

Superior Charter Township Park Commission  
Regular Meeting  
November 24, 2025

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, Sharon Bryant-Phillips, Matthew Yahyai, Curtis Freeman

Park Commissioners absent: none

Others present: Trustee Sarah Devereaux; Juan Bradford, Parks & Recreation Director; Brenda Baker, Marco Austin

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 presented. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. October 27, 2025

It was moved by Curtis Freeman and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the minutes of 10/27/25 with the addition in 13. Pleas and Petitions of the sentence "Nahid Sanii-Yahyai concurred with Sarah Devereaux' comments." after the sentence "Discussion took place among park commissioners and Sarah." The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

There was none.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported she attended the Owl Prowl, and it was well attended and successful. She spoke with Trustee Dana Greene about the 2026 budget for the Parks & Recreation Department. She arranged appointments for a meeting with the Township Supervisor and Juan Bradford to discuss the 2026 budget, but illness prevented the meeting from occurring.

B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He updated this report with two items.

1. The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant is now active, and we can draw down these funds.
2. Juan received a request from a resident to install lights in the tennis court at Community Park to facilitate night tennis play. This would conflict with Park Commission policy that all parks close at dusk, and Juan informed the resident of this.

C. Board Liaison Report

Trustee Sarah Devereaux reported on two township board meetings held November 17.

5:30 pm – closed session with township legal counsel to discuss settlement terms for the LaSalle Construction lawsuit. The special meeting ended at 6:00 pm.

7:00 pm regular open meeting. A resolution to accept the terms of the settlement with LaSalle Construction was approved unanimously.

A Public Hearing on the 2026 budget was held. Trustee Dana Greene asked why the Parks budget was so limited. The supervisor's response was the substantial size of the Park Fund reserves held for nearly 20 years, and the information that these funds could be used for any capital expense, not just buildings. Trustee Greene pointed out the need to define the word "capital" and what is included to avoid future misunderstandings. He also called for a more strategic conversation around parks. Trustee Schwartz highlighted the need to replenish the General Fund. Trustee Devereaux clarified the standard definition of capital and gave examples. Brian from Plante & Moran shared that he is working on township policies and common definitions. Trustee Schwartz shared the history behind the \$400,000 sale of the Parks building to the Utility Department, and its original intent to go toward a Rec Center, which is no longer needed given the county Rec Center underway with ARPA funds. Discussion took place about a complaint of pesticide run-off from nearby properties onto 6250 Joy Road.

Budgets were adopted. Asst Fire Chief/Fire Marshall blended position approved and Dan Kimball appointed to the position. Insulation bid for fire station approved. Demolition contract for 4745 Napier Ct approved.

Street lights in Geddes Ridge subdivision. Extensive discussion about how to pay for street lights in Geddes Ridge. Other subdivisions pay for street lights via special assessments on their property tax bills. Proposal to have Twp pay is inconsistent. Attorney Fred Lucas estimated a special assessment district could be established within three months, which is approximately the time needed to install the street lights. Resolution postponed while these issues are investigated.

Purchase of desktop computers and IT services approved.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai attended the 11/17/25 township board meeting. She noted that the \$400,000 in the Park Fund reserve from sale of the building at Clark & Prospect years ago is for all capital needs such as equipment, as well as for a building.

E. Park Steward

Juan Bradford reported that Ellen Kurath brought another large volume of documents and reports to his office on township history as well as the nature preserves.

F. Safety

There were no accidents or injuries in the past month.

It was moved by Sharon Bryant-Phillips and supported by Matthew Yahyai to receive the reports. The motion carried.

8. Communications

A. Committee to Promote Superior Township: November Highlights Infographic

Brenda Baker commented that the C2PST Infographic can now be obtained via email as well as QR code. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Curtis Freeman to receive the communications. The motion carried.

9. Old Business

A. BirdSong Nature Preserve Update

Jack Smiley informed the park commission that a Massasauga snake was found in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP). This is a protected species. We need to protect its habitat, which may call for amending mowing protocols in CHNP and in BirdSong.

Approved by the Superior Charter Township Park Commission on 12/15/2025

B. 2026 Budget Update

The 2026 budget was approved by the township board. For the Park budget, it included funding for staff including a 2% Cost of Living Allowance, but not for recreation or for maintenance supplies. Anything spent on those purposes has to come from Park Fund reserves.

C. Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL)-41-426 were provided for park commissioner information. These law impact Park Commission authority.

10. New Business

A. Election of 2026 Park & Recreation Commission Chair

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Curtis Freeman to elect Nahid Sanii-Yahyai as Chair. The motion carried.

B. Election of 2026 Park & Recreation Commission Vice-Chair

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Matthew Yahyai to elect Greg Vessels as Vice-Chair. The motion carried.

C. Election of 2026 Park & Recreation Commission Secretary

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Curtis Freeman to elect Martha Kern-Boprie as Secretary. The motion carried.

D. Park Maintenance Supervisor Promotion

Juan Bradford informed park commissioners that Marco Austin was hired as a seasonal employee in June 2023, and promoted to a permanent part-time position shortly after that. He recently studied for and passed the Certified Playground Safety Inspector course. Marco has served as interim Maintenance Supervisor since May 2025 and performed well in leading staff and structuring project completion. Juan recommended promoting Marco Austin to Parks Maintenance Supervisor on a permanent basis effective November 15, 2025 at the currently approved budget rate of \$32.85 per hour.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to approve promotion of Marco Austin to Parks Maintenance Supervisor on a permanent basis effective November 15, 2025 at the currently approved budget rate of \$32.85 per hour. The motion carried.

E. Christmas Tree Lighting Event volunteers

The Christmas Tree Lighting Event takes place on Saturday, December 6 at the Township Hall. The event begins at 6:00 pm. Volunteers should arrive by 5:30 pm. All park commissioners volunteered to assist with this event.

F. Tree Removal Request and Cherry Hill Nature Preserve from ITC

International Transmission Company (ITC) needs to remove two cherry trees and 500 square feet of brush in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP) to clear transmission lines. Juan Bradford reviewed the trees and vegetation in the request, and they will be removed.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Matthew Yahyai to approve payment of the bills totaling \$15,585.58 through 11/12/25. During discussion Juan Bradford noted that the total this month covers a shorter period of time, because the commission packet had to be prepared by 11/12/25. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

A. October 2025 Revenue and Expenditure Report

B. October 2025 Balance Sheet

Approved by the Superior Charter Township Park Commission on 12/15/2025

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Curtis Freeman to receive the October 2025 Revenue & Expenditure Report and the Balance Sheet. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Brenda Baker commented on three matters.

1. Public comments by the township's legal counsel in the LaSalle Construction lawsuit can provide a fair amount of information on this lawsuit.
2. She noted the township budget provided funding to Meals on Wheels for township residents in zipcodes 48197, 48198 and 48105. She asked why it was not provided to residents in zipcode 48170 (Plymouth). Martha Kern-Boprie noted there may not be a Meals on Wheels program for the Plymouth area. Trustee Sarah Devereaux said she would investigate this concern.
3. The reports and documentation provided by Ellen Kurath are available at the Ypsilanti District Library on Harris Road in Superior Township.

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai asked if a representative from the charter school in Superior Township could have a table at the Christmas Tree Lighting event. There was not support for this request.

Trustee Sarah Devereaux commented that amendments to the 2026 budget can be sought in the future as we move through the year.

Jack Smiley wants to re-visit Park & Recreation funds and use designation at a future meeting, perhaps in January 2026.

Juan Bradford asked Park Commissioners with township email addresses that do not use those email addresses to inform him, so the un-used email addresses can be cancelled. There is a monthly charge of \$6.00 per each township email address.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Greg Vessels to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,  
Martha Kern-Boprie  
Park Commissioner and Secretary