

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
January 22, 2024

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, Greg Vessels, Martha Kern-Boprie, Curtis Freeman, Jack Smiley, Riley Schofield, Guy Conti

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Park & Rec Director; Irma Golden, Deputy Supervisor; Trustee Nancy Caviston

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 Greg Vessels and supported by Curtis Freeman to approve the agenda as drafted. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. December 18, 2023

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to approve the minutes of 12/18/2023 with the following corrections:

Chairperson's Report 7.A. – add the sentence after the text already in the minutes:

“Nahid requested that the Board Liaison submit their written report in advance of the Park Commission meeting, so Park commissioners can review it before the Park Commission meeting.”

Old Business 9.B. – insert the word “same” into the first sentence so that it will read “...to use Ypsilanti Township recreation facilities at the same fee as Ypsilanti Township residents.

New Business 10.D. – Insert the text “...the important task of planning how to best utilize the “Rock” property to meet...” so it reads “...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.”

Financial Statements – Correct the spelling of the first word from “I” to “It” so that the sentence reads “It was moved by Riley Schofield...”

The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation – none

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai commented that she would like to have a township clean-up day planned for and scheduled in 2024. This was discussed during 2023, and deferred to 2024 to allow better planning. Nahid would like to involve students in planning and staffing the event. Juan Bradford mentioned that Deputy Supervisor Irma Golden could be helpful. Mrs. Golden was in the audience, and participated in the discussion. She would like to collaborate on this event. She suggested scheduling the event near Earth Day in April. She is also concerned about the safety of volunteers, particularly children, walking along busy roads picking up trash. Juan Bradford noted that Garden City

in Wayne County conducts a clean-up titled "Purple Bag Day". Volunteers are given a rolled packet that contains a purple trash bag and a pair of work gloves. The bags are returned full of trash.

B. Director's Report

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added to this report that he is seeking additional compensation for work-related certifications. There was an informal consensus among park commissioners that Juan should draft a resolution on this topic, and present it at the February Park Commission meeting for consideration. He also updated park commissioners that stump removal and grading of the Willow Run Acres property at the corner of Harris and MacArthur will begin very soon, possibly this week.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke reported on the 12/18/23 and the 1/16/24 Township Board meetings.
12/18/23

Citizen Participation regarding conservation easement for the "Rock" property.

Lindke questioned why the Fire Dept chose not to assist with lighting the Twp Christmas tree. The Fire Chief responded it was a safety risk if a fire occurred while the fire truck and firefighters were engaged in tree lighting, and the firefighters' union also objected to assisting with tree lighting. Resolutions adopted to set salaries for twp elected officials and non-union staff, purchase of health insurance, MERS Health Care Savings Program, amend Health Care Savings Plans with individual employees, approve incentives for certification and licensure for Utilities and Assessing employees. Approved stump removal for Clayhill Community Farm at Harris and MacArthur, pause consideration of selling or donating a conservation easement on the "Rock" property and approved a baseline environmental assessment and due care plan for 9045 MacArthur Blvd.

1/16/24

Citizen's Participation

Irma Golden presented a list of issues that township residents reported on the social networking site "NextDoor". Concerns included having a recreation center, placing speed bumps on designated streets, having more police visibility in the neighborhoods south of Geddes Road, removing trash from walking paths, hosting a township clean-up day, repairing the drain at MacArthur and Clark, and ordinance enforcement. Trustee Lindke mentioned that Park Commission Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai has been wanting to plan a township clean-up day for a while.

Ramona Parker-Muhammad wanted follow up answers for concerns she previously expressed at the December board meeting. She also asked for clarification on the \$100,000 payment error to a developer that had not provided any escrow funds.

Questions were asked about the Controller living in Florida, his budgeted salary, and the need to have a controller on site. Brenda Baker reviewed the purpose of the Committee to Promote Superior Township.

New Business

A lengthy discussion took place regarding complaints lodged against the Clerk and the Supervisor. A subcommittee of the board was formed and asked to bring a recommendation back to the full board for consideration of next steps.

The 2023 audit will be performed by Pfeffer, Hanniford & Palka.

A new firefighter has been approved for hire, pending medical, psychological tests and background investigation.

Requests for Proposals for IT, Legal, Engineering and Audit services will be developed and issued during the next few months.

Pleas and Petitions

Trustee Lindke requested that the board consider other residents who may want to farm the "Rock" property.

Ms. Parker-Muhammad reiterated her earlier statements and asked for answers RE the Controller's status.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai attended both the 12/18/23 and the 1/22/24 township board meetings. She asked for an update on the status of the conservation easement for the “Rock” property. Jack Smiley responded that we are waiting for Washtenaw County to present a proposed conservation easement. Nahid also asked for an explanation of the \$100,000 payment error. Trustee Lindke and Park Commissioner Guy Conti provided an explanation.

E. Park Steward

No report.

F. Safety

There were no accidents or injuries in the past month.

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

8. Communications

A. SMLC Nature Walk at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve

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

9. Old Business

A. Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) Update

The CCAC has not met since the December 18 Park Commission meeting. The next meeting will be in early February.

B. Ypsilanti Township Community Center use by Superior Township residents at same fee as Ypsilanti Township residents.

No update.

C. Fireman’s Park Playstructure renderings

Juan Bradford presented renderings of the new play structures that will be installed in Fireman’s Park. Commissioners voiced approval for option #5 which has red slides, railings and roof, gray upright posts, dark gray ramps, and a few black accents.

10. New Business

A. Proposed 2024 Special Event Dates

Juan Bradford presented a schedule of proposed special events in 2024

Easter Egg Hunt	Fireman’s Park	March 23 11:00 am
Superior Day	Oakbrook Park	June 8 11:00 am
Kite & Rocket Day	Fireman’s Park	June 22 11:00 am
Movies on the Green	Dixboro Village Green	July 13 8:30 pm
Movies in the Park	Oakbrook Park	August 10 8:00 pm
Movies in the Park	Fireman’s Park	September 14 7:30 pm
Nature Hunt Bingo	Cherry Hill Nature Preserve	October 5 11:00 pm
Pumpkin Carving	Norfolk Park	October 26 11:00 am
Owl Prowl	Cherry Hill Nature Preserve	November 2 6:30 pm
Christmas Tree Lighting	Old Township Hall	December 7 6:00 pm

TBD

Bird Watching LeFurge Preserve TBD

Live! Here! Now! Fireman’s Park TBD

Approved by the Superior Charter Township Park Commission on 2/26/2024.

Park Commissioners indicated approval of the planned events. Volunteer commitments will be made throughout the year, closer to each event date.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Greg Vessels to approve payment of the bills totaling \$46,586.12 at 1/22/24. Martha asked why the payroll of 1/04/24 in amount \$15,168.31 was so high. It is nearly double both the payrolls of 12/19/23 in amount \$7,570.59 and of 1/17/24 in amount \$8,801.74. Juan Bradford responded he would investigate, and inform the park commission later. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

- A. December 2023 Revenue & Expenditure Report
- B. December 2023 Balance Sheet (Incomplete)

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Curtis Freeman to receive the December financial statements. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Irma Golden commented that she contacted neighbors via the "NextDoor" app about their wishes and concerns. Many neighbors responded wishing there were more of the following available:

- Sports programs for children
- Music programs for children
- Programs for senior citizens

Discussion took place among commissioners, Juan and Mrs. Golden about previous programs, including Oakbrook Sports for children and "Walk with Ease" for senior citizens, including why these programs ended. Guy Conti related his personal experience growing up in Brooklyn, New York and the unique aspects of each neighborhood. He spoke of the importance of learning what is unique about the neighborhoods in Superior Township. Juan and Park Commissioners agreed to look at what could work now in Superior Township. The role of the planned community center was discussed.

Jack Smiley commented on the pending conservation easement for the "Rock" property. When this issue was discussed at the December park commission meeting, Jack had said he did not think the grant award would be jeopardized by not approving the conservation easement. In the past month he has done more investigation, and now believe lack of an approved conservation easement could jeopardize the grant award.

Jack Smiley further shared concerns with the extensive use of controlled burns in Superior Township. He worries this eliminates too much undergrowth that is needed for habitat. Jack wants this issue placed on the agenda for the February park commission meeting.

Nahid Sani-Yahyai noted that in the recent past the park department offered tennis lessons, and she would like to explore renewing this program.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Curtis Freeman to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,
Martha Kern-Boprie
Park Commissioner and Secretary