

Superior Charter Township Park Commission  
Regular Meeting  
January 24, 2022

Adopted Minutes

1. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by Chair Marion Morris at 6:37 pm.
2. Roll Call  
Park Commissioners present: Marion Morris, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Riley Schofield, Terry Lee Lansing, Guy Conti, Martha Kern-Boprie  
  
Park Commissioners absent: Greg Vessels (excused due to illness)  
  
Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Park Administrator; Patrick Pigott, Maintenance Supervisor and Recreation Coordinator; Matthew Yahyai; Ken Schwartz, Township Supervisor; 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 Riley Schofield to approve the agenda as drafted. The motion carried.
5. Citizen Participation  
No one in the audience spoke. Juan Bradford informed the Park Commission that some residents who had planned to attend were unable to get to the meeting tonight due to the snowy weather.
6. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval
  - A. December 20, 2021  
It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to approve the minutes of 12/20/2021 as drafted. The motion carried.
7. Reports
  - A. Chairperson  
Chair Marion Morris reported that another 160 acres of open land has been acquired by Superior Township for conservation purposes. The land is adjacent to the "Rock property" acquired in December.
  - B. Administrator  
Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added to this report that a group of residents seeking to enhance recreation facilities in Firemans Park have applied for a grant from the Wilson Foundation. The grant application has been submitted. Letters of support may be submitted within the next two weeks. Martha Kern-Boprie offered to draft a letter of support and will contact Juan for more details on the grant application.
  - C. Board Liaison  
Trustee Bernice Lindke reported that Marion Morris sent a letter dated 12/30/2021 to the township board, requesting a different township board member be appointed as Board Liaison to the Park Commission. The Township Board discussed this at the 1/18/2022 meeting and decided to continue Trustee Lindke as Liaison to the Park Commission.

At the 1/18/22 meeting resident Jan Piert asked if basketball courts had been removed from Community Park when the tennis courts were repaired. Juan Bradford was present, and responded that there had been temporary basketball goals, owned by the Sheriff Office, that were removed. This equipment had been placed there a few years ago for a summer program called "Ballin' on the Boulevard".

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai attended both the December 20, 2021, and the January 18, 2022, Township Board Meetings.

December – two men expressed concern about gypsy moths in Superior Township. Supervisor Ken Schwartz encouraged the men to bring their concern to the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Resident Jan Piert expressed support for dedicating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to facilities and services for residents in the area of Sycamore Meadows and Danbury Park Manor. Two residents applied for a position on the Board of Review. Compensation for township trustees increased from \$200.00 per meeting attended to \$300.00 per meeting attended.

January – Irma Golden was appointed to the Board of Review. Many residents spoke in favor of using the ARPA funds for a community center near MacArthur Blvd. There was discussion of the letter from Marion Morris, also referenced in the Board Liaison report.

Nahid asked Trustee Lindke if she was also going to report on the December 20 Township Board meeting, and Trustee Lindke said she forgot to prepare a report of that meeting.

E. Park Steward

Juan Bradford has not heard from Ellen Kurath lately. He expects to hear from her when spring gets here.

F. Safety

Patrick Pigott reported there have been no accidents or injuries in the past month.

8. Communications

A. Educational: Best Ways to Preserve Nature While Hiking

B. 2022 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Dates UPDATED

C. 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting / P&R Commissioner Attendees Schedule UPDATED

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

9. Old Business

A. Five Year Plan Update / Master Planning Community Survey Results

Commissioners reviewed the Master Planning Community Survey Results. Martha Kern-Boprie asked a few questions about some of the questions and the format of response. Juan Bradford responded those questions should be addressed to Chris Nordstrom of Carlisle-Wortman, the planning consultant retained to guide the process, who prepared the survey results. Juan seeks to schedule a meeting with Chris Nordstrom and the Park Commission participants on the Five-Year Plan committee during the week of January 31 – February 4.

10. New Business

A. 2022 Proposed Special Event Dates

Juan Bradford presented a 2022 calendar with suggestions for special event entered on it. Commissioners discussed these suggestions. A firm decision will be made in a month or two.

B. 2022 Parks & Recreation Commission Compensation

Marion Morris presented a proposal to increase the stipends paid to Parks & Recreation (P&R) Commissioners for each meeting attended. The proposal was made after the stipends paid to Township Trustees increased by \$100.00 per meeting. The proposal for the P&R Commissioners is: Commissioners increase from \$96.21 per meeting to \$200.00 per meeting  
 P&R Chair & Secretary increase from \$107.81 per meeting to \$220.00 per meeting  
 Extensive discussion took place about this proposal. Commissioners in support noted that stipends have not increased beyond cost of living in at least the past 13 years. They also noted that Township Board Trustees have received two consecutive annual increases of \$100.00 per meeting. Commissioners opposed noted that we are already well compensated for a meeting that rarely lasts more than one hour, with a fairly brief packet to review. Martha Kern-Boprie noted that the cumulative annual cost of this stipend increase will be \$8,400.00 and she believes that could better pay for park improvements or recreation programs. Discussion about time spent volunteering at Recreation Events took place. Some commissioners volunteer more than others. Some of the commissioners who were in favor of the raise did not agree that the commissioners attend only one-hour meetings and have a short packet to review. Many attend multiple meetings and events. Martha Kern-Boprie noted that this is volunteered time, and that stipends are only for P&R Commission meetings attended. Guy Conti noted that the proposed increase in stipend is 100%. He suggested a smaller increase in meeting stipend, with a smaller stipend for volunteering at events. Perhaps an increase of \$60.00 in meeting stipend and \$30 for helping at events. The public perception of the increases could be better under a stipend schedule of this nature.

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Nahid Sani-Yahyai to increase the stipend for Parks & Recreation Commissioners from \$96.12 per meeting attended to \$200.00 per meeting attended. The motion carried by a vote of 4 Yes to 2 No.

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Nahid Sani-Yahyai to increase the stipend for Parks & Recreation Chair and Secretary from \$107.81 per meeting attended to \$220.00 per meeting attended. During discussion on the motion, Guy Conti stated that although he voted no on the motion to increase Commissioner stipends, he would vote yes on this motion for the Chair and Secretary's stipend, as the previous motion increased the other stipends, and he then wanted compensation for the Chair and Secretary to be consistent with that of other stipends. The motion carried by a vote of 5 Yes to 1 No.

C. 2022 Parks & Recreation Staff Salaries

Salaries increases of \$2.32 per hour were proposed for the following positions:

	Current Rate	Proposed Increase	Proposed 2022 Rate
Permanent Part-Time Two positions	\$18.28	\$2.32	\$20.60
Maint Sup/Rec Coord	\$24.72	\$2.32	\$27.04
P & R Administrator	\$1,533.36 biweekly	\$2.32	\$1,626.00 biweekly

Juan Bradford noted this raise is partly proposed to bring salaries up to that of recently hired township staff in other departments, as well as recognize exceptional performance of current staff. Guy Conti commented the wages are still on the low end, given the current market for skilled, experienced workers. Martha Kern-Boprie asked what the approximate annual hours worked are, and if our budget could afford a raise of \$3.32 per hour for all these positions. Juan responded that the permanent part-time staff and the Maint Sup/Rec Coord annually work about 1,176 hours each, and he works about 1,040 hours annually. Juan believes the budget could afford an hourly raise of \$3.32 for all staff. Supervisor Ken Schwartz was in the audience and said he did not think a raise of \$3.32 per hour would cause tension among other township staff.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to approve an hourly pay raise of \$3.32 for each of the following park staff:

Permanent Part-Time – two positions

Maint Sup/Rec Coord

P & R Administrator

The motion carried.

D. Election of Park Commission Officers

1. Chairperson

Terry Lee Lansing nominated Marion Morris as Park Commission Chairperson. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai supported the nomination. Marion Morris was elected Chairperson.

2. Vice-Chairperson

Martha Kern-Boprie nominated Nahid Sanii-Yahyai as Park Commission Vice-Chairperson. Riley Schofield supported the nomination. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai was elected Vice-Chairperson.

3. Secretary

Marion Morris nominated Martha Kern-Boprie as Park Commission Secretary. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai supported the nomination. Martha Kern-Boprie was elected Secretary.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to authorize payment of the bills totaling \$24,988.15 at 1/24/2022. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Riley Schofield to Receive the December 2021 financial statements. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai commented that the Park maintenance staff are very deserving of their pay increases. Juan Bradford responded that the team works well together.

Guy Conti commented on why he has been absent from Parks & Recreation Commission meetings. He believes that given the health risk presented by COVID-19, the Parks & Recreation Commission should not have returned to in-person meetings. He is present now because the Michigan state legislature now requires in-person meetings.

Guy Conti also spoke about the role of the Township Board Liaison to the Park Commission. He finds it a waste of Trustee Lindke's considerable talent to have her sit at Park Commission meetings, only to provide a report.

Guy also stated it may have been a violation of the Open Meetings Act to have the discussion between Chair Marion Morris and Trustee Lindke before the Park Commission meeting was called to order today.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to adjourn at 8:00 pm. The motion carried.

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