

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
July 25, 2022

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai at 6:35 pm.

2. Roll Call

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

Park Commissioners absent: Marion Morris (excused)

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Park Administrator; Patrick Pigott, Recreation Coordinator & Maintenance Supervisor; Amy Sarafian, Ellen Kurath, Jan Piert, Kelly Goolsby

3. Flag Salute

Vice-Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the agenda as drafted. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. June 27, 2022

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the minutes of 6/27/2022 as drafted. The motion carried with Guy Conti abstaining because he was not present at the 6/27/2022 meeting.

6. Citizen Participation

Kelly Goolsby requested a road study on speed bumps on Stephens Drive in the Washington Square subdivision. She also requested resolution of the drainage problems in Fireman's Park, and security lighting in Community Park.

Juan Bradford responded to these requests. The township board and county road commission handle road issues, including speed bumps, not the Park Commission. The Five-Year Plan currently in development will probably include lighting in and to Community Park, especially if a community center is located near there. He anticipates grant opportunities early in 2023 that will help fund drainage resolution in Fireman's Park. Kelly also more play structures and picnic equipment such as grills and tables in Fireman's and Community Parks.

Jan Piert supported the requests made by Kelly Goolsby. Jan asked about grant applications. Can applications be submitted before the Five-Year Plan is complete?

Juan Bradford responded that the Five-Year Plan has to be complete first. He estimates it will be complete in September 2022. Grant applications are due in early 2023.

Amy Sarafian spoke with ideas for the Nature Bingo event this fall. She had examples for fairy houses composed of natural materials that are active projects for children creating them.

Ellen Kurath gave her Park Steward report and spoke about weeds in Schroeter Park and North Prospect Park. She has not been to Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP) yet. She would like to see a controlled burn

conducted in CHNP. John Copley concurs with this. In Schroeter Park, the southeast region has garlic mustard growing.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Vice-Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported that Chair Marion Morris is home from the hospital but was not up to attending the meeting tonight.

B. Administrator

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He noted that the Summer Playground Camp program will close with the Kickball Challenge and picnic on August 18 at 11:00 am, located at the Ypsilanti Township Community Park on Clark Road.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke reported on Township Board meeting held July 18. Supervisor Schwartz and Clerk Findley reported on progress made toward acquiring a location for the community center. County Administrator Greg Dill participated in the last Community Center Advisory Committee meeting, and implied the county is considering purchasing the Cheney School building. There is a possibility that a \$3 million-dollar federal grant will be awarded with the help of Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. This grant was originally intended for the Water Street project in Ypsilanti, but that location was not workable. The County is looking at ways to make the community center sustainable in coordination with the YMCA. If coordinating with the YMCA, there will be a community center within the building. Trustee Rhonda McGill presented her findings from her departmental meetings to the Board. She said the meetings were upbeat and productive. Some of the needs expressed by those she interviewed were:

Talent retention

Growth plan

Evaluation process

Personnel manual

Position descriptions

Additional staffing

A summary of her complete report is included in the minutes of the Board of Trustees 7/18/22 meeting. Please note that the Parks and Recreation Department was not included in this review.

Contracts were approved with the following vendors:

Jameel Williams, attorney

Fred Lucas, attorney

TAZ networks

A resolution to award Rotondo Constructions a contract to repair sidewalks was tabled as the Board failed to agree on how the contract would be paid.

During Pleas and Petitions, Kelly Goolsby requested that Movies in the Park be scheduled in Firemans Park and/or Community Park.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Riley Schofield attended the 7/18/22 township board meeting. She concurred with the summary Trustee Lindke provided. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai was also present at the 7/18/22 township board meeting.

E. Park Steward

Ellen Kurath gave her Park Steward report during citizen participation.

F. Safety

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

8. Communications

- A. Educational: Park Pulse, Inclusive Policies and Practices
- B. Michigan DNR Spark Grant info
- C. Fireman's Park Reservation: Washtenaw Promise
- D. Oakbrook Park Reservation: Golden

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Greg Vessels to receive the Communications. The motion carried.

9. Old Business

A. Five Year Plan Update

Juan had a discussion with consultant Chris Nordstrom about playground equipment. Particularly what is best and achievable to place in the Five-Year Plan.

B. Community Center Advisory Committee Update

The Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) met earlier this month. Much of the discussion was covered in Trustee Lindke Board Liaison report. Juan Bradford, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and Martha Kern-Boprie also attended this CCAC meeting. Martha noted that a few people in the audience were concerned about the central role the YMCA appeared to assume. At least one of the CCAC members expressed concern about locating the Community Center in the Cheney School building. This person would prefer to see it located adjacent to the new library, which would be central to all residential neighborhoods.

10. New Business

A. Playground Engineered Wood Fiber bids

Bids were solicited from four vendors of engineered wood fiber, for installation in township parks. Bids were submitted by two of these vendors.

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| Superior Groundcover | \$7,800.00 |
| Midstates Recreation | \$7,900.00 |

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to award the bid to Superior Groundcover for an amount not to exceed \$7,800.00. A roll call vote was taken.

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| Guy Conti | Yes |
| Martha Kern-Boprie | Yes |
| Nahid Sanii-Yahyai | Yes |
| Greg Vessels | Yes |
| Riley Schofield | Yes |
| Terry Lee Lansing | Yes |
| Marion Morris | Absent |

B. Movies in the Park sign-up

The next Movies in the Park will be Saturday, August 13 in Oakbrook Park. A kickball game will start at 8:00 pm and the movie will start at 9:00 pm.

The following Park Commissioners volunteered to help at this event:

- Nahid Sanii-Yahyai
- Guy Conti

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to approve payment of the bills totaling \$47,962.86 through 7/25/22. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Greg Vessels to receive the June financial statements. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Jan Piert requested a fence along Fireman's Park to screen playground equipment from MacArthur Blvd traffic.

Guy Conti offered suggestions on improving the Public Comment portion of the agenda to ensure equal access of the public to the Park Commission. Juan Bradford asked some clarifying questions. Nahid Sani-Yahyai and Martha Kern-Boprie offered comments. Guy and Juan will discuss this in more detail over the next few months.

Kelly Goolsby renewed her concerns about poor drainage in Fireman's Park. She is also concerned that crab apple trees in this park attract bees. She wants these trees removed.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Greg Vessels to adjourn at 7:22 pm. The motion carried.

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