

Superior Charter Township Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
January 27, 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, Jack Smiley, Curtis Freeman, Matthew Yahyai

Park Commissioners absent: Sharon Bryant-Phillips

Others present: Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director; Steven Peach, 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 item C. 2025 Special Event Dates. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. December 16, 2024

It was moved by Curtis Freeman and supported by Matthew Yahyai to approve the minutes of 12/16/2025 with the following corrections:

Old Business item A - in the first sentence insert the word "tenants" between the words "requires" and "of" so the sentence reads "Due to current state law that requires tenants of publicly owned property to pay property tax..."

New Business item B – in the seventh WHEREAS statement, correct the spelling of "Natura;" to "Natural".

In the roll call vote on the resolution, correct the spelling of "Sharon Bryan-Phillips" to "Sharon Bryant-Phillips".

The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

Susan LaCroix a township resident who lives in a condominium located off the east side of Prospect Road between Clark Road and Berkshire Road requested a non-motorized pathway be constructed along the east side of Prospect between Berkshire and Clark. Presently it is not safe for people to walk along this side of Prospect to access the non-motorized pathway along Clark Road, or the non-motorized pathway that runs north from Berkshire to Geddes Road. Many of her neighbors walk with pets, and others jog and ride bicycles, and it is not safe along this half mile stretch of Prospect. It was noted by Park Commissioners responding to her concern, that installing a non-motorized pathway along this half mile stretch would connect all the other non-motorized pathways into a loop system. Juan Bradford said he would bring this issue to the attention of the township supervisor.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported she attended the township board meeting on January 21. TC Collins requested extension of his contract to farm Willow Run Acres (WRA) from 10 years to 15 years. The

extension was needed to allow TC to apply for a grant. The Township Board authorized the extension contingent upon WRA receiving the grant.

B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. Juan expanded upon the written report with more detail about the tree planting event on April 26 that would be a collaboration with WRA and Washtenaw County Conservation District. This event could also be combined with Kite & Rocket Day. Juan met with representatives of Ypsilanti Little League Baseball about beginning a program in Dixboro on the Village Green. Juan is also working on a parking area for Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP). The planned parking area would be on the south side of Cherry Hill Road, just east of the entrance to CHNP.

C. Board Liaison

No report. The appointed liaison is Sarah Devereaux, and she was out of town.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Martha Kern-Boprie attended the December 16, 2024, Township Board meeting as well as Curtis Freeman, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Matthew Yahyai and Juan Bradford. Martha submitted a written report on the meeting. Jack Smiley requested that Martha update her text about Citizen Participation to state that Supervisor Emily Dabish Yahkind ruled Irma Golden out of order after two minutes. There were also questions about the dollar amount in Martha's report on Board approval of authorizing Administrative Staff to purchase medical, dental, vision insurance for staff for annual cost up to \$700,000. Martha responded that was the amount she heard during the meeting, but did not have the board packet to refer to.

E. Park Steward

Juan has had no contact with Ellen Kurath.

F. Safety

There were 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.

8. Communications

A. Educational: Green Spaces Key to Reducing Kid's Screen-time

B. Land Conservation Meeting: March 10, 2025, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

C. 2025 Township Holiday Closures

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

9. Old Business

A. 2025 Farming Agreement

The agreement to permit Steven Peach to occupy and use for agricultural purposes 188 acres in Sections 20 and 29, commonly known as "the Rock Property" has been reviewed and amended by Mr. Peach and by Township representatives. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Matthew Yahyai to approve the 2025 Farming Agreement with Steven Peach. A Roll Call vote on the motion was taken.

Sanii-Yahyai Yes

Vessels Yes

Kern-Boprie Yes

Freeman Yes

Yahyai Yes

Smiley Yes
 Bryant-Phillips Absent
 The motion carried.

B. Rock Property Committee Update

Matthew Yahyai resigned from the Rock Property Committee because the committee rules limit the number of elected Park Commissioners to three, and now that he is an elected Park Commissioner there were four commissioners on the committee.

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

It was moved by Jack Smiley and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to appoint Sarah Devereaux to the open seat on the Rock Property Committee. The motion carried.

C. 2025 Board Meeting Attendees Schedule

The 2025 board meeting attendees schedule was provided for reference only. If you find you cannot attend a township board meeting on a date you volunteered for, please find another commissioner to attend the meeting.

10. New Business

A. Parks & Recreation Revenue Opportunities Memorandum

Juan Bradford provided a memo he prepared at Supervisor Dabish Yahkind's request about potential revenue generating opportunities for the Parks & Recreation fund.

B. Michigan Folk School Classes at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve

Juan Bradford shared correspondence he exchanged with leadership of the Michigan Folk School about requesting a modest rent payment to Superior Township Park Fund when our CHNP is used for a class that the Michigan Folk School collects registration fees for.

C. 2025 Special Event Dates

Juan Bradford presented a proposed list of special events with dates for 2025. This event schedule is detailed below:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Rain Date</u>
Easter Egg Hunt	Fireman's Park	April 12 11:00 am	April 13
Earth Day/Kite & Rocket	Fireman's Park	April 26 10:00 am	April 27
Birdwatching	CHNP	May 17 10:00 am	N/A
Superior Day	Oakbrook Park	June 14 11:00 am	June 15
Bicycle Safety/Rodeo	Fireman's Park	June 28 11:00 am	June 29
Movies on the Green	Dixboro Village Green	July 12 8:30 pm	N/A
Bug Hunt	CHNP	July 26 11:00 am	N/A
Movies in the Park	Oakbrook Park	August 9 8:00 pm	N/A
Forest Forensics	CHNP	October 4 11:00 am	N/A
Pumpkin Carving	Norfolk Park	October 25 11:00 am	October 26
Owl Prowl	CHNP	November 1 6:30 pm	N/A
Christmas Tree Lighting	Township Hall	December 6 6:00 pm	N/A

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to approve the proposed 2025 Special Events Schedule. The motion carried.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Matthew Yahyai to approve payment of the bills totaling \$50,152.80 through 1/27/25. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

- A. December 2024 Revenue & Expenditure Report (pre-audit)
- B. December 2024 Balance Sheet (pre-audit)

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

13. Pleas and Petitions

Juan Bradford conveyed a request from Trustee Sarah Devereaux "Could the Parks & Recreation Commission meet via zoom, or at least permit Sarah to attend via zoom". Sarah travels often for her work, and it is difficult for her to attend in person. After the COVID pandemic subsided, elected governmental bodies have to meet in person. Juan said this is a question for the Park & Recreation Commission to decide. He noted that the Liaison to the Park Commission is paid a stipend for attending, and some park commissioners may resent having to attend in person when the Liaison can attend remotely. Juan also stated the Township Clerk would have to decide if the IT equipment was sufficient to allow the zoom attendee to fully participate. Nahid Sani-Yahyai asked if another trustee could substitute for Sarah in the event should could not attend a Park Commission meeting. Jack Smiley suggested discussing this question at a future park commission meeting.

14. Adjournment

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

Submitted by,
Martha Kern-Boprie
Park Commissioner and Secretary