

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
September 26, 2022

Adopted 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, Gregory Vessels, Guy Conti, Terry Lee Lansing

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Parks Director; Patrick Pigott, Maintenance Supervisor & Recreation Coordinator

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. August 22, 2022

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Guy Conti to approve the minutes of 8/22/22 as drafted. Marion Morris requested clarification of comments by Guy Conti in the Pleas and Petitions portion of the meeting. Clarification was provided. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

There was none.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson – no report

B. Administrator

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. In addition to this he reported on contact from a resident of the Oakbrook subdivision who frequently walks past Norfolk Park. This resident works for a company that remediates botanical pests, and thinks he spotted two trees with "Oak Wilt" a plant pest. This resident would like to use Norfolk Park as a training site for company staff on identifying and remediating oak wilt. In return, the company would remediate trees in Norfolk Park at no cost to the township. Juan wishes to investigate, and if the company has a good reputation and there really is oak wilt present, pursue the company's offer. Park Commissioners were supportive. Martha Kern-Boprie suggested contacting the county Road Commission and find out if they are experiencing many cases of oak wilt along roadsides. Marion Morris suggested contacting the Agricultural Extension office in Washtenaw County and find out what local experience staff there have with oak wilt.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Liaison reported on three township board meetings.
August 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
Citizen Participation

Several residents complained about Spongy Moth infestation and requested direction in how to mitigate this problem.

Juan Bradford asked that ARPA funding be used for Parks and Recreation projects, especially for correcting drainage issues in Fireman's Park.

A resident complimented the Township Clerk on conducting the August election well.

A resident recommended that ARPA funds pay for emergency needs in the Qualified Census Tract and expressed concern about the lack of speed bumps on Stephens Drive in Washington Square subdivision.

OHM Advisors gave a presentation on pedestrian crossing improvements to provide safer access on MacArthur Blvd and Harris Road to the new library.

Supervisor Schwartz reported that a request for proposals has been issued for waste collection services in the township.

A new fire fighter received approval for hiring.

The township board approved the pedestrian crossing improvements for MacArthur Blvd and Harris Road.

A new Township Marquee sign was approved, to be located at the corner of Clark and Prospect Roads. The marquee will have electronic digital displays, thus eliminating the need to climb up and change letters to change the message.

September 1, 2022 Special Board Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 2023 Budget. Items related to Parks and Recreation follow:

Trustee Lindke stated that she supported fixing the drainage issue and installing fencing, grills and benches in Fireman's Park. Further, she recommended that the Board use an engineering firm to advise on fixing the drainage problem. Lindke also suggested that Parks and Recreation staff purchase additional playground equipment.

Marion Morris questioned the need for a fence and stated she would prefer funds be used for signage.

It was suggested that \$100,000 be included in the Parks and Recreation budget to cover the needs at Fireman's Park. \$50,000 of this amount would be funded through the ARPA monies, \$36,000 from Urban County and \$14,000 from the Township General Fund. This funding does not include playground equipment installation, nor does it address the drainage issue. Ken Schwartz asked Marion Morris to follow up with OHM to assess the drainage issue, and Marion agreed to get a proposal.

Trustee Lindke noted that approximately \$168,000 to date has been spent for capital improvement upgrades to the schoolhouse and property at the Dixboro Village Green. Furthermore, ground maintenance costs approximately \$18,000 per year. This is a hefty investment, and she suggested that the township have a discussion with the church regarding the possibility of the township purchasing the green for a park. Supervisor Schwartz noted that the property would have to be appraised. It was decided that the 2023 General Fund budget include \$7,000 for an appraisal.

There was discussion about the Plymouth Road Pathway and whether an appraisal of the easement on the property at 5300 Plymouth Road has been completed. Ken Schwartz explained the process that the township must follow to condemn the easement property for the pathway.

Another item of discussion centered on the need for sidewalk repair and the process to be followed for fixing sidewalks.

Other items discussed during the meeting focused on Utilities and the General Fund.

September 19, 2022 Regular Meeting

Citizen Participation

A resident on W. Clark Road, whose property has been unusable due to the vertical shaft located in her front yard, requested that she receive a waiver of property taxes for fair compensation. Supervisor Schwartz said that was not possible and would offer something else that would be fair to the property owners.

Brenda Baker provided the board with a review of the three proposals for waste removal services. Matthew Schuster gave a letter to the board RE: the "Notice of Decision of Construction Board of Appeals and Failure to Comply with Legal Requirements".

Presentations were given regarding:

1. The role of the Dixboro Green in the future of our township.
2. An update on the township Facebook page.
3. A proposal from a community group to provide programming to youth in our Qualified Census Tract (QCT); specifically Danbury Green and Sycamore Meadows apartment complexes.

A motion was made to provide \$200,000 in ARPA funds to CLR Academy (Community Leadership Revolution) for one year of programming targeted toward youth services in the QCT. The motion passed.

The resolution to accept the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Connecting Communities grant for costs related to the Plymouth Road Pathway development was passed.

The waste management services contract was awarded to GFL Environmental USA.

The 2023 preliminary budgets were received, and the 2022 budget amendment was approved.

D. Board Attendee

Terry Lee Lansing attended the 9/19/22 Township Board Meeting. She noted that Trustee Lindke's report was thorough. Terry Lee added that the report on the Township Facebook page was very enthusiastic. The page is functioning. Posts are made to it every Saturday. Supervisor Ken Schwartz indicated his support for purchasing Dixboro Green. The church may be interested in selling it. The township budgeted \$7,000 for the real estate appraisal. The township board meeting lasted three hours.

E. Park Steward

Juan spoke with Ellen Kurath. She is spreading deer skid in CHNP and Schroeter Park to safely repel pests. Garlic Mustard has been found in Weatherbee Woods. CHNP needs a controlled burn in 2023.

F. Safety

Patrick Pigott reported there were no accidents or injuries in the past month. He is concerned about the safety of staff mowing the roundabout at Geddes and Superior Roads. Cars travel around it very fast, and place staff on mowers at risk when they enter and exit the roundabout. Park Commissioners offered several suggestions, such as orange cones in the traffic lanes to alert drivers and slow traffic.

8. Communications

A. Educational: Local Food Options

B. Fly on the Fly Sport Port at Fireman's Park

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to receive the communications. The motion carried.

9. Old Business

A. Five Year Plan Update

First drafts of the Five Year Plan were distributed to the committee working on this, which is Marion Morris, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Martha Kern-Boprie and Paula Jefferson. Committee members were asked to complete first review and send comments to Juan within one week.

B. Community Center Advisory Committee Update

The committee is moving forward. It sounds like the community center will be an eastern county center in Superior Township. Most programming will be performed by the YMCA. Martha Kern-Boprie voiced concern about a governmental facility with all programming by a faith based organization. Several commissioners responded that the YMCA is not currently a faith or evangelical focused organization.

C. 2023 Parks & Recreation Budget Updated

The 2023 Budget was increased to Revenue and Expense of \$347,401 each. Additional revenue comes from the Township General Fund.

D. Event Sponsorship Policy

Martha Kern-Boprie presented a memo on advantages and disadvantages of seeking and accepting sponsorship revenue for parks and recreation programs and facilities, and a draft policy on this. Chair Marion Morris asked commissioners to review this, and discuss it in more detail at the October Park Commission meeting.

10. New Business

A. "Nature Hunt Bingo" volunteer sign-up

The Nature Hunt Bingo event takes place October 8, 2022 at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP). The event is scheduled from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Volunteers should arrive no later than 12:30 pm.

The following commissioners volunteered to help at this event.

Greg Vessels and his wife Amy Sarafian

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai

Marion Morris

Terry Lee Lansing

B. Parks and Recreation Commission ByLaws

Commissioner Guy Conti reviewed the current Parks and Recreation Commission ByLaws, and made suggestions for amendments. He reviewed all suggested amendments with Park Commissioners. Chair Marion Morris asked commissioners to review the suggested amendments, and discuss them in more detail at the October Park Commission meeting.

C. Ypsilanti Township Parks & Recreation Facilities

Commissioner Guy Conti spoke with Mr. Hines of the Ypsilanti Township Parks & Recreation staff about the possibility of Superior Township residents participating in Ypsilanti Township recreation programs at the same cost as Ypsilanti Township residents. Mr. Hines said he would investigate with his manager. Guy has not received a response yet from Mr. Hines. Juan spoke with Ken Schwartz about this. Ken said he would speak with Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo about it.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to pay the bills totaling \$\$32,594.06 at 9/26/2022. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

A. August 2022 Revenue & Expenditure Report

It was moved by Terry Lee Lansing and supported by Nahid Sani-Yahyai to receive the August 2022 financial report. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Commissioners requested clarification on the event times for the Sport Port Program. Juan clarified the program takes place on Mondays from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm, September 26 through November 14 in Fireman's Park.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Greg Vessels to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. The motion carried.

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