

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
October 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, Greg Vessels, Riley Schofield, Curtis Freeman, Jack Smiley, Guy Conti, Martha Kern-Boprie

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Director; Jan Piert
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 Guy Conti and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business C. Election of Park Commission Vice-Chair. The motion carried.
5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval
 - A. October 2, 2023
It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Riley Schofield to approve the minutes of 10/02/23 with the following corrections.
Roll Call: Others Present: add Sharon Bryant-Phillips and Jack Smiley.
Agenda Approval: Correct the spelling of Sharon Bryant-Phillips.
Board Liaison Report: Paragraph Four: Correct the third sentence so that it reads "A conservation easement held by the county would prevent a future county parks & rec commission from selling the property without approval of the township board." Insert the following sentence: "If the text of the easement prohibits the county from conveying the easement without the approval of the township board."
New Business C. Parks & Recreation Commissioner Interviews: Jack Smiley
Correct spelling of fifth word of the second sentence so the sentence reads "He has worked successfully on open natural space..." Correct third sentence so that it reads "He has been a resident of Superior Township for 13 years."
The motion carried.
6. Citizen Participation – none
7. Reports
 - A. Chairperson
Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported the Pumpkin Carving event was successful. Many children were present. Nahid was interviewed by a representative from Washtenaw Community College named Melissa Cunningham. The person informed Nahid that the Superior Township event was the only free pumpkin event in the area this year. On Sunday Nahid participated in a walk through the Jack Smiley Nature Preserve.
 - B. Director's Report

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He updated this with news that the Pumpkin Carving event had 150 pumpkins, which was 30 more than last year. All pumpkins and cookies were distributed by 1:15 pm. The weather was chilly, but the event was a success. Juan also reported that the agreement between Superior Township Park Commission and Clay Hill Farm & Garden was signed today by TC Collins.

C. Board Liaison Report

Trustee Bernice Lindke reported on a Special Meeting/Work Session on October 10 and the Regular Meeting on October 16.

Work Session/Special Meeting October 10, 2023

Discussed:

hiring part-time human resources director
moving financial area under the Clerk
addressing Utility Dept salary issues
appointing Rickey Harding as Utilities Superintendent
appointing Mary Burton as Utilities Director
upgrading Aalea Skrycki's position
have Laura Bennet report to Building Dept

Budget Discussion: funding Fireman's Park improvements

Clay Hill Farm

Environmental studies have been and will be conducted. Discussion of history behind the name "Clay Hill Farm" and amendments requested to the lease terms.

Regular Meeting October 16, 2023

Citizens Participation

200th anniversary of Dixboro community occurs in 2024, and celebration events scheduled during August 2 – 4.

Several speakers addressed Clay Hill Farm lease terms

Several speakers opposed Garrett's Space rezoning and land use agreement

Lisa Hoenig, Executive Director of Ypsilanti District Library thanked the board for its support of the library.

Approved engineering fee for Parks & Rec bathroom in Fire Station #2

Approved all budgets, including Park Fund

Approved agreement between Park Commission and Willow Run Acres Clay Hill Faarm & Garden with lease terms amended to ten years, provision of a well and in event of early termination of lease, re-location to a site near the population served.

Approved resolutions honoring Marion Morris and Terry Lee Lansing.

Appointed Jack Smiley to open position on the Park Commission.

Approved proceeding with Phase 2 environmental study for Clay Hill Farm & Garden

Trustee Lindke also indicated the township board would be supportive of seeking millage dedicated to parks & recreation, possibly on the August 2024 ballot.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Greg Vessels reported on the October 16 Township Board meeting. He concurred with Trustee Lindke's report.

E. Park Steward

Juan has not heard from Ellen Kurath in the past few weeks.

F. Safety

There have been no accidents or injuries in the past month.

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

8. Communications

- A. Educational: CDC COVID-19 Plan
- B. Owl Prowl Flyer

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

9. Old Business

- A. Community Center Advisory Committee Update

Juan Bradford reported there has been no meeting of the CCAC since the last Park Commission meeting. We are still waiting for a decision on the grant applied for.

- B. Adopted 2024 Budget

The township board approved the 2024 budget without any changes to it.

10. New Business

- A. Parks & Rec Bathroom in Fire Station #2

The Township Board approved engineering fee of \$15,700 for the bathroom. Construction cost is estimated at \$66,000. The reason this cost is so high is because the waste water must be pumped over the top of the building to the sewer line.

- B. Proposed Park Land Donation

A property owner of 25 acres in section 1 of Superior Township, in the southwest corner of the intersection of Joy Road and Napier Road seeks a rezoning from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-2 General Commercial to construct storage units. This property owner proposes donating approximately half the acres to the park commission for a park. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing will take place on the rezoning request on October 25. Park Commissioners discussed the proposal to donate a portion of the acreage for a park. There was no support expressed for this proposal.

- C. Election of Park Commission Vice-Chair

Guy Conti noted that now that the Park Commission contains seven members, it would be appropriate to elect a Vice-Chair. Guy nominated Jack Smiley as Vice Chair. Jack declined the nomination. Martha Kern-Boprie nominated Riley Schofield as Vice-Chair. Riley declined the nomination. Nahid Sani-Yahyai nominated Greg Vessels as Vice-Chair. Greg accepted the nomination. Greg Vessels was elected Vice-Chair unanimously.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Greg Vessels to approve payment of the bills totaling \$18,900.21 through 10/23/23. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statement

- A. September 2023 Revenue & Expenditure Report

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Riley Schofield to receive the September financial report. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Guy Conti asked Juan to keep the issue of securing similar fee levels for Superior Township residents to use Ypsilanti Township park and recreation facilities and services on the park commission agenda until it is resolved.

Greg Vessels is concerned about township board actions concerning the “rock property” that could jeopardize it as an opportunity to get more people, especially children outside and into natural settings. Trustee Bernice Lindke noted the township board may place the “rock property” into the park commission’s inventory. Greg also expressed concern about funding resources for programming. Are grants a reasonable resource for programming. Martha Kern-Boprie responded grants are more effective for capital improvements, as grants are time limited, and if the grant funding goes away, the program may have to terminate.

Jan Piert suggested collaborating with county parks and rec for programming support.

Jack Smiley suggested the 162 acre parcel running south from Cherry Hill Road would be a good location for outdoor programming. Assuming this parcel is securing, plans are to install a parking lot that could make both this parcel and the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve accessible to people traveling by motor vehicles.

Juan Bradford asked park commissioners to confirm plans for the luncheon/dinner to thank Marion Morris and Terry Lee Lansing for their service to the park commission. A consensus was reached to host a potluck lunch on Thursday, November 2 at 12:00 noon at the township hall. Township board members are welcome to attend. Martha Kern-Boprie will communicate with the Township Clerk to extend the invitation to the township board members.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Curtis Freeman to adjourn at 7:40 pm. The motion carried.

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