

Superior Charter Township Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
September 23, 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, Jack Smiley, Guy Conti, Curtis Freeman

Park Commissioners absent: Riley Schofield-excused

Others present: Trustee Bernice Lindke, Juan Bradford, Director; Dana Green, Jan Piert, Don Waligor, Brenda Baker, Matthew Yahyai

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. August 26, 2024

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Curtis Freeman to approve the minutes of 8/26/2024 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

Don Waligor, Park Maintenance Supervisor addressed the Park Commission about the difficulties he faces completing all the work facing the maintenance staff without the two permanent part-time staff that resigned recently. In addition to maintenance of the parks, significant repair work is due on the Parks barn and on the old Township Hall. These two staff were highly skilled and certified, and very efficient in their work. The two staff members resigned for full-time positions elsewhere that provided health insurance. Don implored the park commissioners to bring these two staff members back. He recognized this will call for increasing their positions to full time with health care. Don believes at least one of the two staff members would like to return to township employment, if compensation and benefits were sufficient.

Park commissioners discussed Don Waligore's request, and asked Juan Bradford to investigate the possibility of increasing the two positions to full time with health insurance. Juan said he would.

Jan Piert addressed the Park Commission, asking again that the commission seek a millage tax to support the Parks & Rec Department. This would facilitate financial self-reliance of the Park Department, independent of the Township Board.

She also commented on the visit by the "Rock Property" committee to Gateway Farm, located on Plymouth Road near Napier Road. The visit was informative and positive.

Curtis Freeman and Bernice Lindke also commented that the visit to Gateway Farm was positive.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported that the visit to Gateway Farm by the “Rock Property” committee was informative and positive. She also attended the Full Moon campfire in LeFurge Woods, the Survivors Speak event and Movie in the Park at Fireman’s Park. Greg Vessels also volunteered at the Movie in the Park at Fireman’s Park. Unfortunately, there was a lot of disturbing noise, activity and trash dumping by youth at this event. Some families left early.

B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He also stated that Movie Night in Fireman’s Park was a mess. He recommends not holding a Movie Night in this park again. There are several other events held in this park each year, including the Easter Egg Hunt, Kite & Rocket Day and Live! Here! Now! Clay Hill farm volunteers worked on Saturday and Sunday installing fences. The water tap will be installed on Friday.

ARPA contracts with Christian Love Fellowship for the Tradescout program and with Survivors Speak for the Civic Duty Education Night program have been completed.

C. Township Board Liaison

Trustee Bernice Lindke reported on the Township Board meeting held September 16, 2024, on items that related to the Parks & Recreation Department.

Citizen Participation: Kelly Goolsby supported having the Board of Trustees again contract with Trusted Parent Advisors.

Takunia (TC) Collins reported that all the garden beds at Clay Hill Farms have been given out to residents.

New Business:

A resolution to allocate \$25,000.00 for operational funds to the Parks and Recreation Department was approved.

An updated Policy and Procedure for Use and Operation of Township Pool Vehicles, Township-owned Vehicles, and the Use of Private Vehicles for Township Business was approved.

Contracts with Christian Love Fellowship church for the Tradescouts Program and with Survivors Speak for the Civic Duty Election Education program were approved.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Curtis Freeman was scheduled to attend the September Township Board Meeting, but was unable to. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai did attend the Township Board meeting and concurred with Trustee Lindke’s report.

E. Park Steward

No report.

F. Safety

There was a minor collision recently with a staff vehicle. No injuries. The damage has been reported to insurance.

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

8. Communications

A. Educational: Unwind with Parks & Recreation

B. Ducks Unlimited Wetland Conservation Program Grant Letter

C. Washtenaw County Recreation 2025 – 2029 Master Plan Review

Juan Bradford and Jack Smiley provided an update to the Ducks Unlimited Grant Letter. Ducks Unlimited agreed within two weeks of receiving the letter to provide funding. The dollar amount is unknown at this time.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to receive the communications. The motion carried.

9. Old Business

A. Fireman's Park Improvements Update

Everything is basically complete. Juan is currently working on redirecting drainage near the play structure.

B. "Rock Property" Committee Update

The "Rock Property" Committee visited Gateway Farm on Plymouth Road near Napier Road, for an example of using the "Rock Property". Steve Peach who currently farms part of the "Rock Property" acreage contacted Jack Smiley about the potential of him farming the property again next year, so he can make plans about winter wheat planting. Jack wants to schedule another meeting of the "Rock Property" Committee.

C. 2025 Park Fund Budget Preparation

Juan, Nahid and Jack had a preliminary budget planning meeting. The consensus of the park commissioners was to hold a special park commission meeting to conduct detailed 2025 budget planning. Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai called a special meeting of the Park Commission on October 7, 2024, at 6:30 pm, in the Township Hall. She asked Juan Bradford to post the required notices of this special meeting. Juan Bradford will send budget worksheets to all park commissioners.

10. New Business

A. ARPA Funds allocated to Parks & Recreation

The Township Board allocated an additional \$25,000.00 to the Park Fund for all the additional responsibilities incurred with managing the ARPA programs. Juan Bradford would like to use this funding to purchase a used pick-up truck for the Parks & Recreation Department. This truck would primarily be used by Juan, but could also be used by other park staff as needed.

B. Volunteers for Forest Forensics event on October 5, 1:00 pm Cherry Hill Nature Preserve
Curtis Freeman and Jack Smiley volunteered to assist with this event.

C. Volunteers for Pumpkin Carving event on October 26, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Norfolk Park
Martha Kern-Boprie, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Curtis Freeman volunteered to assist with this event.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Martha Kern-Boprie to approve payment of the bills totaling \$37,105.68 through 9/16/24. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

It was moved by Guy Conti and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to receive the Financial Statements at 8/31/2024. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Dana Green acknowledged it was difficult to watch the movie at Movie in the Park in Fireman's Park. He would like to find a way to continue to hold a movie night in this park successfully. He suggested activities before the movie screens that help children burn off energy. Dana also noted he sees a lot of trash accumulating along walking paths, and suggests installing trash cans along the pathways. He also suggested asking children to decorate the trash cans with paint.

Bill Secrest noted he has been very involved in Willow Run Acres. Bill asked why the walking paths in Schroeter Park were mowed so extensively. Juan Bradford responded the mowing was necessary to push back the heavy weed growth.

Jan Piert spoke on three issues

She encouraged the Park Commission get creative about finding ways to continue Movies in the Park in Fireman's Park.

She noted a lot of trash accumulating in Fireman's Park: beverage bottles, fast food wrappers, etc. She requested improved trash pick-up.

Clay Hill needs help on Saturdays through October from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

Juan Bradford noted the Narcan box in front of the Ypsilanti District Library on Harris Road was raided, and trashed all over the lawn.

Guy Conti invited park commissioners to a party at his home on Sept 28 known as "drafts & drafts" where he will have some draft horses at his home.

Nahid Sani-Yahyai informed the park commission of a walk in LeFurge Woods on October 5 at 10:00 am.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Jack Smiley and supported by Curtis Freeman to adjourn at 7:55 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,

Martha Kern-Boprie, Park Commissioner and Secretary