

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

February 18, 2016

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At 8:04 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2016, 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 Vice Chairperson Mary Lou Millard, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Gerhardt, Leann Burger, Roger Burger, Kevin Hughes, and Mary Reed. Al Taylor of the Explore the Shores Subcommittee and Don Oswell of the Tree Subcommittee were also present. Fire Captain Clinton Osborn, Township Supervisor David Meister, and Township Clerk Helen Mathieu were at the meeting briefly.

***Approval of the Minutes of January 21, 2016***—Millard moved that the minutes of the January 21, 2016, meeting be approved. Leann Burger seconded the motion; the motion carried.

***Addition of Items to the Agenda***—Taylor stated that there will be the Township Budget workshop on Wednesday, March 9, at 1 p.m in the Onekama Township Hall. This is for the April 1, 2016-March 31, 2017, Township Budget. Requests for Parks and Recreation budget items need to be presented by that time. These items will be discussed under the Agenda item, “2016-2017 Planning Priorities.”

***Secretary-Treasurer’s Report***—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt said that there has been another update to the financial report for Recreation/Parks of the Onekama Township Profit and Loss Budget Performance, April 1 through December 29, 2015, that was presented at the last meeting. The update was issued on January 29, 2016.

The categories and the amounts spent for the stated period (April 1, 2015-January 29, 2016) are General Parks, \$9,218.64; Glen Park, \$4,955.00; Lake Michigan Park (Langland Park), \$1,097.27; Feldhak Park, \$770.00; Harbor Commission, \$0.00; Village Parks, \$0.00; Wetlands Park, \$0.00; Langland Park, \$15,029.29, out of a budgeted \$137,000.00 (includes Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant match of \$87,000.00); North Point Park, \$5,864.66, out of a budgeted \$15,918.33; DNR Park, \$132.82; and Other, \$0.00, giving a total of \$37,067.68 (15.9 percent) spent for Recreation/Parks out of a budget of \$232,918.33, leaving a balance of \$195,850.65 as of January 29, 2016.

Between December 29 and January 29, additional bills were paid for Glen Park, Langland Park, and North Point Park. Taylor wanted to know the expenditures listed for Langland Park. Gerhardt said that the following balances are listed for expenditures

April 1, 2015-January 29, 2016: Utilities, \$900.00; Matching Grant, \$9,995.00; Supplies, \$0.00; Contractual Services, \$41.70; Repairs and Maintenance, \$60.00; Miscellaneous, \$1,401.09; Channel Expense, \$131.50; and Langland Park Other, \$2,500.00, giving a total of \$15,029.29 (11 percent of the budget for Langland Park). Gerhardt said that he did not have the detail of the actual bills paid; this will have to be obtained from the Township clerk or treasurer.

**Tree Subcommittee**—Reed reported that **some of the members of the Tree Subcommittee had met on January 18. They would like to do something like the Arbor Day activities of the past years, but the event would not necessarily have to be on Arbor Day.** A possibility is to have an event scheduled on Earth Day, April 22.

Using planters for trees along Main Street has been discussed. It is believed that they still will live through extreme cold planted in planters. Taylor said that governmental permits would have to be obtained. The Subcommittee will meet again soon to plan this activity. The status of trees planted last year in North Point Park is to be checked.

**Explore the Shores Projects**—Taylor reported on **projects being undertaken by the Explore the Shores Subcommittee.** He shared information about a MDNR sample lease that he had received for the **M-DNR Launch Site, where the kayak launch would be located** if a grant is received. The **lease would be for thirty years at no rental cost to the Township.** Under this agreement, the Township could charge a boat launch fee for those using the Site, but this fee must be charged to everyone with no wavier for residents. There has to be liability insurance for people who come to look at the Pierhead Light or enter other leased property at the Launch Site.

If the Township leased the Launch Site, there might be something worked out on sharing costs with and/or the Township paying for the employees or contractors currently used by the M-DNR for maintenance at the Launch Site. Taylor said that he would check on these items with Melinda Eberbach, Park Supervisor at Orchard Beach State Park, who has also provided figures on **what the State is spending to maintain the Launch Site.** Orchard Beach is responsible for the maintenance and local administration of the Site.

Taylor had a sheet indicating the expenditures that he had found thus far upon consulting with Eberbach. **Seasonal costs** include lawn mowing and care, restroom servicing, and snow plowing—\$3,300. **Annual costs** include removing skid pier, placing skid pier, cleaning cement planks, pumping out toilet, parking lot maintenance, removing kayak launch (if one is installed), and placing kayak launch—\$2,250. **Extraordinary costs** include replacing skid pier, replacing concrete pads, replacing kayak launch, dredging, and new signage—\$146,500. These costs will be presented at the next regular Onekama Township meeting on March 1, 2016.

Oswell asked about administrative costs for this site. Taylor said that the administration of this site might be assigned to a Township trustee. Leann Burger asked about maintenance costs of the approach to the dock. Hughes inquired about the cost of replacing the vault toilet. Taylor said these items would have to be figured in also.

**Phillips asked if some of the members present would comment on their feelings about the Township leasing the M-DNR Launch Site.** Leann Burger said that she would not be comfortable making a decision now without having more information and then considering the matter further. Oswell asked what more would we have than we do now for the money that the Township would have to spend to maintain and administer the property. Taylor mentioned that the M-DNR might not allow the kayak launch to be put at the Launch Site without the lease of the entire property. And, the kayak launch would expand the Township's recreational facilities if it is constructed. Hughes said that the M-DNR should be using its own funds to maintain these sites.

**The Alliance for Economic Success is supposed to apply for a grant for the kayak launch project. The deadline is April 1 for the application to be submitted.**

The **Langland Park project** was also reported on by Taylor, who is project manager. He said that a better **location for the bicycle racks** (for ten-fifteen bicycles) has been suggested at the northeast corner of the parking lot just north of the restroom. The short rack currently near the southwest corner of the parking lot and a new longer rack would both be utilized at this new site. On **parking of automobiles**, the Manistee County Road Commission says that the Michigan State Police has been consulted about the design of parking there.

There will be a **pre-bid meeting in March for the Langland Park project; the opening of the bids will be in April. Work will begin in the spring and continue until July. It will then resume again in September.** There will be one path leading to the beach from the northwest corner of the parking lot. The present gazebo complex will be renovated and only be used for observation. The present path to the beach leading from the gazebo complex will be blocked off. The monument for Captain John Langland, who was keeper of the pierhead light from its erection in 1891 to its automation in 1917, will remain in its present location.

The proposed well to provide water for washing sand off of visitors to the beach cannot be done without a septic system or sewer connection. A fence is being erected at the south boundary of the Park by request of Onekama Township.

**Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan**—Chairperson Phillips said that **the Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan had been approved by the Manistee County Board of Commissioners.** The Manistee News Advocate reported this approval on February 17, 2016. The Plan makes all of the governmental entities in the County eligible to apply for parks and recreation grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

**2016-2017 Planning Priorities**— At the January 21 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting—Millard, Reed, Leann Burger, Taylor, and Phillips volunteered to meet at 8 a.m. on January 28, 2016, in the Township Hall to make a list of parks and recreation projects for Onekama Township and Village in 2016-2017, and establish approximate costs and prioritize them as well as create a timeline for them. The attached document, **“Onekama Parks and Recreation Committee Long-Range**

**Planning Priorities Meeting Notes, Thursday, January 28, 2016,"** was developed by the volunteer group.

Meister reminded everyone that these items need to be in by March 9 in time for the 1 p.m. Township Budget workshop at the Onekama Township Hall. Gerhardt thought the **priority of replacing the stairs at Glen Park with metal ones would result in a more permanent structure, but would be very costly.** Leann Burger said that moss grows on the wooden treads of the stairs in the wooden structure. Oswell suggested using metal treads. Gerhardt said that the proposed project might have woven wire treads incorporated into the existing repaired or a new wooden structure. A primitive stair system also was mentioned. Taylor agreed to ask what Orchard Beach State Park does to access the beach below the bluff.

**The availability of monetary figures for some of these projects** then was discussed: North Point Park irrigation system (estimate is available), Village Park restrooms (Roger Burger says that the figures can be obtained), signage (in the conceptual plans done by Beckett & Raeder for some of the parks in Onekama Village and Township with the addition of 20 percent for cost increases), bridge in Glen Park (to be provided by Jason Sievert), and boardwalk for birdwatching in Eagles View Wetlands—A Community Preserve accessed through Feldhak Park (Taylor can obtain these figures).

**Onekama Consolidated Schools**—Hughes reported that the **community education program continues to do well at the Onekama School.** The **School has partnered with the Manistee Recreation Association in the youth basketball program.** The **enrollment at the School is holding steady.** All **school boards in Manistee County met recently;** Sally Koon, president of the Board of the Onekama Consolidated Schools, was there.

Hughes further reported that **there has been some consideration of a County-Wide School System.** There already is some County-wide sharing of responsibilities in the business operations of the schools as well as sports and school lunches. A lot could be done in the way of shared instruction.

**Although County population is steady, families do not have as many younger members anymore. Homecoming this fall will not be on the same weekend as the Portage Lake Association Fall Festival.** Hughes will let Taylor know the date. **Five percent of the price of the items sold at the liquidation of Saco's Market in Onekama will be donated to the Onekama School by Blarney Castle, the new owner of the market.**

**Village of Onekama**—Roger Burger had nothing further to report.

**Portage Lake Watershed Forever**—Reed reported the **Portage Lake Watershed Forever has been working on its partnership in the Manistee Coalition of Watersheds.** **Plans are being made to have a meeting with the realtors. The rain garden is being planned at Farr Center;** the Watershed is working on funding for this. The project will also educate the public. The **group is working on its budget.** Phillips would like a

coordinated date set for members of groups (including the Onekama School) to do park and shoreline cleaning projects. Taylor said that he would put it in the community calendar.

**Portage Lake Association**—Taylor told the group that the PLA is looking into an alternative launch site for the fireworks. A barge is a possibility. The PLA is organizing the Portage Petunia Parade and June Fundraiser; the organization also is working on the standardization of the Onekama logo. The PLA is investing \$2,300 into an Onekama section for the Shoreline Visitors Guide, which is widely distributed along the Michigan shoreline of Lake Michigan. Advertising will be sold to appear in this section and to fund these pages.

Taylor asked that \$500 be placed in the Onekama Township budget to fund an interactive map of the parks and recreation available in Onekama Village and Township to be featured on the Onekama.info website.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for February 18, 2016, adjourned at 9:53 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 8:00 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall. If the Onekama School is closed on that day due to the weather, the Committee will not meet.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer

**Onekama Parks and Recreation Committee**  
**Long Range Planning Priorities Meeting Notes, Thursday, January 28, 2016**

**Systemwide Improvements**

- Develop and install signs and wayfinding for the park system
- Develop and post an interactive map of the park system on the website
- Develop a maintenance plan and provide long range implementation for maintenance of all existing and planned facilities
- Explore summer activities and recreational programming for children

**Village Park**

- Promote the use of the park for additional concerts and public activities
- Seek funding for improvements or reconstruction of the bathhouse

**Glen Park**

- Construct bridge and elevated walkway on the northwest end of the park
- Replace stairs to the wells with metal stairs

**North Point Park**

- Install irrigation system for trees and plantings

**Feldhak Park**

- Explore the feasibility of connection to wetlands areas owned by Portage Lake Watershed in the way of elevated walkways
- Explore possible esthetic low maintenance plantings in the park that will comply with the requirements for plant material use

**Langland**

- Complete current beach, dune and parking area improvements