

Superior Charter Township Parks & Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
February 24, 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: Trustee Sarah Devereaux; Trustee Dana Greene; Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation 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 Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business item B. potential roadside clean-up in 2025 and New Business item C. Memorial Tree and Bench Program. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. January 27, 2025

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Curtis Freeman to approve the minutes of 1/27/2025 with the following corrections: Old Business item A. 2025 Farming Agreement correct the number of acres in the first sentence to 188. In the roll call vote, correct the spelling of "Sannie-Yahyai" to "Sanii-Yahyai" and add "Smiley voted Yes". In Pleas and Petitions, after the sentence ending "...to fully participate" insert the sentence "Nahid Sanii-Yahyai asked if another trustee could substitute for Sarah at times when she cannot attend the Park Commission meetings." The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai welcomed Trustee Sarah Devereau as Board Liaison to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Nahid also noted that several communities, including the city of Ypsilanti promoted "No May Mow" to encourage people to let their lawns grow during May which provides nutrition to birds and insects that help pollinate other plants. She would like to see Superior Township promote this. Discussion took place among park commissioners. Martha Kern-Boprie noted that this would be a matter of the township not enforcing lawn mowing ordinances during May. It is permissive not required that people not mow lawns in May. Sarah Devereaux noted that not mowing can allow tick populations to expand, and she recommends mowing near walkways and paths in parks. Nahid said she would like to pursue the "No May Mow" concept in Superior Township.

B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added some detail to the update on the conservation easement held by the township on a portion of the property where Superior Farm & Garden is located. He also informed the Park Commission that he enrolled the Superior Township Park

Commission with "Grant Station" for one year. Grant Station is an organization that can assist with locating grant opportunities and applying for them. The cost for a one year enrollment was \$119.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Sarah Devereaux reported on Township Board action in January and early February. She noted that Martha Kern-Boprie's board attendee report was thorough, and added clarification to the positions Keith Lockie resigned from and retained. Mr. Lockie resigned from the position of Twp Controller. He retained the position of Utility Dept accountant. His compensation rate for both positions has been the same. Those rates will be re-examined. She commented that Martha's report that health insurance benefit cost for all township employees was \$700,000 was a bit high. She will look it up, and update the Park Commission later in the meeting.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Martha Kern-Boprie attended the Township Board meeting on 2/18/25 and submitted a written report on that meeting.

E. Park Steward

Juan Bradford has received no contact from Ellen Kurath.

F. Safety

Juan Bradford reported there were no accidents or injuries in the past month.

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

8. Communications

- A. Educational: Parks & Recreation Commission Mission Statement
- B. Superior Scenes Spring 2005 Newsletter

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

9. Old Business

A. 2025 Special Events Flyer

The 2025 Special Events Flyer was provided for information only.

B. Land Preservation Meeting: March 10, 2025

A meeting is scheduled on March 10, 2025, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the township hall about opportunities, strategies and tools to preserve natural and agricultural areas. Organizations involved include Legacy Land Conservancy, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, Huron River Watershed Council, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation. Everyone is welcome to attend. RSVP is appreciated at telephone 734-302-8715.

C. "Rock" Property Committee Update

Jack Smiley reported that the "Rock" Property Committee seeks public meetings to obtain input on use of the "Rock" Property. The Fish and Wildlife grant decision may be delayed. Sarah Devereaux offered to facilitate meetings, as this is her profession.

10. New Business

A. 2025 4 WD Pickup Truck Quotes

Juan Bradford obtained three quotes for a Ford F250 Pickup Truck. All three are for new vehicles. This purchase was planned for in the 2025 budget. The new truck will replace the 2001 Dodge half-ton pickup truck that is in very poor condition and is beyond repair.

\$45,855.00 Gene Butman Ford, Ypsilanti MI  
\$47,774.00 Gorno Ford, Woodhaven MI  
\$48,997.92 Gene Butman Ford, Ypsilanti MI

Martha Kern-Boprie asked why the same dealership Gene Butman Ford had two F250 trucks with a price difference of more than \$3,000. Juan explained that the higher cost vehicle had more options, and those options were not necessary for Park Department use.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Sharon Bryant-Phillips to approve purchase of an F-250 Ford Pickup Truck from Gene Butman Ford dealership as detailed in their quote dated 2/04/2025 for a price not to exceed \$45,855.00. The motion carried by a vote of 7 Yes - 0 No.

B. Potential 2025 Roadside Clean-Up

There has been discussion among township boards and staff about the potential for another roadside clean-up in 2025. Juan Bradford commented that he was very concerned about the potential of injury to the volunteers working along busy public roads. He also stated he believes the responsibility for a roadside clean-up should sit with the Township Board. Sarah Devereaux noted that it is important to have clean communities, and that Superior Township looked so much better after the 2024 roadside clean-up. She would like to find a way to clean the roadsides again in 2025. Discussion shifted to mechanisms to prevent littering and dumping. Sharon Bryant-Phillips asked if Superior Township has a littering ordinance. Martha Kern-Boprie commented that littering ordinances are difficult to enforce, because to prosecute a violation one has to identify the individual dumping the trash, not only the vehicle seen near the dumping. Sharon stated she recalls anti-littering campaigns in Detroit that required one to have a trash bag in one's vehicle. She stated that two organizations, New Detroit, Inc and Clean Detroit Committee started the requirement to have litter bags in cars. This would not prevent one from dumping the bag of trash, and would not impact dumping of mattresses and other large objects. Greg Vessels noted the non-profit organization "House into Home" accepts used furnishings to assist people with setting up a home. This non-profit could be promoted as a positive way of disposing of un-needed items. Curtis Freeman commented we could look for opportunities to collaborate when roads are blocked from traffic, to clean the roadsides then. He cited the time when trees will be cut along Geddes Road to prepare for the non-motorized pathway as such an opportunity. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai expressed concern for safety, and agrees that the Superior Township Board should take the lead on the roadside clean-up, if it approves of the clean-up. Nahid said the parks commission could assist. She also suggested stopping traffic for a shorter period of time, to improve safety of volunteers. Sarah said she will discuss the idea of a roadside clean-up with Supervisor Emily Dabish Yahkind.

C. Memorial Tree & Bench Program

Juan Bradford informed the Park Commission that occasionally he receives requests from people to memorialize a person with donation of a tree or a bench in one of the township parks. Several such donations have been made in the past. Juan drafted the memorial Tree & Bench Program to establish a process and parameters for memorials of this nature. Park Commissioners discussed the proposed program. No action was taken. Action may be taken at a future meeting.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Curtis Freeman to approve the bills totaling \$31,975.50 through 2/24/2025. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statement

A. January 2025 Revenue & Expenditure Report

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Matthew Yahyai to receive the January 2025 Revenue and Expenditure Report. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Martha Kern-Boprie suggested adding craft projects and/or nature education to winter events, especially when the weather is bad.

Discussion took place about garden plans for Willow Run Acres (WRA).

Sarah Devereaux found the cost of health insurance for township employees in 2025.

\$469,237.32	premium cost
<u>\$219,550.03</u>	wellness bonuses
\$688,787.35	

Discussion took place of options for Sarah to fulfill her board liaison role when she has to travel at the same time as park commission meetings. One option is to submit a written report to include in the park commission packet. Another option would be to have another township board member attend in her place.

14. Adjournment

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

Submitted by,  
Martha Kern-Boprie  
Park Commissioner and Secretary