

Superior Charter Township Parks & Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
March 24, 2025

Proposed 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, Matthew Yahyai, Curtis Freeman, Jack Smiley, Sharon Bryant-Phillips

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Trustee Dana Greene; Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director; Brenda Baker

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 Matthew Yahyai to approve the agenda as drafted. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. February 24, 2025, regular meeting

It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Sharon Bryant-Phillips to approve the minutes of 2/24/2025 with the following corrections:

Reports B. Director – correct dollar amount of Grant Station one year enrollment to \$119.

10. New Business A. 2025 4 WD Pick-up Truck Quotes – correct year of older truck that will be replaced to 2001. Vote on motion as Yes 7 No 0.

10. New Business B. Potential 2025 Roadside Clean-Up – Insert the word “up” into the sentence “Greg Vessels noted the non-profit organization “House to Home” accepts used furnishing to assist people setting a home.” So that it reads “...to assist people setting up a home.” After the sentence, “Sharon stated she recalls anti-littering campaigns in Detroit that required one to have a trash bag in one’s vehicle.” Add the sentence “ Two organizations: New Detroit, Inc and Clean Detroit Committee started the requirement to have a trash bag in one’s car. Before the final sentence, insert “Nahid Sanii-Yahyai expressed concern for safety, and agrees that the Superior Charter Township Board should take the lead on a roadside clean-up, if it approves of the clean-up. The Park Commission could assist. Nahid also suggested that traffic could be stopped for a short period of time on a road during the cleaning there.”

13. Pleas and Petitions – correct the spelling of “went” in Martha Kern’s comment about adding craft projects and/or nature education to winter events, to “when”.

The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

There was none.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported that she attended the March 10 forum on land preservation and conservation. It was very informative. Nahid also attended the township board meeting on March 17.

B. Director

Juan Bradford asked that the Park Commission pause for a moment of silence in remembrance of Marion Morris, long time Park Commissioner, who died this morning.

Juan submitted a written report. He added to this, information about a dinner at Christian Love Fellowship church on April 19 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm to celebrate the ARPA programs; and that the roadside clean-up will take place on May 10.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Sarah Devereaux submitted a detailed written report on the March 17 Township Board meeting. Trustee Dana Greene attended the Park Commission meeting because Sarah was out of town. During discussion Sharon Bryant-Phillips asked if there had been any findings of micro-plastics in Superior Township. Trustee Greene did not have information on that. Jack Smiley commented that he recommends the Township Board place a Conservation Easement on the Garrett's Space property, not just a deed restriction.

D. Board Attendee – Curtis Freeman

Curtis did not add to the reports of Trustees Devereaux and Greene, other than to note the meeting lasted three and a half hours.

E. Park Steward

No contact from Ellen Kurath.

F. Safety

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

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

8. Communications

A. Dixboro Summer Days Flyer

B. Landowners Resource List

C. SMLC 2025 Fact Sheet and Forest to Mi Faucet Initiative

D. Legacy Land Conservation Information

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

9. Old Business

A. Memorial Tree and Bench Program

Juan Bradford drafted a policy to offer opportunities for people to purchase a tree or park bench to memorialize someone or commemorate an event. The draft policy included the following cost amounts:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tree	\$850.00
Tree Plaque	\$650.00
Bench with Plaque	\$2,500.00

Juan also provided a list of 20 tree species that could be installed.

Several park commissioners questions the high cost of the items available. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai also asked why Ash trees, particularly Black Ash were not included in the list of trees.

Juan responded to questions that the tree cost is for a fairly large tree, of about 3 inches in diameter, because larger trees tend to survive longer. The bench cost is what is the average cost when checking with multiple vendors. He noted these prices are similar to those found in other communities that have memorial programs and policies. Several commissioners suggested offering an opportunity to purchase a smaller tree and/or a bush for a small cost. After extensive discussion, a consensus developed to have Juan bring back a revised policy with these options to a future park commission meeting:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tree – size around 3 inch diameter trunk	\$850.00
Tree – smaller size	\$400.00
Bush	\$200.00
Memorial Tree Plaque	\$650.00
Bench with Plaque	\$2,500.00

Juan commented that he can contact a naturalist about including Ash trees. The main concern with Ash trees is the potential to attract an infestation of Emerald Ash Borer in these trees.

There was also discussion about the potential of accepting donations for other park improvements such as barrier free sidewalks, playground equipment, etc. Juan said this could always be considered, should the opportunity present itself.

**B. Mission Statement Review**

Park Commissioners reviewed the current Mission Statement and two proposed revisions. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to approve the following revised Mission Statement.

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. We achieve this through the preservation, enhancement, and protection of our parks, natural resources, and green spaces. We are committed to providing safe, enjoyable recreational opportunities and programs that foster a strong sense of community, encourage social interaction, and promote the physical and mental well-being of our residents.

The motion carried.

**C. “Birdsong” Property Appraisal Engagement Letter**

The engagement letter for an appraisal of the “Birdsong” property was presented for information only. No action by the Park Commission is necessary.

**D. “Rock” Property Committee Update**

Jack Smiley reported that Trustee Sarah Devereaux will help facilitate community forums to discern desired uses of the “Rock” Property. Jack has applied for a \$25,000 grant from Cornell University for plants and seeds to plant in the “Rock” and in the “Birdsong” properties. He walked the property with representatives from Duck Unlimited about the potential for grassland restoration. Steve Peach who farms land in the “Rock” property has been removing invasive buckthorn on the property.

**10. New Business**

**A. Easter Egg Hunt on April 12 at Fireman’s Park – volunteers needed**

The following park commissioners volunteered:

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai	Matthew Yahyai
Martha Kern-Boprie	Curtis Freeman
Greg Vessels	

The event begins at 11:00 am. Volunteers should arrive by 10:30 am. It will probably end by noon.

- B. Earth Day: Tree Planting & Kite & Rocket Day on April 26 at Fireman's Park – volunteers needed  
The following park commissioners volunteered:  
Nahid Sanii-Yahyai                      Matthew Yahyai  
Jack Smiley                                  Curtis Freeman

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Sharon Bryant-Phillips to approve payment of the bills totaling \$21,947.69 through 3/24/2025. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statement

A. February 2025 Revenue and Expenditure Report

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Curtis Freeman to receive the February 2025 financial report. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Greg Vessels commented that part of the wreckage for a vehicle crash near Prospect and Geddes roads is still sitting in the ditch. Juan recommended that Greg contact the deputy township supervisor.

Nahid asked that funeral information for Marion Morris be distributed to the park commissioners. Juan sent an email to all commissioners earlier today, and will follow up with additional details.

Brenda Baker asked why the township website only contains Park Commission minutes for through the January 2025 meeting. Juan Bradford responded those are the most recent approved minutes, as February minutes were just approved tonight. Brenda suggested posting proposed minutes as well. Park commissioners indicated this was acceptable.

Brenda asked if Schroeter Park had converted to a preserve. It is still a park.

Brenda asked what the status of Schock Park was. Several years ago it reverted to township board control as part of the township hall campus.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to adjourn at 7:47 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,  
Martha Kern-Boprie  
Park Commissioner and Secretary