

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

December 17, 2015

At 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 17, 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; Alice Hendricks; Kevin Hughes; Paul Mueller; and Mary Reed. Al Taylor of the Explore the Shores Subcommittee was there, and Fire Captain Clinton Osborn also was at the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of November 19, 2015—Under Tree Subcommittee, Reed said that it should have been reported that contractors hired by Consumers Energy will cut trees from private property at the rate of \$105 an hour when in the area trimming or cutting trees along power lines, but will just stack remains; they will not haul them away. The Township has the number to call for this service. Millard moved that the minutes of the November 19, 2015, meeting be approved with this correction. Mueller seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt said that there had not been an update to the financial report for Recreation/Parks of the Onekama Township Profit and Loss Budget Performance, April 1 through November 18, 2015, that was presented at the last meeting. Although he did not read it at this meeting, he said that he would repeat it again in the minutes.

The categories and the amounts spent thus far for the stated period are General Parks, \$9,218.64; Glen Park, \$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, \$10,426.50, out of a budgeted \$137,000.00 (includes Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant match of \$87,000.00); North Point Park, \$5,301.34, out of a budgeted \$15,918.33; DNR Park, \$60.16; and Other, \$0.00, giving a total of \$27,828.91 (11.9 percent) spent for Recreation/Parks out of a budget of \$232,918.33, leaving a balance of \$205,089.42 as of November 18, 2015.

Tree Subcommittee—Mueller reported that Canfield Climbing Clippers of Buckley, which was awarded the \$4,000.00 contract for removing twenty hazardous trees and debris from Glen Park, did this work in two days during December. An invoice for the work has not been yet sent.

Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan—At the November 19, 2015, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting—Phillips and Reed reported that the first draft had been written for the Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan, the five-year plan for parks and recreation prepared by the Manistee County Planning Department in cooperation with the Alliance for Economic Success. After receiving input from those participating in writing this Plan, a revised or second draft was made available in December for review.

In January, the twenty governmental entities involved in the Plan will adopt it at their monthly meetings. The Onekama Village Council will hold a public hearing on the Plan on January 20, 2016, at 7 p.m., in Farr Center; the Onekama Township Board will hold its public hearing at 8:45 a.m. on January 5 at the Onekama Township Hall. The Village Council and Township Board each will vote to adopt the Plan after their respective public hearings.

Since the goals and objectives in the new Plan for the Village and Township were from the Parks and Recreation Committee's The Portage Lake Community Five-Year Plan for Parks and Recreation in the Village of Onekama, Onekama Township, and the Onekama Consolidated Schools, which is current through 2018—it was the consensus of the Committee members present on November 19, 2015, that they should also review the second draft of the new Plan and make a formal recommendation to the Village Council and the Township Board that they adopt it.

A meeting of the Committee was set for Thursday, December 17, 2015, at the usual time of 8 a.m., at the Onekama Township Hall. Millard notified the Committee members by email when this second draft became available after December 1 and where the Committee members could view it.

Reed opened the discussion at the December 17 meeting by stating that the material for Onekama Village and Onekama Township in the current Five-Year Plan had been incorporated into the County-Wide Plan. Hendricks mentioned that she had a list of items in the County-Wide Plan that were of concern to her. For the Village Park, youth fishing on the jetty and reconfiguring of parking areas are two concerns. A public marina is another item of concern. Roger Burger said that there are things included that are not clear goals.

Phillips said that these are things that do not have to be done, but might happen if funds are available. Hendricks said that one of her fears is that people will say that these things have to be done if they are in the Plan. She also said that you do have to consider ordinances when planning for these projects.

Leann Burger mentioned that you have to have attainable goals. Maintenance also must be considered in establishing goals, but is not a goal in itself. Hendricks related that we need to be realistic in establishing goals. Reed told Hendricks that her list of the issues is needed so that she and Phillips can discuss them with Rob Carson, County Planner, who is working with the County-Wide Plan. Hendricks further said, in referring to the Village Park, that there is not enough space for all of these activities.

Leann Burger said that we need detail of how to make these projects happen. There has to be the vehicle to get there. Roger Burger said that all of the Village Council members have copies of the County-Wide Plan. Reed then stated that what is written in the County-Wide Plan is done to meet the planning requirements set forth by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund so that grant applications for these funds can be made. It contains a wish list. Hughes mentioned that you have to have the items listed in case funds become available.

Hendricks advocated fund-raising campaigns that are organized and publicized. She believes that acquiring property around Farr Center is a good idea. Leann Burger concluded her remarks by saying that if the Plan meets the MNRTF requirements, fine; but we need the path and the vehicle to reach the goals. Both Taylor and Leann Burger expressed the need for a capital plan. Gerhardt said that that we had this requirement several years ago in the planning process mandated by the MNRTF, but it is no longer included. We also had to include ways to raise funds and priorities of goals. Only the justification of goals was required for the 2014 Plan. And, Reed pointed out that the 2014 Plan really is not going away.

Taylor said that the Plan will provide the details. Certain things are needed in it to keep people here. Phillips, as has been mentioned by others, said that the Plan should really be looked at every year. Gerhardt mentioned some things about the County-Wide Plan that need to be corrected: page 123 in Goal 1 under the first "Land": conservation district" should be changed to "governmental units." The first "Habitat Protection" and project should be eliminated. Under the second "Habitat Protection," "Park perimeter" should become "North Point Park perimeter." Under Goal 7 on page 126, the second "Recreation Lessons and Instruction" and project should be eliminated. Phillips had already marked that under Goal 5 the first "Langland Park" should be "North Point Park."

Leann Burger was wondering why the Manistee Recreation Association is mentioned specifically under Goal 7. Hughes and Phillips said that it is included because the Township provides funding to enroll Onekama youngsters in the MRA programs. Mueller was wondering if changes had to be made to the current Plan for it to be included in the County-Wide Plan. Phillips said that changes had to be made to make the material consistent with the new format.

Roger Burger said that there are some things that might be brought up at the public hearings. If there is no intention of doing some of these things, why include them; people will expect them to be done if the items are in there. Leann Burger said that the members of the Village Council and Township Board need to be informed of the function of the Plan. Phillips said that he is going to do this at the public hearings. Taylor mentioned that there needs to be joint funding between the Township and Village. Governmental funding needs to be addressed.

Langland Park—Permit applications for the MNRTF shoreline project at Langland Park have been submitted, according to Taylor, who is project manager. Ninety days

maximum are allowed for approval. The plans will be ready for review possibly at next month's Parks meeting. The gazebo complex will remain but will no longer have an access to Lake Michigan. Maintenance costs have to be discussed. Dune removal is not included. The permit for that work is being reviewed.

Kayak Launch—Taylor said that the funding application for the kayak launch is due April 1; Pat Bentley is working with this. **About the best location for the launch is the M-DNR Launch Site. The M-DNR wants to negotiate a lease for the Launch Site with the Township. The launch would be similar to the one in Arcadia.**

Pierhead Light—In leaving the meeting at 9:28 a.m., Gerhardt said that Jim Mrozinski of Onekama Marine had placed a large holiday wreath on the 1930 Pierhead Light at the M-DNR Launch Site. The secretary-treasurer suggested that members take a drive to look at it, as it is beautiful with its bow and scrolled ribbons for tails, and the ornaments placed on it. **Millard made notes for the minutes after Gerhardt left.**

M-DNR Launch Site Lease—Al Taylor discussed a potential lease agreement with the M-DNR for the kayak launch at Andy's point and the inclusive M-DNR Launch Site property there. He said the M-DNR should be asked as to what the costs are for maintenance and what the lease would cost. He suggested: ask the M-DNR for its annual costs for the last 5-10 years and obtain a list of things they do for these costs. He said perhaps the Township should take a lease for two years and then determine if total ownership is better. The consensus of the Committee is to obtain the costs and what the lease would entail (the lease would be for the entire M-DNR Launch Site). He said the options are:

1. Maintain only the launch and kayak site
2. Lease the Launch Site but maintain it
3. Purchase the Launch Site

Taylor suggested that he and Phillips **put together a recommendation for presentation to the Township Board.** The consensus of the Parks and Recreation Committee then was to have Taylor and Phillips do this and present the recommendation to the Township Board for its consideration.

Next Meeting—It was then decided that the Parks and Recreation Committee will have a meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 8 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall.

Onekama Consolidated Schools— Superintendent Kevin Hughes reported that the Onekama School is the only school in the County that is holding its enrollment. The facility is being used, he said; he praised the use of the School for the Christmas concert, basketball in both gyms, and community recreational activities.

Feldhak Park—Franklin reported that he is **contacting Onekama churches and telling them that the church sign at Feldhak Park is in a precarious position and may come down.** He will ask the churches involved what they wish to do. He will **also ask the garden club to come up with a plan for flowers at Feldhak Park,** and in the Spring, review these plans with the members of the Feldhak family.

Village of Onekama—Village Council President Roger Burger reported that **the jetty in the Village Park has been repaired** and the invoice has been paid.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever—Reed reported the group has **applied for a mini-grant for a rain garden at Farr Center** from the Manistee County Community Foundation. The **report on the shoreline invasive species is due this month.**

Portage Lake Association—Taylor reported that the **Portage Lake Association held an election of officers;** the results will be published soon. There **may not be a Winterfest this year.** An **article regarding the Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan, and public hearing dates will be in the PLA Newsletter due out in January.**

Next Meeting and Adjournment—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for December 17, 2015, adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 8:00 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall.

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