

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
June 26, 2023

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nahid Sani-Yahyai at 6:38 pm.

2. Roll Call

Park Commissioners present: Nahid Sani-Yahyai, Marion Morris, Martha Kern-Boprie, Riley Schofield. Terry Lee Lansing, Guy Conti

Park Commissioners absent: Greg Vessels

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Park Director

3. Flag Salute

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

4. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business F. Tree Trimming at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. May 22, 2023

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Marion Morris to approve the minutes of 5/22/2023 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation – none

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Nahid Sani-Yahyai approached the Park Commission table at Superior Day on June 10, and asked what recreation plans the Park Commission had for senior citizens. Nahid asked the park commissioners what ideas they had for programs targeted to senior citizens.

Martha Kern-Boprie: a reading club

Marion Morris: walking on identified dates

Nahid Sani-Yahyai: yoga

Martha and Marion: local history study group

Bernice Lindke: board games such as mahjong

Nahid also asked for an update on a comprehensive policy for stipend payments. Bernice Lindke responded there is nothing in the township board's policy book. A question to be resolved is which body, Park Commission or Township Board requested the liaison. The requesting body should pay any stipend.

Nahid also asked for an update on her suggestion of a township wide clean up day. At last month's Park Commission meeting, several commissioners noted that GFL trucks were overloaded and uncovered, which allowed trash to blow off the truck. Juan Bradford emailed Supervisor Ken Schwartz about these concerns. Ken responded that GFL said trash coming off the truck is usually the result of inadequately bagged trash. Juan commented that organization of a township-wide clean up

day would be a big job. Martha Kern-Boprie suggested that coordinating a clean up day with one of the county clean up days, could provide a place to take collected trash.

B. Director's Report

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added that the Spark grant application was submitted on time over the weekend. Our application is for \$185,000 to install padded artificial turf under all playground equipment, and for adult fitness equipment in Fireman's Park. Over 130 children participated in Kite and Rocket Day on June 24. All kites were given away.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke reported on a special meeting of the Township Board on May 31 and the regular meeting on June 20.

May 31 – discussed the Clark Road Pump Station repair, the financial status of the Utility Department and the need for a utility rate study.

Regarding the "Rock Property", Supervisor Ken Schwartz said he applied to the Washtenaw County Parks for a conservation easement. If the County Parks Commission accepts this, it will still have to be adopted by the Township Board.

June 20 – Public comment included a concern about the crosswalk on Harris Road near the library. The speaker requested attention-getting signage and other indicators to slow vehicle traffic. A concern was also expressed about the letter to Supervisor Ken Schwartz regarding the township purchasing trees for Staebler County Farm Park. Other comments focused on supporting and opposing the rezoning of 3900 N. Dixboro Road for the proposed Garret's Space program. A public hearing on this proposed rezoning was scheduled for Friday, July 7 at 5:30 pm.

Discussion took place about a letter from Coy Vaughn, Director of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation to Supervisor Ken Schwartz that requested funding of \$154,425 for trees to be planted in Staebler County Farm Park. No action was taken, because Ken Schwartz was absent from the meeting.

The board approved resolutions to:

- a. Barr Engineering to provide a wetland delineation of the two adjoining township-owned parcels located at 1850 N. Harris Road and 9045 MacArthur Blvd for the Willow Run Acres farm project.
- b. Designate July 2023 as Park and Recreation Month.
- c. Authorize the submission of a Spark Grant request for Fireman's Park playground improvements.

The proposed Personnel Manual was distributed to the board for approval, but was tabled to be discussed at a special meeting on Wednesday, June 28 at 4:30 pm.

I researched the Board Policies Book to find one that addressed appointments to Boards and Commissions, but was unsuccessful.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Marion Morris was scheduled to attend the June 20 Township Board meeting, but was ill and unable to attend.

E. Park Steward

No report from Ellen Kurath. John Copley emailed Juan Bradford about some concerns in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve.

F. Safety – No accidents or injuries during the past month.

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

- 8. Communications
 - A. Educational: 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to receive the communications. The motion carried.

- 9. Old Business
 - A. Community Center Advisory Committee Update
 - Juan Bradford reported that a presentation was made by county staff, and they walked the site. Progress continues. Nahid Sani-Yahyai asked about funding for this project. Juan responded that no firm details were provided. There is a sense of positive momentum for the community center.

- 10. New Business
 - A. Park & Recreation Month Resolution
 - It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to adopt the Park & Recreation Commission Resolution 2023-01

WHEREAS parks and recreation are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including the Charter Township of Superior, Michigan; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation promotes health and wellness, improving the physical and mental health of people who live near parks; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation promotes time spent in nature, which positively impacts mental health by increasing cognitive performance and well-being, and alleviating illnesses such as depression, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimer; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation encourages physical activities by providing space for playgrounds, hiking trails, tennis and pickleball courts, and many other activities designed to promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation are nationally a leading provider of healthy meals, nutrition services and education; and

WHEREAS park and recreation programming and education activities, such as our Nature Hunt Bingo, Backyard Bird Watching, Superior Day, are integral to childhood development; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation increases a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is essential and adaptable infrastructure that makes our communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change; and

WHEREAS our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July 2023 as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Superior Parks & Recreation Commission recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Charter Township of Superior's Park & Recreation Commission that July 2023 is recognized as Park and Recreation Month in the Charter Township of Superior.

Roll Call vote:

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

The resolution was adopted.

B. Emergency Repair: 2001 Dodge 4wd Pick-Up

Juan Bradford informed the park commission that the 2001 Dodge 4 wheel drive pick-up truck required emergency repair on June 7. Without the repair, park maintenance staff would be very unproductive at a busy time of year. Juan obtained an estimate from Champion Cueter Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram to perform the needed repair for a cost of \$3,765.14. Juan asked the dealership to begin the repair work.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to authorize repair of the 2001 Dodge 4 wheel drive pick-up truck by Champion Cueter Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram dealership as detailed in their estimate dated 6/07/2023 for a cost not to exceed \$3,765.14 with the understanding that repair work has been initiated. The motion carried.

C. Movies on the Green: July 8, 2023

The Park Department will screen a movie on the Dixboro Green on Saturday, July 8. Children's activities begin at 8:00 pm and the movie begins at 9:30 pm.

Volunteers: Nahid Sanii-Yahyai
Marion Morris

D. Fireman's Park Improvements Subcommittee

Juan Bradford told the park commission it would be helpful to have a subcommittee of the park commission work with him on the improvements to Fireman's Park. The subcommittee cannot have more than three members. The following park commissioners volunteered to serve on this subcommittee:

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai
Marion Morris
Martha Kern-Boprie

E. Spark Grant submission

The Township Board adopted Resolution 2023-37 supporting the Park Commission's application for a Spark Grant to fund playground improvements in Fireman's Park. Juan Bradford submitted the grant application before the deadline.

F. Brush Trimming & Clearing in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve

Juan Bradford informed the park commission that the brush in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP) has grown so thick that park staff cannot get trimming equipment in to clear it. Juan obtained an estimate from McLennan Landscape for one day of labor and equipment use costing \$2,400 to make a significant improvement in brush clearing in CHNP. Juan also informed the park commission that it may take closer to a day and a half to complete the clearing. He asked Park Commissioners to authorize up to \$3,600.00 for this purpose.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Marion Morris to authorize brush clearing in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve by McLennan Landscape as detailed in their estimate #1269 dated 6/06/2023 for an amount not to exceed \$3,600.00. The motion carried.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Marion Morris to approve payment of the bills totaling \$27,292.23 through 6/26/2023. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

A. May 2023 Revenue & Expenditure Report

It was moved by Terry Lee Lansing and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to receive the Revenue & Expenditure Report for May 2023. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Guy Conti apologized to the Park Commission for missing the May 2023 meeting. He explained he was dealing with the serious illness of a beloved pet.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to adjourn at 7:40 pm. The motion carried.

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