Approved by the Superior Charter Township Park Commission on 10/26/2026

Superior Charter Township Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
September 28, 2026

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order
   Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call
   Park Commissioners present: Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Greg Vessels, Martha Kern-Boprie, Curtis Freeman, Matthew Yahyai, Sharon Bryant-Phillips, Jack Smiley

   Park Commissioners absent: none

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

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 as drafted. The motion carried.

5. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval
   A. August 24, 2026
      It was moved by Curtis Freeman and supported by Matthew Yahyai to approve the minutes of August 24, 2026 with the following corrections:
      New Business C in the first sentence, in the words "...the BirdSong/Community Farm..." remove the slash mark so it reads "...the BirdSong Community Farm..."
      New Business C in the third sentence, in the words "...three of the 75 tillage acres..." correct the spelling of tillage to tillable so it reads "three of the 75 tillable acres..."
      The motion carried.

6. Citizen Participation
   Brenda Baker spoke about an error in the minutes of the August 24, 2026 meeting that summarized her comments made during Citizen Participation at that meeting. The first sentence in that summary contained the words :...and the action by the Township Board on August 17, 2026 constituted first reading approval." Brenda stated the board did not vote, and thus the word "approved" should be removed from the minutes.
   It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Matthew Yahyai to amend the minutes of August 24, 2026 by removing the word "approved" so the first sentence reads"...and the action by the Township Board on August 17, 2026 constituted first reading."

7. Reports
   A. Chairperson
      Chair Nahid Sanii-Yahyai reported she attended the Live! Here! Now! Event on September 12 in Fireman's Park. This event was sponsored and presented by the Ann Arbor Summer Festival. The event was well planned, well attended and well received by everyone present. The weather was also good. She was impressed by the efforts to encourage children to read.

   B. Director

Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added to that report that 93 children attended the Nature Hunt Bingo event in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve on September 26. He also informed park commissioners that a resident called and asked if she could hold a garage sale in Oakbrook Park. Apparently the resident lives in an apartment. Park commissioners were not supportive of this request. They suggested the resident contact the apartment management ask to use a common space or parking lot.

C. Board Liaison
Trustee Sarah Devereaux reviewed township board action on September 21.
Concerning Willow Run Acres/Clay Hill Farm, TC Collins told the board that the USDA staff member handling the grant application from Willow Run Acres/Clay Hill Farm that this staff member could not release to TC the grant award amount. Township attorney followed up with USDA and learned the USDA could release the award amount to TC Collins as the applicant, but not to anyone else. TC Collins could then release the dollar amount to anyone. The grant has to be spent according to the budget requested and approved. Under-spent award returns to the USDA. Martha Kern-Boprie commented that on many federal grants she administered, an appeal can be made to the sponsor to modify the budget allocation after the award is active.

Concerning action on Resolution 2026-42 impacting the "Rock" property, Sarah responded to questions from Jack Smiley asking why this was placed on the September board agenda instead of the October agenda, as the real estate closing would be complete by the end of September. While Sarah could not speak for all township board members, she had the impression that Trustee Greene wanted to move it forward. Sarah noted that the text in Martha Kern-Boprie's board attendee report on resolution 2026-42 was not entirely correct. Trustee Greene moved an amendment to the resolution to return the property to the Park Commission after a conservation easement was in place, but the amendment was not approved.

Concerning the 2027 Budget process, a work session on the preliminary budget will take place in late October or early November. The public hearing and budget approval is planned for the November township board meeting.

Concerning the township firearms ordinance, there is no change to what firearms may be legally used in Superior Township.

D. Board Liaison
Martha Kern-Boprie attended the September 21 township board meeting, and submitted a written report on the meeting.

E. Park Steward
Mike Soloman reported several trees and tree branches down in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve.

F. Safety
There were no accidents or injuries in the past month.

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

8. Communications
   A. Committee to Promote Superior Township: September 2026 Infographic
   B. Forest Immersions at Cherry Hill Nature Preserve

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 and Juan Bradford informed park commissioners the closing to purchase the 162 acres of BirdSong Nature Preserve will take place on Tuesday, September 29. It has taken about five years to complete this acquisition.

   B. Disc Golf Ribbon Cutting
   The ribbon cutting event for Superior Hollow Disc Golf course will take place on October 16 or 17. Juan Bradford will confirm the date and time to park commissioners later. This disc golf course is used extensively, and has been listed in the top ten such courses in Michigan.

   C. Proposed 2027 Parks & Recreation Budget
   The proposed 2027 Parks & Recreation Budget was prepared by Juan Bradford, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and Martha Kern-Boprie. In summary the proposed budget contains:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Revenue | $516,140.00 | |
| | | |
| Expense | $202,274.00 | Parks & Rec Administration |
| | $ 16,700.00 | Recreation |
| | $202,166.00 | Park Maintenance |
| | $ 95,000.00 | Park Development/Improvement |
| | $516,140.00 | |

   The $95,000.00 proposed for Park Development/Improvement is to be entirely funded by a grant in that amount from the National Fish and Wildlife Fund (NFWF). This $95,000.00 is included in the Revenue total. The requested General Fund contribution is $405,940.00.

   Jack Smiley commented that the NFWF grant project should be completed and fully expended in 2027 so there is no issue of carrying unspent budget forward into the next year. Jack also commented that the park commission should identify the source of funding the 2026 budget deficit, and make plans to restore that amount to the Park Fund Balance in a future year.

   D. Parks & Recreation Budget Explanations
   Juan Bradford provided a document explaining what the various account numbers covered.

   E. Board of Trustees Resolution 2026-42 concerning the “Rock” Property
   During the September 21 township board meeting, resolution 2026-42 was approved that returned the 301 acres known as the “Rock” property.

   Curtis Freeman asked how resolution 2026-42 helped the township in terms of funding, grants and other concerns.

   Trustee Sarah Devereaux commented she received the resolution the same day as Juan Bradford. The Township Supervisor told Sarah she (the Supervisor) would discuss the resolution with Parks.

   It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Matthew Yahyai that the Superior Township Parks & Recreation Commission directs the Parks & Recreation Director and staff to cease all operations and suspend all grant processing, grant administration, and grant procurement activities pertaining to the Superior Township Community Farm and the southern half of the BirdSong Nature Preserve until such time as the Township Board transfers jurisdiction and authority over these properties back to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

All activities pertaining to the BirdSong Nature Preserve shall be limited to the 162 acre parcel scheduled to be purchased by the Township on September 29, 2026.

The motion carried.

10. New Business
    A. Older Persons Millage Overview
    Cheryl Depner spoke with park commissioners about the older persons millage. Discussion covered the amount that could be generated by the millage, and challenges and opportunities to delivering services to older people in our communities, particularly rural areas.

    B. Pumpkin Carving Event October 24, 2026 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Norfolk Park
    Volunteers are needed for the Pumpkin Carving Event. The following park commissioners volunteered:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Nahid Sanii-Yahyai | Martha Kern-Boprie | Jack Smiley |
| Matthew Yahyai | Curtis Freeman | Sharon Bryant-Phillips |

    Volunteers should arrive at Norfolk Park by 10:30 am. 130 pumpkins have been committed by Farmer Sean for this event.

11. Bills for Payment
    It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Curtis Freeman to approve payment of the bills totaling $158,215.21 through 9/28/2026. The motion carried.

12. Financial Statements
    A. August 2026 Revenue & Expenditure Report
    B. August 2026 Balance Sheet
    It was moved by Greg Vessels and supported by Curtis Freeman to receive the August 2026 financial statements. During discussion on the motion Jack Smiley asked why the revenue budget for General Fund Contribution decreased by $50,000.00 from $343,947.00 to $293,947.00. The action expanded the budget deficit from ($73,051.00) to ($113,051.00). Park Commissioners did not know. Trustee Sarah Devereaux commented that the budget change was requested by Plant & Moran staff as part of a periodic budget review of all funds. The Township Board approved the budget amendments by unanimous vote. Juan Bradford said he would request a meeting with the Township Supervisor to discuss this budget amendment. The motion to receive the financial statements was approved by a vote of 5 Yes to 2 No. The no votes were Jack Smiley and Sharon Bryant-Phillips.

13. Pleas and Petitions
    Curtis Freeman asked for an update on the community center under construction near Stamford and Dawn. Juan Bradford responded that earthmoving is underway. Plans have been submitted.

    Sharon Bryant-Phillips asked why township park commissioners are not receiving free passes to state parks.

    Sarah Devereaux found notes in the budget amendments that the budget must be amended when deviation from adopted budget exceeds a certain amount.

14. Adjournment
    It was moved by Matthew Yahyai and supported by Greg Vessels to adjourn at 8:28 pm. The motion carried.

    Submitted by,
    Martha Kern-Boprie, Park Commissioner and Secretary