

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
April 24, 2023

Approved 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, Greg Vessels, Riley Schofield, Guy Conti

Park Commissioners absent: Marion Morris

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director; Jack Smiley

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 Terry Lee Lansing to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business D. Donation Memo and New Business E. Survey Results. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. March 27, 2023

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the minutes of 3/27/2023 with spelling corrections to the first and third paragraph of the Board Liaison's report, and the addition of the following words to end of the final sentence in the fourth paragraph of the Board Liaison's report: "...to be paid for with ARPA funds." A spelling correction to Old Business C. Memo (draft): Pay Board Liaison to Parks & Recreation Commission. The motion to approve with noted corrections carried.

6. Citizen Participation – none

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported on three concerns.

- a. Garbage and trash is appearing along roadsides all over Superior Township. Nahid suggested planning a township clean-up day on a weekend to address this. Making this an event with some refreshments might encourage more people to participate. Juan Bradford responded he would discuss this idea with Supervisor Ken Schwartz.
- b. Garrett's Space – this issue is presently before the Planning Commission. A large volume of letters have come to the Planning Commissioners regarding this issue. Nahid asked if Park Commissioners wished to send a letter or memo concerning it. Guy Conti noted that he has written a letter in support of Garrett's Space, and summarized its key points. He offered to let other Park Commissioners sign onto it.
- c. Nahid asked if anyone from the Park Commission attended the funeral of Fire Chief Chevrette's wife. Juan Bradford said he attended the funeral.
- d. At this point Jack Smiley commented from the audience that he thinks the Park Commission is conducting too many controlled burns in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP). He is particularly concerned that the burns eliminate leaf litter which is necessary for salamanders to thrive. Burns can suppress invasive plants, but harm animal and butterfly species. Juan Bradford responded

that controlled burns are conducted in different areas each year, and do not repeat in the same area any more frequently than every four years.

B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. The Easter Egg Hunt was postponed to April 2 due to rain on April 1. It was well attended, and 2,000 eggs were hidden by the Easter Bunny. The Township Board approved the Park Commission's request for \$218,000 in ARPA funds to improve Fireman's Park. Guy Conti suggested that Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai write a thank you letter to the Township Board for their support. Nahid agreed to do so.

C. Township Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke reported on the April 17, 2023 Township Board meeting. A report summarizing the work of the ARPA Funds Committee was provided by Trustee Rhonda McGill. All of the ARPA funds are now committed. \$218,000 will fund Fireman's Park improvements and the balance of \$798,902.52 are committed to the community center. During Citizen Participation many people spoke for and against rezoning the property where Garrett's Space is proposed. During Unfinished Business, Supervisor Schwartz reported that the Master Plan will likely be presented at the May Board of Trustees meeting. Ricky Harding gave an update on the Stamford Road Water Main Replacement. The Board approved paying a stipend to the Board Liaison assigned to attend the Parks & Recreation Commission meetings. A resolution was approved to declare April 28th as Workers Memorial Day, which recognizes workers who died while working. A motion to approve the permit for the Dixboro Farmers Market was passed. The board approved payment of \$30,000 for an easement across the property owned by an individual, to allow the non-motorized path to continue along Plymouth Road from Dixboro Road west to Dixboro House.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Riley Schofield reported she had a family emergency to deal with, and was unable to attend the Township Board meeting. Juan Bradford reported that he was present at the Township Board meeting, and Trustee Lindke's report was thorough.

E. Park Steward

No report.

F. Safety

Juan Bradford reported that there was a collision today between a piece of park equipment and a parked car. There were no injuries, and minor vehicle damage. Reports were filed.

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to receive the reports. The motion carried.

8. Communications

- A. Educational: Make Every Day Earth Day
- B. Willow Run Acres Clean Up Day flyer
- C. Trusted Parent Advisor flyer
- D. Park Maintenance Supervisor Position Posting
- E. Seasonal Park Maintenance Position Posting

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to receive the Communications. The motion carried.

9. Old Business

A. Community Center Advisory Committee Update

The Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) now meets on the first Thursday of the month at Christian Love Fellowship Church on Stamford Road. Greg Dill, Washtenaw County Administrator

attended the last meeting of the CCAC. A survey was issued to evaluate community interest in using the community center.

B. Memo (draft): Director Salary Budget Amendment Request

A memo was drafted by Martha Kern-Boprie at the request of the Park Commission, and sent to the Township Board, requesting the Township Board fund the difference in Juan Bradford's compensation from part-time status to full-time status; because much of his additional work is on projects funded by the Township Board with ARPA income.

10. New Business

A. Backyard Bird Watching: May 13, 2023

The birdwatching event will take place on May 13 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in LeFurge Woods Preserve. Martha Kern-Boprie volunteered to help with this event.

B. Superior Day: June 10, 2023

Superior Day will take place on June 10, 2023 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in Oakbrook Park. Volunteers should arrive by 10:00 am. The following park commissioners volunteered to help:

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai	Terry Lee Lansing
Martha Kern-Boprie	Guy Conti

C. Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Narrative & Board Resolution

Jack Smiley of the SouthEast Michigan Land Conservancy outlined the property his organization seeks to preserve via this grant. The 162 acre property is located just south of the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP) and north of the Rock Property, and will serve to connect these properties, and permit one to hike all the way from CHNP to Geddes Road. Jack is optimistic the property will be secured.

D. Donation Memo

Justin Pingston submitted a memo to the Park Commission stating he owns a 25 acre parcel at the southwest corner of Ann Arbor Road and Napier Road. He seeks to split this parcel, use half of it for a self-storage facility and donate the remaining acres to Superior Township Parks. Guy Conti suggested Juan Bradford tell Mr. Pingston that he could pursue the split of his parcel. If he is successful in obtaining the split, he can then approach the Park Commission about donating one of the parcels.

E. Survey Results

The team from Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) Health Habits Start Now program conducted a survey in the Superior Township neighborhoods of Sycamore Meadows, Danbury Park Manor and Washington Square during November and December 2022 about their knowledge and use of park facilities, and changes sought for those park facilities. A report summarizing these findings was prepared for the Park Commission.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Greg Vessels to approve payment of the bills totaling \$23,145.71 through 4/24/2023. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

It was moved by Terry Lee Lansing and supported by Guy Conti to receive the March 2023 statement of Revenue and Expenditure. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions.

There were none.

14. Adjournment

Approved by the Superior Charter Township Park Commission on 5/22/2023

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Greg Vessels to adjourn at 7:37 pm. The motion carried.

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