

Superior Charter Township Park Commission  
Regular Meeting  
September 11, 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, Riley Schofield, Greg Vessels, Guy Conti  
  
Park Commissioners absent: Marion Morris  
  
Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director; Curtis Freeman, Jack Smiley, Michael Lewis, David Boprie, Irma Golden, Sharon Bryant-Phillips
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 Riley Schofield and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the agenda with the shift of New Business item A Parks & Recreation Commissioner applicant interviews up on the agenda after 6. Citizen Participation and before 7. Reports. The motion carried.
5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval
  - A. July 24, 2023  
It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Guy Conti to approve the minutes of 7/24/2023 as drafted. The motion carried.
6. Citizen Participation  
David Boprie of 1659 Sheffield Dr spoke in support of appointing Curtis Freeman to the Park Commission. He has lived near Curtis for several years and has a high opinion of Curtis and his commitment to the township.
10. New Business
  - A. Park & Recreation Commissioner applicant interviews  
Before interviews began, Juan Bradford informed park commissioners and the public that today Marion Morris submitted a letter of resignation from the Park Commission. She is resigning effective today, September 11, 2023, for health reasons. This leaves two open positions on the Park Commission.  
  
Curtis Freeman  
Curtis Freeman spoke about spending his childhood in Superior Township, and playing in township parks. He raised his children in Superior Township, and the parks were a big part of their lives as well. Curtis seeks to bring learning opportunities about nature into Superior Township Parks.  
Guy Conti asked Curtis for input into recreation. Curtis responded that he wants to add to current recreation opportunities. As an example, at the pumpkin carving event, he would like to save the seeds, and teach children how to plant them, care for the growing pumpkins, to harvest them a year later. Martha Kern-Boprie asked Curtis what suggestions he has for recreation activities that would appeal to elementary school and middle school age children. Curtis responded that information gaining activities are good, such as labeling plants, rocks, insects and animals.

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai asked Curtis if he was willing to help at recreation events, and he responded that he would. His family has a long history of supporting Superior Township Parks.

Jack Smiley

Jack Smiley reviewed the 33 years he has dedicated to preserving open spaces in Superior Township. He has been a township resident for the past 12 of those 33 years. Now he is interested in channeling his energies to township parks, and seeks to connect people to the parks. He mentioned that he would like to fill Marion Morris's role on the Park Commission.

Guy Conti asked Jack "what can we as a park commission do better?". Jack responded he want to connect people to our parks with activities such as bird watching.

Martha Kern-Boprie asked Jack for his ideas on getting more people into our parks. Jack suggested establishing a dog park.

Juan Bradford asked Jack if he was willing to volunteer at park events. Jack responded that he would.

Park Commissioners discussed the situation that there are two excellent candidates for two open positions on the Park Commission. Martha Kern-Boprie noted that only one position has been posted on the township website. Guy Conti stated that the law does not require posting an opening. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai suggested that the open position be posted on the township's website. Jack Smiley commented from the audience that he was willing to defer to Curtis Freeman being appointed first to Terry Lee Lansing's position, and he looked forward to being appointed to fill Marion Morris' position.

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Greg Vessels to recommend to the Township Board that Curtis Freeman be appointed to fill Terry Lee Lansing's position on the Park Commission. The motion carried.

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Greg Vessels to recommend to the Township Board that Jack Smiley be appointed to fill Marion Morris' position on the Park Commission. The motion carried.

## 7. Reports

### A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai expressed her gratitude for Marion Morris' lengthy and committed service to the Park Commission. Nahid would like the Park Commission to host a luncheon in the near future to thank both Terry Lee Lansing and Marion Morris for their service.

Nahid also reported on Movies in the Park on Saturday, Sept 9 in Fireman's Park. Some negative behavior from young people took place, that resulted in deflation of the movie screen, and balls being thrown at people sitting on the ground watching the movie. The Sheriff's Office was called to help contain the situation. Greg Vessels asked if there were community leaders we could engage with to improve future events. Irma Golden spoke from the audience. She was present at the movie. The balls were give-away gifts from the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD). The balls were fun during daylight hours, but after dark were thrown at people who could not see them coming. Irma thought balls should not be used in the future as give-away gifts. Sharon Bryant-Phillips spoke from the audience, and suggested a sign in list so we would know who was present. Nahid responded that this is a public park, and we cannot limit who comes into a public event.

### B. Director's Report

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He noted that Terry Lee Lansing had previously volunteered to be the Board Attendee at the September 18 Township Board meeting. As Terry Lee is no longer a member of the Park Commission, someone else is needed to cover this meeting. Martha Kern-Boprie volunteered to attend the meeting.

### C. Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke reported three Township Board meetings during July and August.

July 24, 2023 – Special meeting to discuss supervision of the Utilities Department; specifically issues surrounding staff support, management and leadership. Concerns were expressed from Utilities Department staff about disparaging comments made about them at a prior Township Board meeting. Other comments from board members focused on the Personnel Manual; particularly the sections RE the post-secondary degree benefit and the on-call stipend for maintenance workers.

August 14, 2023 – Special meeting to discuss allegations of sexual harassment. A motion to conduct a sexual harassment investigation and name Nakisha Chaney, employment attorney, as the investigator was passed.

August 21, 2023 – Regular meeting. Several presentations were made by agencies that receive ARPA funds:

Washtenaw Intermediate School District’s Trusted Parent Advisors  
Mighty Oaks Project/CLR  
Youth Arts Alliance

A public hearing was held on rezoning the three properties at Harris and MacArthur for Clay Hill Farms.

Supervisor’s Report – Washtenaw County Parks & Rec Commission has agreed to host the easement for the Rock property.

#### Resolutions

- The Utility Department supervision will report directly to the Board of Trustees.
- The Board authorized the submission of an application to the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity for program funding for the proposed Community Center.
- Resolution to accept G2 Consulting Group, LLC proposal to perform a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the two contiguous parcels of land located at 1850 Harris Road and 9057 MacArthur Blvd (site for the Clay Hills Farms) passed.
- The 2023 Budget Amendments were approved.
- \$58,400 additional appropriation was approved for the 2023 Park Fund.

#### D. Board Meeting Attendee

Martha Kern-Boprie attended the August 21 Township Board meeting, and submitted a written report.

#### E. Park Steward

Juan Bradford has not had recent contact from Ellen Kurath, but understands she is applying deer repellent in parks to protect young plants.

#### F. Safety

Juan Bradford reported there have been no accidents or injuries in the past month.

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

#### 8. Communications

- A. Educational: NRPA Park Pulse
- B. Commission: Vacancy Email
- C. Donation: Thank You Letter
- D. Washtenaw Conservation District Fall Tree Sale
- E. Flying Pilgrims Radio Control Airshow

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

9. Old Business

A. Community Center Advisory Committee Update

Juan Bradford reported that the last meeting was on Thursday. A Memo of Understanding (MOU) is ready to submit to Ypsilanti Community School District to purchase the real estate, for the amount of the current debt on the property.

B. Budget Amendment Memo RE Full-time Parks & Rec Director

Martha Kern-Boprie prepared a memo in collaboration with Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and Director Juan Bradford to the Township Board, requesting an additional \$58,400.00 in 2023 budget appropriation to cover the additional cost of salary and fringe benefits for the Director as a full-time position. The memo was delivered to the Township Board and reviewed at the August 21 Township Board meeting. The board approved the additional budget authorization at that meeting.

C. Township Clean-Up Day

This idea will be deferred to 2024 activities.

D. Ypsilanti Township recreation facility use by Superior Township residents

This concerns efforts to permit Superior Township residents to use Ypsilanti Township recreation facilities at the same fee level as Ypsilanti Township residents. There are no updates on this effort.

10. New Business

B. Budget Amendments – The Township Board adopted several budget amendments. They are provided to the Park Commission for information only.

C. Movies in the Park at Fireman’s Park

This covered events that occurred during the Movies in the Park held in Fireman’s Park on September 9. The events were discussed during the Chairperson’s Report in the Reports portion of tonight’s meeting.

D. Auction of Toro Mower and Brunco Trailer

Two pieces of Park Department equipment were offered for sale by sealed bid auction, a Toro Mower and a Brunco dump trailer. Only one bid was received for each piece of equipment, both from Kevin Diesenroth. He bid the following:

1986 Brunco Dump Trailer                      \$750.00

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to authorize sale of the 1986 Brunco Dump Trailer to Kevin Diesenroth for the amount of \$750.00. The motion carried.

2009 Toro Groundmaster 328-D Mower                      \$1,250.00

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to authorize sale of the 2009 Toro Groundmaster 328-D Mower to Kevin Diesenroth for the amount of \$1,250.00. The motion carried.

E. Park & Recreation Commission Vice-Chair Marion Morris resignation letter

Park Commissioner Marion Morris submitted a letter of resignation from the Park Commission, effective September 11, 2023. She is resigning due to health issues. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to accept the resignation of Marion Morris from the Park & Recreation Commission with regret, and gratitude for her service. The motion carried.

F. Fireman’s Park Improvements Bid Review Summary

Bids to perform the improvements to Fireman’s Park were opened August 31, 2023. Two vendors submitted bids.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
KAB Enterprises, Inc	\$529,864.78
Sole Building Company	\$622,284.00

OHM Engineering Consultants reviewed the bids, and submitted comments. The bid will be awarded by the township board.

G. 2024 Budget Preparation  
2024 budget preparation begins this month. Worksheets were provided to park commissioners. Juan Bradford invited park commissioners to submit ideas to him.

H. September 25, 2023 Park Commission meeting date  
Chair Nahid Sani-Yahyai has a schedule conflict with the September 25, 2023 meeting date. She asked Park Commissioners if the meeting could be re-scheduled to either Friday September 29 or Monday October 2. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to re-schedule the September 25, 2023 Park Commission meeting to October 2, 2023. The motion carried.

11. Bills for Payment  
It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Guy Conti to approve payment of the bills totaling \$40,537.63 through 8/28/2023. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements  
A. July 2023 Revenue and Expenditure Report  
It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Greg Vessels to receive the July 2023 Financial Statements. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions  
Guy Conti noted that with the resignation of Marion Morris, the Park Commission does not have a Vice-Chair. In the unlikely event that the Chair died, the Park Commission would have no chair. He recommended that the Secretary Martha Kern-Boprie be appointed interim Vice-Chair until new park commissioners are appointed, and a permanent Vice-Chair can be elected.

It was moved by Guy Conti that Martha Kern-Boprie be elected interim Vice-Chair of the Park Commission. Martha accepted the nomination. The motion carried and Martha was elected interim Vice-Chair.

14. Adjournment  
It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Riley Schofield to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. The motion carried.

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