

ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

JUNE 18, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

OPEN CONFERENCE CALL LINE – No call in participants

CALL TO ORDER Richard Lapinski called the meeting to order at 8:03AM

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE was said.

ROLL CALL - MEMBERS PRESENT & ABSENT

Present - Andrea Arthur, Bob Blackmore, Leann Burger, Michelle Ervin, Richard Lapinski, Paul Mueller, Mary Reed, Al Taylor

Absent - Kevin Hughes, Gary Madden

MINUTES OF May 21, 2020 MEETING - Approval moved by Al Taylor, seconded by Mary Reed. Michelle will send to Shelli Johnson, Township Clerk for posting on website.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ITEMS TO ADD TO AGENDA – Michelle Ervin

+ Membership in the National Recreation & Parks Association - Discussion regarding the value of having access to professional industry information and if an Individual or an organization membership would be best. Mary made a motion to request a One-Year Trail Individual Membership be obtained. Seconded by Paul Mueller. Michelle will follow up with Shelli to proceed.

+ Guided Bird Walks at North Point Park - Dr. Brian Allen proposed three dates for open Guided walks, the first of which was this morning. Notice to the public was last minute, but disseminated on Facebook, Nextdoor, and posted at the Township offices. One personal attended today. Reservations for upcoming dates are being taken. Dr. Allen will be sent an official thank you note. Discussion of the need for a phone number to put on flyers for OTPRC. Bob indicated that the request was forwarded to the private telephone company for consideration.

NORTH POINT PARK UPDATE - Paul Mueller/Michelle Ervin Josh Shields, Manistee County Conservation will walk the park with Paul and Michelle on July 1 at 10am to give guidance on plant species and ecosystem health. Michelle will contact Susan Halloran, President Onekama Garden Club to seek advice on a pollinator /butterfly garden. A family on Bayview has collected a large pile of garbage from inside the park. They requested assistance with the disposal. Bob will contact Steve to see if he can use pick-up to take a truck load to the Manistee Dump.

LANGLAND PARK UPDATE – Rich Lapinski/Al Taylor/Bob Blackmore Bob reports that fixing the ramp and French drain is an urgent matter and must be done as soon as possible. Rich and Al had met with Paul Swidorski at the park to discuss repairs. Plans and costs are pending. The drain may require annual cleaning. Bob shared that when the DEQ opens their parks (Boat Launch) the restroom at Langland will be opened. Dave Meister shared that screws have popped out of the handrail and need replacement with fender washers. It was discussed that there are many improvements for safety and soundness required at the park, there are funds budgeted for these however the professionals who would be able to complete this work are backlogged due to Highwater work and shut-down delays.

GLEN PARK UPDATE – Rich Lapinski Rich shared that the grants have both been submitted. After the meeting today Rich has a park walk-through with Manistee County Community Foundation President and CEO Laura Heintzeman. It was discussed that the State of Michigan is two years behind in funding the Trust Fund funding, also adding that it is based on oil & gas revenue which is down.

EAGLE VIEW PARK UPDATE – Rich Lapinski As a result of discussion at the Township Board meeting, this project is on “indefinite hold”. It is possible for the Village to promote viewing of the birds in Eagle View from the Farr Center.

KAYAK LAUNCH UPDATE – Al Taylor- Al reported that the State has signed and sent the gift letter, allowing the process to proceed to the bidding phase.

PARKS FIVE YEAR PLAN – Leann Burger Langland is the only plan not turned in. North Point Park plan is being improved. Carden Park will be formatted.

TOWNSHIP PUBLIC ROAD ENDS - Bob Blackmore Bob reports that this project is “on hold” due to costs.

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SCHOOL UPDATE – Gary Madden No report.

PLA UPDATE - Al Taylor PLA is moving forward with amended plans for Onekama Days with reduced activities due to Covid-19. Will report next month on final decisions.

PARKS BROCHURE – Michelle Ervin Michelle reviewed the new focus on electronic communication and the current bids. After discussion the Committee chose to move forward with the MS Graphics proposal. Al and Michelle will work with Karen to proceed.

PORTAGE LAKE CHANNEL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Al Taylor/Michelle Ervin - Al and Michelle plan to have a Steering Committee meeting in July. The kayak event to be attended by Michelle as research was cancelled.

WATERSHED UPDATE - Mary Reed Mary led a discussion regarding the routine water testing of 10 sites and how best to communicate the results to the public. Information regarding swimmer's itch, ecoli, and water quality needs to be disseminated in an accessible way. The committee supported posting the pass/fail results on the Township Website. Bob and Mary will go to Traverse City to learn about the use of the data from the drone survey. After a mini-drone survey last month, the Watershed decided to do another complete survey to examine the effects of the record high water levels.

MANISTEE COUNTY-WIDE PARKS & REC COMMISSION UPDATE - Mary Reed

VILLAGE UPDATE – Andrea Arthur Andrea reported that two 8 foot extensions will be installed at the Village Boat Ramp. There is concern about soggy grass in the park. There will need to be consideration of the ground when planning the Vintage Car Show during Onekama Days. The Farr Center is open, but limited capacity.

PARKS & REC BUDGET - Rich Lapinski No updates.

OPEN DISCUSSIONS None

CORRESPONDENCE None

PUBLIC COMMENT None

AJOURN Rich moved and Paul seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:42am

The next Meeting will be July 16, 2020 at 8 a.m.