Superior Charter Township Park & Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting

July 22, 2024

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai at 6:30 pm.

1. Roll Call

Park Commissioners present: Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Greg Vessels, Martha Kern-Boprie, Curtis Freeman, Riley Schofield, Jack Smiley, Guy Conti

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke; Juan Bradford, Director; Jan Piert, Brenda Baker

1. Flag Salute

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

1. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the agenda with the addition of Communications D. Bicycle Helmet Donation and Old Business D. Rock Property Committee. The motion carried.

1. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval
2. June 24, 2024

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the minutes of June 24, 2024 as drafted. The motion carried.

1. Citizen Participation

Jan Piert asked for an update on the Rock Property Committee. Commissioners responded this will be discussed later in the Old Business portion of the agenda tonight.

Brenda Baker presented to park commissioners a schedule of Full Moon Campfires to be held in the LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve in August and September 2024. The campfires are hosted by the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.

1. Reports
2. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported she attended the Movie on the Dixboro Green. There was good collaboration with the church, school and food vendors. Turnout was less than in prior years.

1. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He noted that about 100 people attended the Movie on the Dixboro Green, which was a bit less than last year. He noted the Dixboro United Methodist Church staffed a craft activity table for children that many participated in. At the Dixboro Farmers Market, the Citizens to Promote Superior Township (C2PST) staff a table, and this facilitates good communication about Park Commission events. The memorial rock to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Dixboro community was delivered to the Dixboro Green.

1. Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke provided a written report on Township Board meetings held 6/26/24, 7/09/24, 7/15/24

June 26, 2024 Special Board Meeting

Meeting held to discuss the escrow account audit, regular audit of year ended 12/31/23, Priority Waste purchase of GFL, emergency repair of a fire truck and campaigning procedures. No audit issues impacted the Park Fund. The escrow audit focused on payment of $100,000.00 to the wrong owner of an escrow account. The regular audit focused on two findings/comments from prior audits and a recommendation that the Township Board review designated fund balances as part of its annual budget approval process.

Priority Waste has begun waste management services for the township. Paul Ruthenberg, an administrator from Priority Waste, addressed concerns and issues.

Clerk Findley discussed issues about placement of campaign signs. A motion was approved that specifically prohibits township officials and other staff from advising residents during work hours while at work sites on who to vote for in the upcoming elections.

July 9, 2024 Special Board Meeting

The meeting focused on issues surrounding waste management as Priority Waste assumes trash, recyclables and compost pick-up in the township. Mr. Sam Caramagno from Priority Waste attended the meeting and heard complaints and issues from many residents. He discussed the start-up issues facing the takeover from GFL and the need for better communication between his company, township officials and residents.

July 15, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Juan Bradford was complimented on good work done at Fireman’s Park and Clay Hill Farms. One speaker praised several improvements in the MacArthur/Harris corner: YDL Library, Fireman’s Park and Clay Hill Farms.

A revised Purchasing Policy was approved for the township.

ARPA funds totaling $65,000 were transferred to Parks and Recreation to cover engineering expenses for Fireman’s Park. Originally those expenses were charged to the General Fund.

Willow Run Acres received approval for a Transient and Amusement Enterprises Activity Permit to farm, educate, have a farmer’s market, and other types of sales at the Clay Hill Farms site.

1. Board Meeting Attendee

Riley Schofield attended the July 15, 2024 township board meeting, and concurred with Trustee Lindke’s report.

1. Park Steward

No report.

1. Safety

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

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

1. Communications
2. Controllers Report
3. Letter to MDOT Regarding Additional ADA Ramps on MacArthur Pathway
4. “Rock” Property Farming Lease
5. Bicycle Helmet Donation Letter

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Curtis Freeman to receive the Communications. The motion carried.

1. Old Business
2. Community Center Advisory Committee

Notice has been posted for public comment on demolition of the former Cheney School structure.

1. Use of Ypsilanti Township Recreation Facilities by Superior Township Residents

No update.

1. Fireman’s Park Improvements Update

Completing punch list items. Some regrading may be needed. Vandalism of graffiti from a few weeks ago has been cleaned.

1. “Rock” Property Committee

The following people were appointed to the “Rock” Property Committee to discuss use of the “Rock” Property.

Jack Smiley – park commissioner

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai – park commissioner

Curtis Freeman – park commissioner

Jan Piert

Bernice Lindke

Jack Smiley will chair this committee. Committee members agreed to have a brief meeting after the Park Commission meeting adjourns to discuss meeting schedules.

1. New Business
2. Bug Hunt Event on July 27at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve – volunteers needed

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and Jack Smiley volunteered

1. Village of Dixboro 200th Celebration – volunteers needed

Friday August 2 Farmers Market 3:00 pm to dusk

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai

Greg Vessels

Martha Kern-Boprie

Saturday August 3 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm

Martha Kern-Boprie

Sunday August 4

No volunteers.

1. Shop with a Cop on August 9 – volunteers needed

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai

1. Movies in the Park August 10 Oakbrook Park – volunteers needed

Martha Kern-Boprie

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai

Volunteers should arrive at 7:30 pm. Movie will screen at 9:00 pm.

1. Dixboro Village Green Improvements

Projects to complete include:

Repair windows in school house

Install plaque on memorial rock

Expand parking area

1. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Curtis Freeman and supported by Greg Vessels to approve payment of the bills totaling $46,721.11 through 7/22/2024. The motion carried.

1. Financial statements

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Greg Vessels to receive the Financial Statements for the period ending 6/30/2024. The motion carried.

1. Pleas and Petitions

Greg Vessels asked if there was a possibility of installing community gardens and/or a farmer’s market at the northwest corner of Clark and Prospect Roads. This location has very good road access, but does not look good. Martha Kern-Boprie noted a gasoline station used to be located there, and although the underground storage tanks and contaminated soil were removed, it may not be the best place to grow food. Jan Piert and Juan Bradford noted it does not have a water supply. Juan suggested it would be better to get the Clay Hills Farm fully functional, before taking on a project at this site. The site at Clark and Prospect Roads is in private ownership.

1. Adjournment

It was moved by Riley Schofield and supported by Greg Vessels to adjourn at 7:10 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,

Martha Kern-Boprie, Park Commissioner and Secretary