Superior Charter Township Parks & Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting

December 16, 2024

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

1. Roll Call

Park Commissioners present: Curtis Freeman, Matthew Yahyai, Greg Vessels, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Martha Kern-Boprie, Jack Smiley

Park Commissioners absent: Sharon Bryant-Phillips

Others present, Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director, Brenda Baker, Steven Peach, Trustee Dana Green, Don Waligor

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 Curtis Freeman and supported by Matthew Yahyai to approve the agenda as drafted. The motion carried.

1. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval
2. November 25, 2024 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Curtis Freeman to approve the minutes of 11/25/2024 with the following corrections. In Old Business item D, insert between the words “…informed of a state law” and the words “requires in cases…” the word “that” so the sentence reads “…informed of a state law that requires in cases…”. In New Business item A. In the sentences covering the election of the Vice-Chairperson, correct the spelling from “Vic-Chairperson” to “Vice-Chairperson” each time the word appears. The motion carried.

1. Citizen Participation

There was none.

1. Reports
2. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported she spoke with Ken Schwartz and Emily Dabish-Yahkind about the 2025 budget for Parks and Recreation. She also noted that the Christmas event in Dixboro was a success.

1. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added to this report that maintenance staff are on winter hours now.

1. Township Board Liaison

There was no report, as the township board has not appointed a Liaison to the Park Commission yet.

1. Township Board Meeting Attendee

Curtis Freeman, Juan Bradford and Martha Kern-Boprie attended the special township board meeting on December 12. Martha submitted a written report.

1. Park Steward

No contact with Ellen Kurath.

1. Safety

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.

1. Communications
2. Dixboro Village Green 2025 Schedule of Events
3. TF23-0058 Project Agreement executed by DNR

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

1. Old Business
2. 2025 Farming Agreement

Due to current state law that requires tenants of publicly owned property to pay property tax on the property, farmer Steven Peach will not pay rent in return for use of the “Rock Property” acreage. Instead, he will perform services that will benefit the property.

1. “Rock Property” Committee Update

Jack Smiley informed the Park Commission that the next meeting of the “Rock Property” committee will take place in January 2025.

1. 2025 Proposed Budget

There will be no increase to the 2025 Park Fund budget. Supervisor Emily Dabish-Yahkind stated she and her staff identified a $1,600,000 loss in the General Fund reserve, and there is no source to fund a budget increase to the Park Fund.

1. New Business
2. 2024 Final Budget Amendments

These were adjustments between budget activities that did not impact total budget.

1. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to adopt:

Resolution 2024-3: Ducks Unlimited Grant

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH DUCKS UNLIMITED ACCEPTING A WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION 2024-03

DECEMBER 16, 2024

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has authority to issue grants for the development of public outdoor recreation facilities under sections 602 and 603 of section 9901 of the Social Security Act of Public Law No. 117-2, known as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), signed into law on March 11, 2021, as the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), and;

WHEREAS, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed a supplemental appropriations bill (Public Act 5 of 2023) securing $10 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding for wetland restoration, enhancement, and acquisition to aid in the reduction of phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment entering Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay. This supplemental funding will improve the water quality of Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay to support communities and Great Lakes tourism and related economic sectors that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and;

WHEREAS, Michigan Department of Natural Resources developed the Wetlands Conservation Program to guide expenditure for a portion of these funds, and selected Ducks Unlimited, a non-profit company that has preserved, enhanced, or restored 16 million acres of wetlands in North America since 1937, through a competitive process to manage the “ARPA Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay Watersheds Wetland Conservation Program”, program as a fiduciary agent, and;

WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited intends to serve as the “ARPA Lake Erie and Saginaw Bay Watersheds Wetland Conservation Program”, grant administrator, and;

WHEREAS, the Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission intends to be a sub-recipient of Ducks Unlimited ARPA grant funds in the amount of $300,000.00, and;

WHEREAS, the Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission will utilize the $300,000.00 as a portion of the local match towards the purchase of Parcel J-10-20-100-002 which comprises 162 acres of land on Cherry Hill Road directly south of the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve, and;

WHEREAS, Superior Township was recently awarded a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,020,000.00 for the purchase of Parcel J-10-20-100-002, and;

WHEREAS, the purchase of Parcel J-10-20-100-002 will connect the 160-acre Cherry Hill Nature Preserve to the north with the 302 acres recently purchased by the Township to the south, creating a continuous 624 acres of protected Township-owned land, and;

WHEREAS, the purchase of Parcel J-10-20-100-002 is in furtherance of the Parks & Recreation Commission’s 2023-2027 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission authorizes entering into a Sub-Award Agreement with Ducks Unlimited for their Wetland Conservation Program, and receiving grant funding in the amount of $300,000.00 to be utilized as a portion of the local match toward the purchase of Parcel J-10-20-100-002.

A roll call vote was taken.

 Yes No Absent Abstain

Curtis Freeman X

Matthew Yahyai X

Greg Vessels X

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai X

Martha Kern-Boprie X

Jack Smiley X

Sharon Bryant-Phillips X

The motion carried and the resolution was adopted.

1. 2025 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting dates

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to approve the following schedule for Parks & Recreation Commission meetings in 2025.

January 27, 2025 Monday 6:30 pm

February 24, 2025 Monday 6:30 pm

March 24, 2025 Monday 6:30 pm

April 28, 2025 Monday 6:30 pm

May 27, 2025 Tuesday\* 6:30 pm \*held Tuesday due to Memorial Day holiday

June 23, 2025 Monday 6:30 pm

July 28, 2025 Monday 6:30 pm

August 25, 2025 Monday 6:30 pm

September 22, 2025 Monday 6:30 pm

October 27, 2025 Monday 6:30 pm

November 24, 2025 Monday` 6:30 pm

December 15, 2025 Monday 6:00 pm\*

\*held on third Monday at 6:00 pm due to proximity to Christmas holiday and township board meeting

 The motion carried.

1. 2025 Township Board Meeting Attendees

Park Commissioner volunteered to attend the following Township Board meetings on behalf of the Park Commission.

Meeting Date Park Commissioner

January 21, 2025 Tuesday Nahid Sanii-Yahyai

February 18, 2025 Tuesday Greg Vessels

March 17, 2025 Monday Curtis Freeman

April 21, 2025 Monday Martha Kern-Boprie

May 19, 2025 Monday Greg Vessels

June 16, 2025 Monday Jack Smiley

July 21, 2025 Monday Sharon Bryant-Phillips

August 19, 2025 Monday Sharon Bryant-Phillips

September 15, 2025 Monday Curtis Freeman

October 20, 2025 Monday Matthew Yahyai

November 17, 2025 Monday Nahid Sanii-Yahyai

December 15, 2025 Monday Martha Kern-Boprie

1. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Greg Vessels to approve payment of the bills totaling $67,711.31 through December 16, 2024. The motion carried.

1. Financial Statements
2. November 30, 2024 Revenue & Expenditure Report
3. November 30, 2024 Balance Sheet

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Greg Vessels to receive the November 2024 financial statements. The motion carried.

1. Pleas and Petitions

Brenda Baker expressed concern about the safety of the ramp into the old Township Hall, as it is partially covered by a juniper bush.

Jack Smiley asked if the presentation by Legacy Land Conservancy on their “tool kit” has been scheduled. Juan Bradford reported the presentation is scheduled for March 10, 2025.

1. Adjournment

It was moved by Curtis Freeman and supported by Matthew Yahyai to adjourn at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by,

Martha Kern-Boprie

Park Commissioner and Secretary