

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

April 16, 2015

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At 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015, Chairperson Jon Phillips opened the Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee regular monthly meeting in the Onekama Township Hall. Agendas had been distributed. Other Committee members present were Mary Lou Millard, vice chairperson; Tom Gerhardt, secretary-treasurer; Leann Burger; Roger Burger; Ken Franklin; Kevin Hughes; Sally Koon; Paul Mueller; and Mary Reed. Rudi Milasich and Mark Bischak were in the audience. Township Clerk Helen Mathieu sat in on the meeting for awhile as well.

***Approval of the Minutes of March 19, 2015***—Millard moved that the minutes of the March 19, 2015, meeting be approved. Mueller seconded the motion; the motion carried.

***Public Comment***—Milasich complimented the group on the work that it had done to advance the parks in Onekama Township and Village.

***Secretary-Treasurer's Report***—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt presented the financial report for the North Point Park Fund. The balance on March 1, 2015, was \$19,872.76. On March 4, 2015, a correcting entry was posted to return an amount of \$12.00 that had been erroneously taken out of the account and posted on February 2, 2015, returning the balance to \$19,884.76, the current balance. LaVonne Beebe, Township treasurer, says that in the future, this separate account may be closed out with checks then to be written from the General Fund for North Point Park.

Gerhardt then gave the Township General Fund Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015, expenditures: General Parks expenses, \$3,457.69; Glen Park, \$100.00; Langland Park, \$2,621.82; Feldhak Park, \$0.00; Harbor Commission, \$0.00; Village Park, \$5,000.00 (for Boat Launch Ramp); and Portage Wetlands Park, \$0.00. The total of these expenditures is \$11,179.51. There was \$80,000.00 budgeted for Recreation/Parks Activities for 2014-2015. This amount included one-half of the grant match for Langland Park, \$43,500.00, which was not spent. Remaining of the 2014-2015 budget (\$80,000.00) for Recreation/Parks Activities is \$68,820.49.

For April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016, \$80,000.00 was budgeted for Recreation/Parks; \$137,000.00 was budgeted for Langland Park (1—\$87,000.00 for the match for the grant received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund in December,

2014, of \$261,000.00 for a \$348,000.00 shoreline improvement project and 2—\$50,000.00 for other expenses at Langland Park). These amounts for Recreation/Parks (\$80,000.00) and Langland Park (\$137,000.00) are included in the \$1,487,265.18 Township General Fund 2015-2016 Budget, which was adopted by Resolution 2015-07 at a Special Township Board meeting on March 30, 2015.

Roger Burger reported on the Village expenditures for parks at the March 19 meeting for the previous fiscal year; he had nothing yet to report for the current fiscal year of the Village, which runs March 1, 2015-February 29, 2016.

***Portage Lake Watershed Forever***—Reed said that the Portage Lake Watershed Forever would be **labeling Village storm sewer drains with warnings not to pour contaminants down them, as they empty into Portage Lake.** The **Watershed cleanup day will begin on May 1 at 10 a.m. in the Onekama Village Park.** Road ends to Portage Lake and Lake Michigan that need clean-up will be identified.

***Tree Subcommittee***—Saturday, May 9, 2015 will be the Arbor Day Celebration at North Point Park that will be organized by the Tree Subcommittee of Parks and Recreation. It will be at 10 a.m. under the shelterhouse. Josh Shields, Outreach Forester of the Manistee Conservation District, will give a demonstration on tree planting.

There will be information on invasive plants and diseases of trees. Native shrubs to plant at home will be given away. Ten or twelve larger trees will be planted, as it is felt that these have a better chance of survival than the smaller trees, especially if the irrigation system is completed.

**The Tree Subcommittee is meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2015, at Paul Mueller's.** The needs of the trees at Glen Park will also be discussed at this meeting.

***County Park and Recreation Plan***—Reed and Phillips have been attending the meetings for the County park and recreation plan, which have been held at the Big Bear Sportsman's Club, 8927 Puustinen Road, Kaleva, the second Monday of the month, 5:30 p.m. At the April 13 meeting, plans were drawn as to how communities could be connected by a trail system in Manistee County. **Reed reported that there is a survey being conducted. The Manistee County Parks, Recreation, and Trail Plan Survey is on the website, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/recreationplansurvey>.**

***Explore the Shores Subcommittee***—The Explore the Shores Subcommittee will provide input on the Langland Park project and will help with the kayak launch project. Resolution 2015-10, "Development of Universally Accessible Kayak and Canoe Launch Facilities on Portage Lake," was approved by the Onekama Township Board at its April 7 regular meeting. On March 19, Parks and Recreation had recommended that the Township Board adopt this resolution.

***Park Watchers***—Phillips suggested that the group review the Park Watchers and receive any reports that they may have at this time.

**Feldhak Park—Paul Mueller, who was reminded that a shrub can be placed on either side of the Park marker.**

**Glen Park—Leann Burger, who walks there around twice weekly. There are trees down on the south loop of the trail. Repairs are needed on the stairs by the wellhouses. There is a small tree down in the campfire area.**

**Rotary Park—Leann Burger will also watch this Park. She says that she will ask the Manistee Rotary Club, which improved this Park and asked that it be named for Rotary, to place a lighted flagpole there.**

**North Point Park—Jon Phillips, who will also ask Don Oswell of the Tree Subcommittee to assist him.**

**Carden Park—Sally Koon**

**Langland Park—Tom Gerhardt, who said that there was not a lot of sand blown into the gazebo complex this spring.**

***Glen Park Trees, Repairs, and Trails*—Discussion turned to the work that needs to be done at Glen Park. There are trees that need to be removed from trails as well as dead trees that need to be removed to eliminate the danger created by them falling. This work was deferred to the Tree Subcommittee for discussion at next Tuesday's meeting.**

**It was decided that professional assistance might be needed to design and build a bypass for the north loop of the trail, which currently runs beyond the north boundary line of the property. Also, this assistance is needed to repair and build other bridges and stairs (including the stairs near the wellhouses).**

Phillips said that he and Gerhardt had met with Susan Conradson, watershed specialist, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division, Cadillac, on August 5, 2014, at the site of the bypass, which would go over the wetlands that are the origin of Glen Creek. She said that a minor M-DEQ permit probably would be needed for this work. It would be under \$100.

**It was the consensus of the Committee members present that an on-site visit to the Park is necessary to determine the tasks ahead of them. Phillips said that he would notify the members by email of this visit after the Tree Subcommittee meets on Tuesday. Phillips also had a colored drawing available of the Glen Park sign that the Committee had ordered to be purchased from Amor Sign Studios of Manistee at the March 19 meeting. The sign had added "Historic Marker" at Gerhardt's request.**

**Hughes mentioned that his family might be willing to pay for a specific project in Glen Park as a memorial to their parents, Howard and Pat Hughes, who were long-time members of Parks and Recreation.**

**North Point Park and Pierhead Light**—Phillips reported that the mounting panels and meter boxes were in for the electric services at North Point Park and the Pierhead Light. Gerhardt had pictures of the wooden structures. Phillips continued that the power would be brought from the poles to the meter boxes by Consumers Energy the last week in April or first week in May.

Gerhardt said that Jim Mrozinski believes that there should be a speaker of note at the July 5 dedication of the Pierhead Light. He is willing to donate part of the expenses.

**Langland Park Shoreline Improvement Project**—Phillips reported that the Michigan Legislature and Governor have approved the appropriation for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for the Langland Park shoreline improvement project. An agreement now has to be signed with the M-DNR for the project. An individual or firm to handle the design and engineering for the project also must be chosen.

Milasich reported on the status of the application for the permit from the M-DEQ for the removal of the sand build-up at Langland Park. He said that the plan is to expand the parking lot 120 feet to the west, bringing it up to the gazebo complex. He showed a diagram of this plan. Also a copy of a 1950 picture of what was then known as the "Turnaround" was passed around; it showed no buildup of sand. The area in front of the parking lot was flat. The wind has blown the sand into a "dune." Milasich has been appointed by the Township Board to prepare the application necessary for the removal of the sand.

**Parks Appreciation Day**—Parks Appreciation Day is on Saturday, August 8, 2015, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., during Onekama Days, which is August 7-9. The organization of Sharks in Our Parks for North Point Park and/or Glen Park was discussed. An activity for children has been requested by the Onekama Lions Club, which is co-sponsoring Onekama Days with the Portage Lake Association. Leann Burger asked if it is really the Committee's function to do something for entertainment for the youngsters?

Milasich said that the Lions are just looking for help, because membership and funds are down. He suggested that there be a nature walk with trees and plants at Glen Park. Phillips said that the Committee should think about this and decide on a children's activity next time. Gerhardt reminded the group that May 23 is the deadline for the submission of publicity for events to be placed in the Onekama Days brochure.

Leann Burger said that she noticed in the March 19 minutes that she was to be asked to represent the group at the Onekama Days Committee meetings to be held on the third Saturday, 9 a.m., at the M-22 Grill. She said that she could not meet on Saturday, so Parks and Recreation needs to appoint someone else.

**Beach Volleyball**—Phillips wanted to know the status of placing a volleyball net at the beach in the Onekama Village Park. Milasich said that it was not in the proposal for the shoreline project at the Village Park. The beach area is small now, and there is not adequate room for it. He asked if it could be put at Langland Park? Millard stated that Langland Park often was crowded during the summer, with parking overflowing

down Second Street. The net might be placed where the tennis courts used to be in the Village Park. Milasich thought that volleyball could be played at Langland Park in the morning when the crowds are not there.

**Roger Burger and Phillips will meet about offering facilities for beach volleyball.**

***Pickleball*—Phillips welcomed back Franklin and asked him to report on pickleball. Franklin said that when he returned his reimbursement check for the welding and materials for the iron stanchions to hold the pickleball net, he intended the Committee to authorize the purchase of an official pickleball net and temporary stanchions to hold it.**

Leann Berger detailed the equipment and its uses; it is stored at the Onekama School in her office. She said the two iron stanchions, which Franklin paid for, are at the School along with a tennis-grade net that has been used with these when they are set up on a School tennis court when School is not in session. A tennis-grade net was purchased because it is not as fragile as a pickleball net and can be left up in varying weather conditions. She went on to explain that one of the stanchions had to be returned for repairs, after it was turned over by a student at the School.

**She and Franklin agreed that a pickleball net should be used for tournaments and special contests, but it cannot be left out except for the specific event. It should be ordered in a pickleball portable kit. Phillips said that he would find a catalog listing for it; Leann Berger said that she might be able to acquire it for less money.**

***Onekama Consolidated Schools*—Koon reported that the year is winding up at the Onekama School. Sports are seeing their last contests.**

***Onekama Village Parks*—Roger Burger said that the Village maintenance men have been cleaning the parks. The boat dock is in at the Onekama Village Park. The period for comment will close soon for the permits for the final work to be done in refreshing the sand on the beach for the shoreline project in the Village Park undertaken with the grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund. The MDOT permit for the Portage Petunia Parade is in place.**

***Next Meeting and Adjournment*—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for April 16, 2015, adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, May 21, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,



Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer