

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
February 27, 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, Martha Kern-Boprie, Terry Lee Lansing, Guy Conti, Riley Schofield

Park Commissioners absent: Marion Morris (excused due to illness), Greg Vessels

Others present: Juan Bradford, Park & Recreation Director

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 Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business Item C. Controlled Burn in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. January 23, 2023

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to approve the minutes of 1/23/23 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation – none

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported that Commissioner Marion Morris is ill, and that is why she could not attend the meeting tonight. She also noted that while Supervisor Ken Schwartz announced he is resigning in May, there have been no further updates on the process to appoint his replacement.

B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added to this an update on the Willow Run Acres community farm/garden project. The next meeting of the committee working on this project will take place on Monday, March 6. Juan also reported that park staff have worked effectively on clearing and organizing park buildings and the Old Township Hall

C. Board Liaison – no report

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai attended the 2/21/23 Township Board meeting. She reported that Superior Day is scheduled on June 10 in Oakbrook Park. There is no update on the Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC). Discussion took place about plans to remodel the firefighter sleeping quarters at Station Two. Cost of the remodeling is estimated at \$35,000. Discussion took place about the property formerly owned by the Rock company, about whether the Township Board or Park Commission should manage it. No decision was made. The board voted to dedicate \$190,000 of ARPA funds to the Willow Run Acres community farm/garden. A site plan for the property will have to

be reviewed and approved by the township Planning Commission. Several resolutions were discussed, including one to direct payment of a stipend to the Township Board Liaison to the Park Commission. That resolution was not approved. During Citizen Participation a resident spoke about his concern regarding a proposed mental healthcare facility proposed on the “Garret Property”. It was not clear where the “Garret Property” is, or what is proposed.

- E. Park Steward – no report
- F. Safety – No accidents or injuries in the past month. Park staff are taking training to prevent injuries.

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

8. Communications

- A. Educational: Bird Watching and Mental Health
- B. Youth Arts Alliance Workshop Flyers

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

9. Old Business

- A. Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) Update
No update. The next meeting will take place in March.

B. Proposed 2023 Special Event Dates

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to approve the following schedule of Special Events in 2023. The motion carried.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Rain Date</u>
Easter Egg Hunt	Fireman’s Park	April 1 11:00 am Saturday	April 2 11:00 am Sunday
Backyard Birding	LeFurge Preserve	May 13 9:00 am Saturday	TBD
Superior Day	Oakbrook Park	June 10 11:00 am Saturday	June 11 11:00 am Sunday
Kite & Rocket Day	Fireman’s Park	June 24 11:00 am Saturday	June 25 11:00 am Sunday
Movies on the Green	Dixboro Village Green	July 8 8:30 pm Saturday	N/A
Movies in the Park	Oakbrook Park	August 12 8:00 pm Saturday	N/A
Live! Here! Now!	Fireman’s Park	August 26 TBD Saturday	N/A
Movies in the Park	Fireman’s Park	Sept 9 7:30 pm Saturday	N/A
Nature Hunt Bingo	CHNP	Oct 7 11:00 am Saturday	Oct 8 11:00 am Sunday

Pumpkin Carving	Norfolk Park	Oct 21 11:00 am Saturday	Oct 22 11:00 am Sunday
Christmas Tree Lighting	Old Township Hall	Dec 2 6:00 pm Saturday	N/A

C. Full Time Park & Rec Director Hire Date

Park Commissioners and Juan Bradford discussed the action taken at the November 28, 2022, Park Commission meeting to make the Park & Recreation Director a full time position, and the collective understanding everyone had that Juan’s original hire date of October 6, 2015 would be used for calculating sick, personal and vacation time; and for longevity and wellness bonuses. Juan was recently informed by township staff that a motion should be made and approved to confirm this.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sani-Yahyai that for purposes of calculating longevity pay, wellness bonuses, and the accumulation and payout of sick time, personal time, and vacation time, for Parks & Recreation Director Juan Bradford, his original hire date of October 6, 2015 shall be used as the date of record. The motion carried.

D. Ypsilanti Township Recreation Facility

Juan Bradford reviewed with the Park Commission actions taken to seek access to Ypsilanti Township recreation facilities by Superior Township residents at the same cost as Ypsilanti Township residents. He also outlined annual numbers of non-Ypsilanti Township residents that use Ypsilanti Township facilities and the cost difference. A formal decision has not been made yet, but it is likely that an agreement will be arranged for Superior Township to pay a flat annual fee to Ypsilanti Township to cover the difference in rates, and then Superior Township residents can use Ypsilanti Township facilities at the same rates as Ypsilanti Township residents.

10. New Business

A. ARPA Funding Projects

Juan estimated that all but about \$700,000 in ARPA funding to Superior Township has been committed to various initiatives.

B. Board Liaison to Park Commission compensation

The township board liaison to the Park Commission does not receive a stipend or any other compensation for attending Park Commission meetings. Trustee Bernice Lindke has requested a stipend for attending Park Commission meetings. Township board members are paid stipends for some meetings they attend as liaison, and not for others. When they are paid a stipend, the department that funds the meeting is charged for the stipend. Park Commissioners discussed the merits of having a liaison from the Township Board to the Park Commission, and that this was part of good government. It is also good government for the Park Commission to send members to the Township Board meetings. Discussion also covered the level of stipend that may be appropriate to cover preparation of a liaison report, but not the responsibility of voting. Several park commissioners commented that the township board should adopt a comprehensive policy on stipends.

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Riley Schofield to direct the Park Commission Secretary to draft and send a memo to the Township Administrative Staff that conveys the discussion and central points concerning payment of stipends to liaisons. The motion carried.

C. Controlled Burn at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve

David Borneman submitted a proposal to conduct a controlled burn in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP) this spring. The proposal includes a map of the planned burn site, which will cover 17 acres in

CHNP. This proposal #2023-015 dated 2/27/2023 is for a fee of \$4,500.00. Juan Bradford commented that the fee is within budget, and the proposal meets the needs in CHNP.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to approve proposal # 2023-015 from David Borneman, LLC to conduct a controlled burn in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve during Spring 2023 for an amount not to exceed \$4,500.00. The motion carried.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Terry Lee Lansing and supported by Riley Schofield to approve payment of the bills totaling \$21,615.36 at 2/27/2023. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

A. January 2023 Revenue & Expenditure Report

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to receive the January 2023 Revenue & Expenditure Report. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Martha Kern-Boprie shared the sad news that former Washtenaw County Commissioner and Ypsilanti City Council Member Al Robinson has died. She attended the funeral visitation today.

Juan Bradford commented on how much of his time has been spent on ARPA projects and meetings. He recommended the Park Commission ask the Township Board to cover the increase in his compensation since becoming full time with ARPA funds. He stated that this request should apply to earnings during 2023. Martha Kern-Boprie volunteered to draft a memo to the ARPA committee requesting ARPA funds cover the difference in Juan Bradford's compensation between his part-time status and current full-time status, during 2023. Martha will send the draft to Park Commissioners, as well as to the ARPA Committee.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. The motion carried.

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