

Superior Charter Township Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
March 23, 2026

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, Willy Secrest, Colleen Gleason

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 Matthew Yahyai and supported by Curtis Freeman to approve the agenda with the addition of the following items:

Communications D. Dixboro Village Green 2026 Event Schedule

New Business C. Recommendation for Park Fund Balance allocation for BirdSong closing cost

The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

A. February 23, 2026

It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Greg Vessels to approve the minutes of 2/23/26 as drafted. The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation

Willy Secrest asked the Park Commission to place a memorial plaque or sign in Schroeter Park to recognize the many contributions Ellen Kurath made to Superior Township and its natural spaces during the 61 years she lived here. Park Commissioners thanked Willy, and Juan Bradford noted that a plaque will be placed on a park bench in Schroeter Park, in memory of Ellen.

7. Reports

A. Chairperson

Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported she attended the Township Board meeting on 3/23/26. She asked Juan Bradford for an update on hats for park commissioners. Juan brought the hats to the meeting.

B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He updated this report with news that drone photography of Superior Community Farm (part of the BirdSong preserve) has been completed. Four days of tennis instruction will be provided at Community Park to children for two hours per day on the following dates:

April 19, 2026

May 3, 2026

April 26, 2026

May 10, 2026

An anonymous donor is funding the \$1,500.00 cost of this instruction.

Approved by the Superior Charter Township Park Commission on April 27, 2026.

Oakbrook Neighborhood Sports program will resume in Oakbrook park, led by a different volunteer. This program will operate on one or two evenings per week for six weeks, at no cost to the township. Discussion took place on whether park reservation fees should be waived. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Curtis Freeman to waive park use fees for the Oakbrook Neighborhood Sports program during 2026. The motion carried. Sharon Bryant-Phillips suggested asking for donations from families participating in the sports program. Some park commissioners objected, as this could discourage some families from participating, the program is the type the township should provide if it had the funding, and any donations received would be insignificant to the Park Fund's financial position.

- C. Board Liaison
Trustee Sarah Devereaux submitted a written report on the March 16, 2026, township board meeting.
- D. Board Meeting Attendee
Martha Kern-Boprie attended the March 16, 2026, township board meeting, and submitted a written report on this meeting.
- E. Park Steward
No report, as Ellen Kurath died in February. A new park steward has yet to be recruited.
- F. Safety
No accidents or injuries in the past month.

8. Communications

- A. April Full Moon Forrest Immersion
- B. C2PST March Infographic
- C. Superior Spot Kickoff
- D. Dixboro Village Green 2026 Event Schedule

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

9. Old Business

- A. Birdsong Nature Preserve Update
Presentation by Colleen Gleason of Ducks Unlimited
Colleen Gleason of Ducks Unlimited (DU) gave a presentation on plans for Wetland and Grassland Restoration in Birdsong Nature Preserve, to be funded by a grant from DU. She informed the park commission that the work had to be completed by September 30, 2026, to use the grant funds. Colleen provided a map that detailed three fields to be planted with native grasses and wildflowers; and of wetlands that may need some earth sculpting.
Field #1 covers 9 acres and is currently densely vegetated with non-native plants, which will require removal to achieve successful planting of native grasses and wildflowers.
Field #2 covers 9.6 acres and Field #3 covers 14 acres; both fields are presently open land that is ready for planting.
Wetland #1 covers 1.8 acres and is recommended for a 0.3 acre pushout. A pushout involves pushing earth aside to make a modest berm of approximately 18 inches to help retain water in the wetland.
Wetland #2 covers 8.2 acres and is recommended for 3 pushouts of 0.3 acres each.
Wetland #3 covers 3.5 acres and is recommended for a low-level berm.

Trustee Sarah Devereaux asked how the vegetation would be removed in Field #1. Colleen responded that application of herbicide is planned. Sarah responded, objecting to the application of herbicides. Colleen explained that the herbicide application would be carefully planned to avoid dispersion by wind. Sarah responded that she is not only concerned about dispersion during the application process, but the presence of herbicide in the soil that will remain for years. Sarah noted that the

herbicide planned is either banned or restricted in most of western Europe. These countries successfully perform agricultural activities without use of this herbicide. Commissioner Sharon Bryant-Phillips suggested the use of tarps to kill the present vegetation. Sarah said that can work, and another option is to mow down the area, then plant a “smother” crop. In a few years, the field will be ready for planting.

Park Commissioner Jack Smiley objected to disturbing the wetlands with earth moving. He stated there are presently hundreds of waterfowl found in these wetlands, and questioned the advisability of changing the wetlands.

Colleen commented that she will review these comments and suggestions with her supervisor. She also stated the grant will only fund expenses through September of this year. If Field #1 is cleared via other methods that will require more time, grant funds will not cover the seeds. She also confirmed the grant cannot be used on properties outside of Birdsong Preserve.

B. Roadside Cleanup

The Roadside Cleanup Day is scheduled on April 18 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. At this point 40 volunteers have signed up to help. Posters about the cleanup contain a QR code or contact Steve Kraft via email at steve.kraft@superior-twp.org to volunteer.

Volunteers should bring: gloves, sturdy closed-toe shoes, re-usable water bottle, safety or sunglasses, sunscreen, bug repellent.

Township will provide: safety vests, trash bags, trash grabbers, snacks, and lunch at Old Town Hall.

10. New Business

A. Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 28 at 11:00 am at Fireman’s Park. The following park commissioners volunteered to help with this event:

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

Volunteers should arrive at Fireman’s Park by 10:00 am.

B. 2026 Budget Reduction Options

Juan Bradford reviewed with park commissioners that the adopted 2026 budget contained:

Revenue	\$359,647.00
Expense	<u>\$432,698.00</u>
Net deficit	(\$ 73,051.00) to come from the Park Fund Balance

Juan suggested some budget cuts that would decrease the net deficit. Those cuts included:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Savings</u>
Discontinue mowing non-park township properties	\$15,178.00
Eliminate staff education & training in 2026	\$ 3,000.00
Reduce Recreation Signage	\$ 1,500.00
Reduce food service at Kite & Rocket Day event	\$ 500.00
Combine Christmas Tree Lighting event with Dixboro Village Christmas event in Dixboro	<u>\$ 3,380.00</u>
Total budget expense decreases	\$23,558.00

Discussion took place on these suggestions. Martha Kern-Boprie supported all except the food decrease to the Kite & Rocket Day event. She said the food was important to the community served and not enough savings to be significant. Sharon Bryant-Phillips objected to combining the Christmas Tree Lighting event with the Dixboro Village Christmas event, as she liked having both events, and the event at township hall brought positive attention to the township. Jack Smiley commented that the Dixboro location was better for this event. Nahid Sanii-Yahyai noted the township board will have to

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pay someone, possibly an external vendor, to mow township properties, if the park staff do not perform this mowing. Nahid asked Trustee Devereaux to ask the township board to consider increasing the Park Fund budget by the amount they would pay someone else to perform the mowing.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Matthew Yahyai to recommend the following budgeted expense decreases to the 2026 Park Fund budget:

Dis-continue mowing non-park properties	(\$13,178.00)	Staff
	(\$ 2,000.00)	Supplies
Eliminate Staff Education & Training	(\$ 3,000.00)	
Decrease Recreation Signage	(\$ 1,500.00)	
Combine Christmas Tree Lighting event with Dixboro Village Christmas event	<u>(\$ 3,380.00)</u>	
Total	(\$23,058.00)	

Vote on the motion:

Yes 6

No 1 Sharon Bryant-Phillips

The motion carried.

- C. Recommendation for Park Fund Balance allocation to Birdsong Nature Preserve closing cost. Commissioner Jack Smiley informed the commission that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) awarded a Trust Fund grant to Superior Township in the amount of \$1,020,000.00 toward the cost of acquiring 162 acres from the Michigan Land Conservancy. As part of the Trust Fund agreement, Superior Township is required to place 10% (\$102,000.00) of the grant total into an escrow account with the title company for the closing. After the closing is complete and all grant conditions are met, the MDNR will release the \$102,000.00 back to Superior Township.

Commissioner Smiley suggested that the Park Fund provide the \$102,000.00 out of its Fund Balance to fund the 10% escrow deposit requirement, to allow the closing to take place. Commissioner Smiley estimated the turnaround time between the Park Fund paying \$102,000.00 to complete the closing and receipt of \$102,000.00 from the MDNR to be two to three months.

The following motion was made and voted on at the March 23, 2026, Park Commission meeting: It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai to recommend allowing utilization of \$102,000.00 of the Park Fund Balance to allow closing of the purchase of the 162 acre property from the Michigan Land Conservancy, which will be reimbursed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, after closing.

A roll call vote was taken.

Nahid Sanii-Yahyai	Yes
Greg Vessels	Yes
Martha Kern-Boprie	Yes
Jack Smiley	Abstain
Sharon Bryant-Phillips	Yes
Matthew Yahyai	Yes
Curtis Freeman	Yes

The motion carried.

11. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Sharon Bryant-Phillips to approve payment of the bills totaling \$23,646.01 at 3/23/26. During discussion on the motion, Jack Smiley asked what the expense of \$3,060.00 to Margolis Nurseries for Tree Planting was for. Juan Bradford explained it was an invoice for

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tree planting completed in 2025, and that the township would move it into 2025 business during the audit. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements

- A. February 2026 Revenue & Expenditure Report – PRE-AUDIT
- B. February 2026 Balance Sheet – PRE-AUDIT

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Greg Vessels to receive the February 2026 financial reports. The motion carried.

13. Pleas and Petitions

Greg Vessels commented that he is concerned that corrected 2025 W-2 forms have not been issued yet, and it is less than a month until tax returns are due. Juan Bradford noted that while he is not a tax accountant, the error concerned the 11/20/2025 payroll, and there were no park commissioner stipends paid on that payroll. It is each park commissioner’s decision, but it may be safe to file income tax returns with the data on the W-2 form released in January.

Juan Bradford noted he had a flyer about a presentation that will take place 3/27/26 at the Washtenaw County Resource Center about Data Centers and zoning issues about them.

Brenda Baker spoke in opposition to seeking donations from people participating in Oakbrook Neighborhood Sports. She is pleased that Superior Township parks and recreation events are available to everyone for free.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Curtis Freeman and supported by Matthew Yahyai to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm.

Submitted by,
Martha Kern-Boprie
Park Commissioner and Secretary