

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
January 23, 2023

Adopted Minutes

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai at 6:30 pm.
2. Roll Call
Park Commissioners present: Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Marion Morris, Martha Kern-Boprie, Greg Vessels, Riley Schofield, Terry Lee Lansing, Guy Conti

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Park Director Juan Bradford
3. Flag Salute
Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
4. Agenda Approval
It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business C. Bees and Tree Cutting in Parks. The motion carried.
5. Moment of Silence for Diana Rivis
The Park Commission observed a moment of silence to recognize the passing of former Park Commissioner Diana Rivis.
6. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval
 - A. December 19, 2022
It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Riley Schofield to approve the minutes of 12/19/2022 with the addition of the words "and Nahid Sanii-Yahyai" to the last sentence in 4. Agenda Approval after "Marion Morris" and before "...stated". The motion carried.
7. Citizen Participation – none
8. Reports
 - A. Chairperson
Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai spoke of former Park Commissioner Diana Rivis and her service on the Park Commission and employment in the township Utility Department. Diana died on December 27, 2022. Several township employees and elected officials attended the memorial service for Diana on January 10.
 - B. Director's Report
Director Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He reviewed the report with the Park Commission.
 - C. Board Liaison
Trustee Bernice Lindke reviewed Township Board activity at three meetings since the 12/19/22 Park Commission meeting.
12/19/22 Township Board Regular Meeting
Citizen Participation
Request to use old library space in fire station #2 for a food pantry and for parent café activities.

Resident supported a community garden along MacArthur Blvd.

Reports

Supv Schwartz reported the County Administrator expressed his and the County Commission's commitment to having an eastside community center.

Clerk Findley reported the community center project is estimated to cost \$30 million, of which the county portion is presently funded at \$13.5 million. The County's Public Information Officer provided assurance that the county understands that there will be a community center in conjunction with the YMCA. The Cheney site has been chosen.

Juan Bradford said that he, Jan Piert and TC Collins met to discuss Mr. Collins community garden project.

Unfinished Business

Attorney Fred Lucas received a contract from the Youth Arts Alliance (YAA), but has not received one from Mighty Oaks. Juan reported that YAA has secured space for winter activities.

New Business

A resolution to provide \$50,000 ARPA funds for parent support services to residents in the Qualified Census Tract areas was approved. The board directed the Parks & Recreation Commission to enter into negotiations with the Success by 6 Great Start Collaborative for a one year contract with the Trusted Advisors to provide services and programs focused on supporting parents and families by offering Parent Cafes and addressing barriers.

The board authorized the submission of a Spark grant request for the installation of ADA improvements at the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve.

Township officials and staff pay increases of 4% were approved, and medical, dental and vision insurance for township employees were approved.

One resolution addressing the amount of a wellness bonus to be paid to all township employees was tabled to a special meeting on January 12, 2023.

2022 budget amendments for all funds were approved.

Pleas and Petitions: Supv Schwartz asked that discussion of the firefighters sleeping area be placed on the January 17, 2023 agenda.

1/12/2023 Special Meeting

Discussion of concerns from Fire Department staff over the amount of the wellness bonus they would be paid to offset their medical plan out-of-pocket expenses. The vote to consider the resolution was tabled to the regular meeting in January.

1/17/2023 Regular Meeting

Citizen Participation: residents spoke and sent emails to support the community farm and garden ARPA proposal.

Takunia (TC) Collins gave a presentation on his community garden proposal, as well as other projects he has initiated with surrounding municipalities. He would like to lease three plots of property owned by the township to create a community farm, provide a "U-pick-your-own-veggies", train residents and their children about gardening and build a more equitable agricultural economy for people in the service area.

Reports

Supv Schwartz re-iterated the county's strong support for the community center, which is estimated to cost between \$25 to \$30 million.

Clerk Findley reported that focus groups are being held on the Community Center.

Trustee McGill suggested that ARPA funds be closed after the Collins' proposal with the balance directed toward the new Community Center.

New Business

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space 2023-2027 Plan was approved.

Old Business

Discussion continued on the amount of wellness bonus paid to staff to offset out-of-pocket medical expenses. Unionized fire staff would like the amount to be the same as maximum out-of-pocket expenses. Board members expressed a desire to provide all township employees with the same payments given to fire staff. The vote on the resolution was tabled to the February township board meeting.

The board heard comments from the Fire Chief and fire staff about rehabbing the old library space to house six beds for the firefighters and install showers. During discussion it was revealed that there is no bathroom facility dedicated to the Parks and Recreation staff, and that the Parks staff must use a portable toilet. Board members stressed the need to accommodate Parks staff by providing them with their own dedicated bathroom. Juan Bradford was asked to investigate the feasibility of designating a separate bathroom for parks staff, and follow-up with the Township Board.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

1. December 2022 – Nahid Sanii-Yahyai attended the 12/19/22 township board meeting. She stated that Trustee Lindke gave a thorough and accurate report.
2. January 2023 – Greg Vessels attended the 1/17/23 township Board meeting. He noted that many people attended this meeting, and spoke on the Community Center and the community garden proposal. There was significant discussion about the clearing of three plots of land for the community garden proposal, and cost associated with this.

E. Park Steward – no report

F. Safety

Juan Bradford reported he has ordered safety clothing for all park maintenance staff, and first aid kits to keep in all park vehicles.

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Guy Conti to receive the reports. The motion carried.

9. Communications

- A. Educational: NRPA Park Pulse
- B. 2023 Holiday Closing Schedule
- C. Board of Trustees Meeting Attendees

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to receive the Communications. The motion carried.

10. Old Business

A. Community Center Advisory Committee Update

The Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) has not met since the last Park Commission meeting. The next meeting of the CCAC is scheduled for 1/31/2023.

11. New Business

A. 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Resolution

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to approve the resolution adopting the 2023 – 2027 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

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

The motion carried.

B. Proposed 2023 Special Event Dates

A preliminary schedule of 2023 special events was presented for consideration.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>
Easter Egg Hunt	Fireman's Park	April 1 st 11:00 am

Backyard Birding	LeFurge Preserve	May 13 th 9:00 am
Kite & Rocket Day	Fireman’s Park	May 20 th 11:00 am
Superior Day	Oakbrook Park	TBD
Live! Here! Now!	Fireman’s Park	TBD
Movies on the Green	Dixboro Green	July 8 th 8:30 pm
Movies in the Park	Oakbrook/Fireman’s	August 8 th 8:00 pm
Movies in the Park	Oakbrook/Fireman’s	Sept 9 th 7:30 pm
Nature Hunt Bingo	Cherry Hill Nature Pres	Oct 7 th 11:00 am
Pumpkin Carving	Norfolk Park	Oct 21 st 11:00 am
Christmas Tree Lighting	Old Township Hall	Dec 5 th 6:00 pm

C. Discussion of bees and tree removal in township parks

Martha Kern-Boprie spoke in response to comments made by an individual named Kelly Goolsby that attended the December 19, 2022 Park Commission meeting. Ms. Goolsby stated that bees were present in Fireman’s Park, and that the bees constituted a hazard that prevented people from using the park. She further stated that the fruit trees in the park attracted the bees, and requested that the trees be removed. Martha noted that bees are present when something attracts them, which is flowers and fruit. The fruit trees flower for about one week in the spring, and produce fruit for two to three weeks in the fall. It is prudent to enjoy the flowering trees from a safe distance of a few hundred feet for the week they bloom in spring, and in fall to clear fallen fruit from the park sidewalks. Martha further commented that there is a shortage of bees in America, and this shortage is jeopardizing pollination and agriculture. Trees add beauty and shade to parks, and are an asset that should be protected in our parks, not removed from them. Marion Morris and Nahid Sanii-Yahyai spoke in support of retaining trees, and the value of bees.

Greg Vessels suggested surveying people using the parks, and find out what they like and don’t like about the parks.

Guy Conti stated he thought it was not the role of the Park Commission to get into this level of detail about answering a concern presented at a meeting. He said the concern should be referred to staff to investigate and report back to the Park Commission. Other park commissioners stated it was appropriate for the commission to take positions and come up with solutions. Terry Lee Lansing said she is a bee keeper, and supports protecting bees.

Trustee Bernice Lindke noted that part of TC Collins’ community garden proposal included keeping bees.

Martha asked Juan Bradford if any of the comments received via surveys or at the open houses on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan mentioned concerns about the presence of bees in Fireman’s Park. Juan responded there were no mentions of this concern. Juan also noted that the “Shop with a Cop” event takes place at Fireman’s Park in the early fall when tree fruit is present, and there were no complaints of bee stings. The pay structures in Fireman’s Park are at least 100 feet from the nearest fruit tree.

12. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Guy Conti to approve paying the bills totaling \$40,136.35 at 1/23/2023. The motion carried.

13. Financial Statements

A. December 2022 Revenue and Expenditure Report

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to receive the December 2022 pre-audit Revenue and Expenditure Report. The motion carried.

14. Pleas and Petitions

Juan Bradford noted that he and Supervisor Ken Schwartz met with Ypsilanti Township officials about the potential of Superior Township residents using Ypsilanti Township park and recreation facilities and services for the same cost as Ypsilanti Township residents. The discussions continue.

15. Adjournment

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. The motion carried.

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