

ONEKAMA VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 19, 2014

At 8 a.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2014, Co-Chairperson Jon Phillips opened the Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee regular monthly meeting in the Onekama Township Hall. Agendas were distributed. Other Committee members present were Howard Hughes, co-chairperson; Mary Lou Millard, vice chairperson; Tom Gerhardt, secretary-treasurer; Roger Burger; Ken Franklin; Alice Hendricks; Sally Koon; and Mary Reed. Tim Ervin of the Alliance for Economic Success was present as was Carrie Paxton of Onekama Marine.

Langland Park Grant Application—Tim Ervin of the Alliance for Economic Success was at the meeting to answer questions about and to discuss the **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for Langland Park**. Phillips said that members present at the April meeting wanted to know about the **“trailhead under the Blue Water Trails program” that is in the grant application**. **[The Langland Park Background handed to the Township Board on March 4, 2014, included the following statement:**

“In a recent discussion with the section chief and staff of the M-DNR grants section that oversees the Natural Resources Trust Fund, several ideas for improving the score of the Langland Park proposal were discussed; and there will be follow-up discussions about those opportunities. One potential significant opportunity is to have the Park identified as a site under the new Blue Water Trails program, which could potentially increase the score by 50 points, which, if this occurs, should put the application well within the funding range.”]

Ervin said that there is **currently emphasis in parks and recreation on trails, as a Statewide network of trails is being formed**. There are land and water trails, hence the new Blue Water Trails program, which has places to land with kayaks or canoes near the water where also are available mobi mats and rest rooms. Manistee and Arcadia have been applying for grants indicating that their sites are stops on the “Blue Water Trails.” This would also include trails for non-motorized transportation.

Ervin went on to say that a biking trail is possible along Portage Point Road. He spoke about the **park project at Eastlake**, which was awarded a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, and the other income it has generated for projects in that community. Gerhardt asked if Eastlake had its own five-year plan for parks and recreation; Ervin said that an updated plan for Eastlake had been submitted.

Erwin said that there is a **preliminary scoring of the grants done, which would probably happen in another month.** Applicants do have a chance to increase their scores at that time. The **grants awarded are announced in early December.**

Howard Hughes asked about the possibility of having a **fish-cleaning station** here that would be funded by a grant. Erwin said that one could be placed on the fishing site that might be developed next to Portage Point Inn, but they do require a water supply and sewage disposal. In Manistee, the solids at the fish-cleaning station are screened out before they go into the sewer. Reed asked about the cost of a fish-cleaning station; Erwin said that a smaller one that would be adequate for Arcadia would cost around \$100,000; a larger one adequate for Manistee would be around \$200,000. These prices would be without restrooms.

Phillips asked Erwin **what should the Committee work on in the future?** Erwin said that because of interest in wetlands by those funding projects, Portage Wetlands Park should be considered for the next major project. AES would help with the development of a request for proposals for the design work and the seeking of grants for the Park. Reed mentioned that the Portage Lake Watershed Forever had a Wetlands Committee that could function again.

Mowing at North Point Park—Darryl and Sandra Paldan, who have a home at 8980 Bayview of which the backyard adjoins North Point Park, stopped in at the meeting **to volunteer to mow the edges of The Long Loop of the Blanche Miller Trail.** Co-Chairperson Phillips thanked them and said that he would check with the Township officials to see if there is any issue with liability about them doing the mowing and let them know early next week.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report—Co-Chairperson Howard Hughes moved and Vice Chairperson Millard seconded that the **minutes of the May 15, 2014, meeting be approved. The motion carried.**

Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt presented the **financial report for the North Point Park Fund.** The bank balance was \$18,738.76 on May 1, 2014; and with no activity, the balance remained at \$18,738.76 on May 31, 2014. The checkbook balance was the same amount.

Gerhardt had attended the **Manistee Revenue Sharing** meeting at the Manistee Township Hall on June 9, 2014, during which some grants were awarded. However, for Local Public Safety, which has high priority, only nine out of twenty-four applications were funded, for a total of around \$114,000 out of around \$717,205 requested. At the end of the awarding of these grants, Onekama Township was given \$3,945 for funds to purchase emergency LED flood lighting for the Onekama Township Fire Department.

Gerhardt said that Bob Blackmore and Clinton Osborn were there, sitting at the front table in the audience, which he believes brought this last addition by the Revenue Sharing Board to the grants awarded for Public Safety. None of the nine Other Lawful Local Government Purpose applications requesting \$151,067 were funded. Onekama

Township's application requesting \$8,500 for an irrigation well at North Point Park was included in this latter category.

The Onekama Township Board at its May 6 meeting had voted to allow Parks and Recreation to proceed to have a welldriller install a well at North Point Park at a cost not to exceed \$9,000. Gerhardt said that \$1,000 more should be deposited in the North Point Park Fund to accompany the \$8,000 the Township had placed in the Fund from the General Fund 2013-2014 year-end Budget balance on March 12, 2014, for the well. There was **no report for the Township's General Fund 2014-2015 Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities.**

For the Pierhead Light, \$1,425 has now been donated, not including \$200 anticipated from the Portage Lake Garden Club and \$200, from the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation. Donors include: Reverend Alec Brooks, Jack and Joyce Fischer, Paul and Ruth Anne Hickman, Lee and Lisa Nordloh, Bill and Babs Vaughan, Barbara Forwood, Sally Wood, and Gary Workman. It is estimated that \$2,000 is needed to place a bronze historical plaque at the site (\$700) and to complete the wiring for the Light (\$1,300).

Koon made the motion to go ahead with the electrical work; Howard Hughes seconded it. The motion carried. Later in the meeting in the discussion of the activities for Parks Appreciation Day, August 2, Franklin made the motion and Hughes seconded it that the Pierhead Light should be lighted for that Day, for the serving of the ice cream. The motion carried.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever—Reed told the Committee about a **series of programs to be presented by the Portage Lake Watershed Forever, "Tuesdays with Water," July 15-August 19, 2014, 5-7 p.m., in Farr Center.** The series features what you should know about living with, near, or on Portage Lake.

Participants are still needed for the **program to monitor the depth of the water in streams** feeding into Portage Lake. The program, CrowdHydrology, operates with readings reported on cell phones.

A **recent survey of Portage Lake has found very little Eurasian Milfoil in the waters.** Reed went on to report that the **Watershed Fundraiser will be on July 26 at the Portage Point Inn.**

Onekama Consolidated Schools—Koon said that **outdoor sports at the Onekama School had started. Summer school is being held with bus service being provided. Four seats on the School Board will be filled in the November 4 general election, at which time also two bond issues will be placed in front of the voters of the School District.**

Roger Burger said that **Leann Burger is working with Leaps and Bounds at the School.**

Tree Subcommittee—Howard Hughes reported for the Tree Subcommittee. There has been **unauthorized tree cutting in Glen Park,** so the Subcommittee has had signs

made asking people not to cut trees. The **Tree Subcommittee** also is soliciting advice on the tree cutting necessary in Glen Park as well as estimates for the work. A treetop is down on the trail in the northwest corner of the Park.

Hughes also talked about the **addition of an irrigation system to the new well when completed for watering trees in an arboretum that has been started at North Point Park.** It will consist of around 5,000 feet of plastic pipe with thirty-eight 20- to 30-foot hoses running to the trees, according to a diagram distributed. A June 13, 2014, **inventory of the trees other than pines planted also distributed indicates that ninety-two of one hundred seventy-one such trees planted or replanted at North Point Park have lived thus far.**

Park Watchers—Hughes reported that the **five fire rings, donated by Wendell III and Shirley Brooks, are in place at Langland Park.** A second sign has been ordered to be posted about the use of the fire rings. Hendricks reported on the **shoreline project at the Onekama Village Park.** Waiting on permits and the rain have delayed the project, which is now underway and might be finished by the Fourth of July. The play equipment has been relocated but cannot be used until further work is done. Part of the Peron steps to the shore have been done. New sand will be used.

Franklin asked **why have Feldhak Park if you cannot do anything with it?** Could the Committee put together a plan and approach family members with it to see if they would allow landscaping and tables to be added to enhance the view there. Millard said that she would ask the Onekama Township Board if the Committee could prepare a plan and talk to family members?

Gerhardt said that the **Glen Park sign at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Main Street needs to be repainted.** Millard will talk to Township Clerk Helen Mathieu about this.

Parks Appreciation Day—August 2, 2014, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., is Parks Appreciation Day at the North Point Park parking lot. Paxton said that Onekama Marine would provide one-half of the food and the preparation of it as was done last year. Roger Burger said that Leann Burger had taken care of the publicity that is to appear in the brochure for Onekama Days. As has been mentioned before at this meeting, ice cream will be served at the Pierhead Light, which is to be lighted.

Discussion about **children's activities** on August 2, such as the **"Sharks in Our Parks"** held in previous years, brought the consensus that there should be no children's activities for this year. The **park map and the new "Parks and Recreation Guide," for which Koon will have a proof at the July 17 meeting, could be presented in a display on August 2.**

Millard then distributed copies of the reprinted **North Point Park "Walking with Nature"** and **"Onekama Community Parks and Recreation Sites You May Want To Visit," which also could be presented in the display.** Gerhardt reminded the group that the new "Parks and Recreation Guide" has the parks and sites keyed to the map in "Onekama Community Parks and Recreation Sites You May Want To Visit." Therefore, the two brochures should be distributed together.

It was decided that there would be a **single jar for donations for parks**. The Committee's share of the cost for Parks Appreciation Day will be taken out of the funds received in this jar.

Rip Tide Signs—Co-Chairperson Phillips will talk to Jim Mrozinski, chairperson of the Portage Lake Harbor Commission, about the **replacement of the warning signs for rip tides at the Portage Lake Channel**.

Wiffle Ball—Franklin presented a “**Wiffle Ball Proposal**.” He had with him a plastic bat and ball that are used in playing wiffle ball. Hendricks asked if there could be a **demonstration of this during Onekama Days**, perhaps on the Onekama School field behind Spirit? Franklin will talk with School Superintendent Kevin Hughes about this. It would be a demonstration with people invited to participate in it. The day, place, and time would have to be established.

Former Community Dock Sections—Phillips reported that the **former Community Dock Sections** had been removed from the Outlet Avenue Road End and stored at North Point Park. Millard moved and Hendricks seconded that the Committee recommend to the Township Board **that these be used to provide a bypass over the wetlands in Glen Park where the upper trail goes beyond the north boundary of the Park**. The motion carried.

The Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation at its Labor Day meeting on September 5, 2012, offered these surplus sections to the Township. At that time, there were eleven sections, 35 inches by 8 feet. The wooden decking was retained with aluminum running the length on both sides of each section.

Bids for Outlet Avenue Sidewalk Replacement—Gerhardt said that sidewalks were added in Portage Park Resort the year after the subdivision was platted. It was platted in 1915. This **cracked sidewalk on the Outlet Avenue Road End might be an original**. It was the consensus of the Committee that Phillips **obtain bids for replacing the walk with concrete, crushed stone, wood chips, or a boardwalk**. Gerhardt also will discuss this with the Resort Corporation at its July 11 meeting in the Township Hall. The Resort Corporation is responsible for the maintenance of this road end and the Community Dock on it.

Onekama Village Information—Roger Burger reported that **paving is to start on the lower part of Mill Street today**. Rudi Milasich and Hendricks are **exploring the possibility or not of establishing a launch fee for the Village Park boat ramp**. They will report to the Village Council their recommendations. **Planning and zoning** were discussed at length during the June 18 Village Council meeting.

Portage Lake Association—Phillips reported that the **Portage Lake Association Eighteenth Annual Fundraiser, “Two Lakes To Love,”** will be on June 28. The **Portage Petunia Parade** is in, but the work goes on.

Next Meeting and Adjournment—The Community Parks and Recreation meeting for June 19, 2014, adjourned at 10:49 a.m. The next regular Committee meeting is on Thursday, July 17, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., in the Onekama Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer