an estimate. And that is why I wanted her to produce the exact text. And just one other comment. No, I did not believe I was intentionally left out an argument. I thought I had it, but if that is not the case, that's why commissioners should present the text they want corrected.

Marion Well, when you say text, it's not like we write down every single word we say, Martha. We do not. We expect as commissioners, when we are blabbing away, that you tell us to slow down, so you can get it all, number one. And number two, that you are the one recording what we are saying.

Martha And I was doing my best to do that, and I thought I had, and apparently Nahid had a different opinion. And that is OK. But when that is the case, and it is substantive, it's not a case of getting the wrong date or the number of park benches, or what every; I believe any commissioner, not just Nahid, anyone who should find this paragraph is substantially missing, and come in with your amendment. And that is what I asked for.

Guy Conti Excuse me. Madam Chair, may I?

Marion Yes.

Guy One thing Martha previously said is absolutely correct. For minutes is motions, seconds, votes is the minimum requirement. You don't have to put in comments, and so forth. You can, if you want. As a commission, we should be deciding what level of detail we want in our minutes.

Marion We want every level, unless

Guy Well, you want every level. I'm not so sure I do. And the reason

Marion Well, you are but one person.

Guy I understand that, with the right to raise the issue. The issue as I see it, this is one of frustration. Nahid believed she was telling Martha what she wanted added. Martha clearly didn't understand.

Marion We understand that.

Guy No. Madam Chair, please, let me speak.

Marion gavel knocking sound. Let me go on please.

Guy I asked you if I could speak. You said yes, so I am speaking. So let me finish, and it will come back to you.

Marion You've got another one more minute.

Guy You know, the chair doesn't make the rules. And the chair cannot gavel a meeting dead without a commission vote. Secondly, what I wanted to say is the level of confusion that

Marion We understand the level of

Guy You don't understand what I am saying ma'am. You're not letting me say it. OK Let me say it. The level of confusion that occurred is because of the level of detail that we are looking for in our minutes. When we have a lot of specific statements in our minutes, it becomes much more difficult to do accurate minutes. Perhaps what we might want to look at, is putting in minutes where the motions, the seconds and the votes are in, and if someone wants their comments in the minutes, they can then say they want their comments in the minutes. And in fact, that is what I would move that we do. Because I think the level of detail in these minutes are way too detailed, way too difficult on the secretary. Um Why don't we just hire a transcriber so we can have. All we need is

Marion We can do that, and we just provided her a recorder.

Guy I understand.

Marion There is a level of detail that is needed Guy. I hate to uh.

Guy We are all one person on this commission.

Marion I am going to put it to a vote right now.

Martha What is the motion?

Marion What level of detail do we want to see in the minutes of our meetings?

Guy The motion specifically.

Nahid May I say something before you take a vote?

Marion Yes

Nahid I don't think this was about details, to be honest with you. This was about a very important comment from many commissioners who don't agree with Martha's statement. It was a very simple sentence. I'm sorry to say that, I speak five languages, nobody ever had any issue to understand me. And Martha, who was very familiar with the subject that we were talking about, acted like I was talking, I don't know, Chinese or another language, that basically I wanted to make sure that everybody knows it was not about details, but a very important sentence or statement. Thank you.

Guy Madam Chair, I'm going to withdraw my motion. I would like the commission to think about it. I am going to raise it on the agenda next month.

Marion Very good. Martha, I will say Nahid wasn't the only one that noticed there were things missing from the minutes. Statements that I had made.

Martha You weren't present.

Marion What?

Martha You weren't present at the meeting.

Marion The meeting before I was. And you left things out that I said. You, all you had every word that Guy said in those minutes. But not one word that I said. Other than very, very brief, quoting on something. And what it was, I had quite a bit of comment with regard to the 300 acres. Do you recall that at all?

Martha Not that level of detail from two months ago. No I do not.

Marion Well that was totally missing. And it made it look like no one, hardly anybody knew what they were talking about. So anyway. Detail at times does matter. And who said what, it does matter. Anything further?

Nahid I think that's it, as I said

Martha So your question, where you said. Marion asked the Park Commission what level of detail is wanted in the minutes. You're dropping that question? I heard you say that.

Marion What was decided that we are going to wait until next month.

Martha Well that is what Guy said. I don't know what you are saying. I heard you say Marion asked the Park Commission what level of detail is wanted in the minutes.

Marion All right.

Martha That was your question.

Marion Guy responded.

Martha He did. What is your comment?

Marion I'm fine with it. We will wait until next month. Is that recorder on Martha?

Martha It is. I didn't realize I had pushed the button until we had approved the agenda.

Marion So you have everything on that recorder.

Martha From that point forward.

Marion OK. So you don't need to write it.

Martha Oh I do. That is my choice madam.

Marion Oh OK. I was just trying to save you some work.

Martha I'll get over it.

Marion All right. Pleas and Petitions.

Martha We haven't paid the bills, we haven't received the financial statements.

Marion Oh excuse me. Do I hear a motion to accept the financial statements?

Martha Are we going to do the Bills for Payment? They fall before that on the agenda.

Marion Bills for Payment

#### 11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Marion Morris to approve payment of the bills totaling \$13,689.49 at 3/28/22. The motion carried.

#### 12. Financial Statements

A. February 2022 Revenue & Expenditure Report

B. February 2022 Balance Sheet

It was moved by Terry Lee Lansing and supported by Greg Vessels to receive the February 2022 financial statements. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Guy Conti I wanted to thank everybody the courtesy of wearing masks. As you know the current CDC guideline, it's not required indoors. If you are doing it because of the stance I took or for me personally, please feel free to remove your mask. I probably will keep mine on. I think that's probably enough. As long as it comports with current township rules. I don't know what the building rules are. OK I do appreciate it.

I also wanted to, not so much as give you, madam chair the report, on who I am. But I did want to address the whole idea of adversity, and so forth. First I want to assure everybody here, each and every one of you that I have no personal adversity toward anybody. I can vehemently disagree with you. One of the big advantages of what I do for a living, we are good at compartmentalizing. We And I'm smiling. We are good at compartmentalizing. We can have a spirited argument in a courtroom as attorneys one moment, and go get coffee the next. And that really is the nature of how I lead my existence. If I get animated about something, please don't ever think that when we walk out of here, that I will hold a grudge. I encourage everyone to be the same way. Say what you need to say. Say it as best you can, and as politely as you can. We're going to have disagreements. There's no question about it. That's why there are seven of us plus our liaison and our staff. And I want to encourage that. And I want everybody to know that's how I look at things. And in fact I didn't know anyone here until I joined this board, except for Riley. And I've known Riley for many years. Her family was generous to rescue the horse that I now own. And my wife and I are grateful to her family. So you all should know I love Riley and her family. The rest of you I'm happy to serve with you. Madam chair, if you and I go at it, and you bring that gavel down, the meeting's over, I will be there for you personally. Thank you for your time.

Marion Thank you Guy. You added to what I was trying to say. You and I have commonalities. I too am long long friends with Riley and her family. There is a horse that I love at the stable that was mine for years. Lucy.

Guy I know Lucy.

Marion Lucy was mine. I had horses from the time I was 12 years old.

Guy Wow. I wish I could say the same. We didn't have many places to keep them in Brooklyn, New York.

Marion I'm 85 now. I made it to 82.

Nahid May I add something? I think I talked about it last month. I would like again to encourage everyone to try very hard to create a friendly, respectful environment for everybody to work in. One thing that attracted me at Park and Rec when I joined was the friendly environment we have. Yes definitely we have different opinions about things, you know matters. And that's very normal. Lately though, I am unpleasantly surprised by the change in atmosphere. It is not the same. I don't understand what is going on. I strongly believe we are going to be successful as a team if we create that type of positive and welcoming environment. Thank you for the time.

Bernice I want to commend you for having monthly financial statements. It drives me nuts that we don't at our regular board meetings. I keep asking for it, because if we vote on expenses, if you don't know what the budget is, what you have expended to date, it doesn't mean anything. Who every did it for you, it is great.



Approved 4/25/2022 by the Superior Charter Township Park Commission.

Juan Thank you.

Marion I don't know how much leverage we have.

Bernice It is a great business practice

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Greg Vessels to adjourn at 7:40 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,  
Martha Kern-Boprie, Park Commissioner and Secretary