

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
December 18, 2023

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai at 6:00 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

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Park Director, Commissioner Crystal Lyte, 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 Riley Schofield and supported by Jack Smiley to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business D. Rock Property Resolution and New Business E. Compensation for Certifications. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. November 27, 2023

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Guy Conti to approve the minutes of 11/27/2023 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

Jan Piert spoke in objection to approving the conservation easement for the Rock Property without first seeking citizen input on the issue.

Crystal Lyte also spoke, and requested further public discussion before approving the conservation easement for the Rock Property.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai noted the Christmas Tree Lighting event was great. She would like better access to the Old Twp Hall for this event. Nahid also asked that the written Board Liaison Report be provided to the Park Commissioners in advance of the Park Commission meeting, so there is an opportunity to review it before the meeting.

B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added to the report that the Christmas Tree Lighting event was great.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke stated the Township Board has not met since the last Park Commission meeting, so she does not have anything to report on. The Township Board will meet tonight at 7:00 am.

D. Board Attendee

The Township Board has not met since the last Park Commission meeting, so the Board Attendee has not had a meeting to attend.

E. Park Steward
No report.

F. Safety
No accidents or injuries in the past month. Additional safety gear has been purchased for park staff members.

8. Communications

- A. Community Center Advisory Committee letter to Ypsilanti Community School Board
- B. Clerk Lynette Findley to Ypsilanti Community School Board

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
Minutes of the CCAC 11/02/2023 meeting were provided. County Commissioner Crystal Lyte was present, and informed the Park Commission that the Ypsilanti Community School Board gave the Superintendent authority to enter final negotiations with the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and Administrator for sale of the Cheney school property to the county.

B. Use of Ypsilanti Township Recreation Facilities by Superior Township residents
Juan Bradford sent another email to Ypsilanti Township officials and staff about the request to permit Superior Township residents to use Ypsilanti Township recreation facilities at the same fee as Ypsilanti Township residents. Guy Conti offered to join a meeting with Juan and Ypsilanti Township representatives.

10. New Business

A. 2024 Park & Recreation Commission meeting dates

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to set the 2024 meeting dates and times of the Superior Charter Township Park Commission as follows:

January 22	Monday 6:30 pm
February 26	Monday 6:30 pm
March 25	Monday 6:30 pm
April 22	Monday 6:30 pm
May 28	Tuesday 6:30 pm meeting held on Tuesday due to Memorial Day holiday
June 24	Monday 6:30 pm
July 22	Monday 6:30 pm
August 26	Monday 6:30 pm
September 23	Monday 6:30 pm
October 28	Monday 6:30 pm
November 25	Monday 6:30 pm
December 16	Monday 6:00 pm Meeting held on 3 rd Monday due to Christmas holiday

The motion carried.

B. Township Board Meeting Attendees

Park Commissioners volunteered to attend 2024 Township Board meetings as noted below.

January 16	Nahid Sanii-Yahyai
February 20	Greg Vessels
March 18	Guy Conti

April 15	Guy Conti
May 20	Martha Kern-Boprie
June 17	Jack Smiley
July 15	Riley Schofield
August 19	Riley Schofield
September 16	Curtis Freeman
October 21	Nahid Sanii-Yahyai
November 18	Greg Vessels
December 16	Martha Kern-Boprie

C. 2023 Park Fund Budget Amendments

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Guy Conti to recommend approval to the Township Board of 2023 Park Fund Budget Amendments dated 12/18/2023 and detailed in the amendment worksheet. The motion carried.

D. Rock Property Conservation Easement Resolution

It was moved by Jack Smiley and supported by Guy Conti to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, protection of the "Rock Pproperty" is in keeping with the Township's master plan and with the Superior Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, placing a conservation easement on the property is essential in order to protect the conservation values of the land in perpetuity for the benefit of Superior Township residents; and

WHEREAS, land conservation efforts in Superior Township have relied on valuable partnerships with Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission, City of Ann Arbor, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and numerous other nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has been a particularly strong partner and has contributed over \$10 million to land conservation within the Township, which far exceeds the amount invested by Superior Charter Township, and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has agreed to hold the conservation easement on the "Rock" property and will likely assist with both programming and stewardship of the property.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission strongly urges the Board of Trustees to move forward, without delay, with its commitment to protect the "Rock" property in perpetuity by establishing a conservation easement on the property, which is acceptable with the Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission, to be held by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission encourages the Board of Trustees to transfer jurisdiction over the "Rock" property to the Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission so that we may begin the important task of planning how to best utilize the "Rock" property to meet the recreational and open space needs of the Township.

A roll call vote was taken.

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai	Yes
Curtis Freeman	Yes
Riley Schofield	Yes
Guy Conti	Yes
Greg Vessels	Yes

