

Approved by the Superior Charter Township Park Commission on May 27, 2025

Superior Charter Township Park Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 28, 2025

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Township Treasurer Lisa Lewis; Juan Bradford, Park & Rec Director; Brenda Baker; Susan LaCroix

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 Curtis Freeman and supported by Matthew Yahyai to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business D. Memorial Discussion to recognize Marion Morris. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. March 24, 2025, Regular Meeting

It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Curtis Freeman to approve the minutes of 3/24/2025 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

There was none.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported she attended the Township Board meeting on April 21, and noted the Dixboro Village Green DBA Dixboro Farmers Market was approved. She also attended the Easter Egg Hunt on April 12, which was well attended. She asked Juan Bradford how many eggs were distributed, and he said 2,000 the same as last year. Nahid attended the Tree Planting and Kite & Rocket Event in Fireman's Park on April 26. She noted that several attendees were confused, and thought both events were continuing for the entire four hours. It was cold outdoors, but bright and sunny. Twelve trees were planted in Fireman's Park. Nahid noted she will follow up with Barry Margolis about a quote for the cost of trees and bushes for the memorial tree program.

B. Director

Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director submitted a written report. He added to this report an update that the City of Ann Arbor wants a survey and a Level One Environmental Assessment for Birdsong Preserve, and will pay for it. Ducks Unlimited authorized \$400,000.00 for the Birdsong Preserve: \$300,000 will go toward the purchase and \$100,000 will go toward restoration.

C. Board Liaison

Township Treasurer Lisa Lewis attended in place of Trustee Sarah Devereaux who was traveling. There was a flood in the old Township Hall. Balfour company is working on cleaning and restoration. Trinity

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Health is working with Parks on a potential trail project collaboration. A meeting with Township Supervisor Dabish-Yahkind and Park Director Bradford is planned in the near future. Treasurer Lewis noted that the roadside clean-up will take place on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> and encouraged all Park Commissioners to participate. People can register on-line, or on May 10 in person.

- D. Board Meeting Attendee  
Martha Kern-Boprie attended the April 21 township board meeting, and submitted a written report.
- E. Park Steward  
Ellen Kurath stopped by the Park Department office with literature on plants growing in the township nature preserves.
- F. Safety  
There were no accidents or injuries in the past month.

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

8. Communications

- A. Dixboro Farmers Market Letter of Support
- B. Birdsong Forest Therapy

It was moved by Sharon Bryant-Phillips and supported by Greg Vessels to receive the communications. The motion carried.

9. Old Business

- A. Commemorative Tree & Bench Program

Juan Bradford presented an amended Commemorative Tree, Bush, & Bench Program for park commissioners to consider. Items that may be purchased to commemorate a person or event and the current cost are:

Trees 3" to 4" caliper	\$800.00
Trees <2.5" caliper	\$450.00
Bush	\$200.00
Plaque for Trees and Bushes	\$550.00
Bench with plaque	\$2,500.00

Jack Smiley identified several grammatical errors that required correction.

On page 2 or 5, in Step 3, third sentence, it currently reads "The plaque manufacturer will create a digital mockup of your plaque and will be sent to you for approval or edits via email." Insert the word "it" between "plaque and" and "will" so that it reads "The plaque manufacturer will create a digital mockup of your plaque, and it will be sent to you for approval or edits via email."

On page 2 of 5, in the section headed How do I get additional information or start the process? At the end of the sentence that currently reads "...please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at" insert a colon after the word "at" so the sentence reads "...please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at:"

On page 3 of 5 in the section headed "Why support the Commemorative Tree or Bush Program?" in the first sentence that currently reads "\*\*By planting a tree or bush, you are creating a living memory that will last for generations..." delete the words "living memory" and replace them with "commemoration" so the sentence will read  
"\*\*By planting a tree or bush, you are creating a commemoration that will last for generations..."

On page 4 of 5, in the section headed "Why support the Commemorative Bench Program?" in the first sentence that currently reads "...you can honor your loved one, or special occasion one while enhancing..." insert a comma after the word "occasion" and delete the word "one" so the sentence reads "...you can honor your loved one, or special occasion, while enhancing..."

On page 4 of 5, in the section headed "How much does the Commemorative Bench Program cost?" in the second sentence that currently reads "The cost includes the bench, a bronze plaque designed by the purchaser, installation, and perpetual care." Delete the comma after installation and replace the words "perpetual care" with maintenance, so the sentence reads "The cost includes the bench, a bronze plaque designed by the purchaser, installation and maintenance."

On page 4 of 5, in the section headed "What if my bench becomes destroyed?" in the last sentence that currently reads "When contact information is available, the Township will attempt to contact the donor to discuss options for a replacement at the purchaser's cost." Delete the word "cost" and replace it with "expense" so the sentence reads "When contact information is available, the Township will attempt to contact the donor to discuss options for a replacement at the purchaser's expense."

It was moved by Curtis Freeman and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the Commemorative Tree, Bush and Bench Program with the edits noted. The motion carried.

B. Mission Statement 2025

Juan Bradford presented the Mission Statement approved by the Park Commission on March 24, 2025. Sharon Bryant-Phillips disagreed with the text of the first sentence, which currently reads "The Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our residents and future generations by maintaining the highest standards of excellence in public service." Sharon wanted the word "highest" replaced with the word "high".

It was moved by Sharon Bryant-Phillips and supported by Jack Smiley to amend the Mission Statement by changing the first sentence to "The Superior Township Parks and Recreation Commission is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our residents and future generations by maintaining high standards of excellence in public service." The motion carried with six Yes votes and one No vote.

C. "Birdsong" Property Appraisals and Update

Two appraisals were obtained for the "Birdsong" property. One appraisal produced a value of \$1,618,000.00 and the other a value of \$1,780,000.00. Both appraisals were submitted to Ducks Unlimited and the City of Ann Arbor as part of seeking funding for the acquisition and restoration of the property.

D. Vreeland Property Committee Update

The property previously referred to as "the Rock Property" is now referred to as "the Vreeland Property". Two public presentations on the property and potential uses will be held in May.

May 20 6:30 pm Township Hall

May 22 6:30 pm Ypsilanti District Library on Harris Road

Trustee Sarah Devereaux will help prepare the presentations.

Jack Smiley met with a representative from the Audubon society about placing bluebird boxes. Jack also reported a whippoorwill call was heard recently on the Birdsong Property.

10. New Business

A. Roadside Clean-Up Day Volunteers: Saturday, May 10

Volunteers are needed for the Roadside Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 10 beginning at 9:30 am. The following park commissioners volunteered:

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai

Matthew Yahyai

Curtis Freeman

Greg Vessels

Jack Smiley

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Go to the Township Hall at 9:30 am, give your Liability Waiver to organizers, if you have not done so already, pick up supplies, and receive a road assignment. A hot dog lunch will be provided after the clean-up. Martha Kern-Boprie mentioned that she cannot participate on May 10, so she will clean along Geddes Road during the week before May 10.

B. Birdwatching for Beginners on May 17 in CHNP Volunteers

The Birdwatching for Beginners event on Saturday May 17 at 10:00 am takes place in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP). Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and Matthew Yahyai volunteered to assist with this event.

C. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Contract

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to authorize Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director to sign the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Landowner Agreement. The motion carried.

D. Memorial Discussion to recognize Marion Morris

Jack Smiley suggested a boulder with a plaque to recognize the many contributions Marion Morris made to Superior Township and the parks and preserves. He suggested locating the boulder in Birdsong Preserve. There was a consensus among park commissioners to move forward with this.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Matthew Yahyai to approve payment of the bills totaling \$40,892.60 at 4/28/2025. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statement

A. March 2025

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Sharon Bryant-Phillips to receive the March 2025 Financial statements. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Greg Vessels noted that Cherry Hill Road between Prospect Road and the Cherry Hill Nature Preserve is in bad condition.

Brenda Baker asked for the dates and locations of the presentations on the Vreeland Property. Dates and locations were provided to her.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Curtis Freeman to adjourn at 8:00 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,  
Martha Kern-Boprie  
Park Commissioner and Secretary