

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

September 17, 2015

At 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 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; Roger Burger; Leann Burger; Ken Franklin; Kevin Hughes; Sally Koon; Paul Mueller; and Mary Reed. Al Taylor, Langland Park Project Manager, was also present at the beginning of the meeting.

Additions to the Agenda— Phillips added “Kayak Launch” and “Langland Park Project” as the next items on today’s agenda. Reed wanted to report on the County Parks and Recreation Plan, so this item was placed after “Portage Lake Watershed Forever.”

Kayak Launch—Taylor reported on the latest information about building a kayak launch at the M-DNR Launch Site. He said that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources does not want the kayak launch to interfere with the Launch Site it is operating for other pleasure craft. Taylor handed out a site plan showing the Launch Site and how handicapped parking would have to be arranged for the kayak launch to be built. The location of the kayak launch is shown as being on the right of the M-DNR Launch Site while facing toward Portage Lake.

On a second sheet were pictures of the kayak launch at Arcadia. Pat Bentley, with Spicer Group, had submitted the pictures and the M-DNR Launch Site plan. Taylor said that the M-DNR wants to lease the entire Launch Site area to Onekama Township. The Township already is leasing the land where the 1930 Pierhead Light stands. But, he said that the Township has to negotiate maintenance of the expanded parcel. The M-DNR is agreeable to the kayak plan if the Township leases the property.

The next step would be to explore funding for the kayak launch. The launch itself, which is mounted on a boat dock, costs around \$45,000. Application could be made for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to fund this project. There are other agencies from which funds might also be obtained.

Leann Burger asked if the Township would be responsible for the maintenance of the launches as well as the restroom and other physical aspects of the property. Taylor said

that this is what is to be negotiated. He also emphasized that the Township is going to have to budget for additional maintenance for Langland Park.

The M-DNR has said that the Township could charge for the launching; but the Township does not seem interested in this, according to Taylor. Leann Burger asked if there will have to be something built into the budget for repairs; Taylor said that there would have to be an amount for that. Since Orchard Beach State Park currently handles the maintenance and repairs for the Launch Site, it was suggested that Orchard Beach be contacted for the Township to determine the requirements of the maintenance and repairs as well as the cost of that work.

Langland Park Project—Taylor continued his presentation by **reporting on the Langland Park Project**. The MNRTF grant for the Langland Park project is \$261,000.00, which is to be matched by \$87,000.00 in local funds, for a project total of \$348,000.00. The project, which is to improve universal access to the beach and build restrooms that are handicapped accessible, will also provide observation areas in the existing gazebo complex and a new gazebo to be built at the northwest corner of the parking lot. Mobi mats will be placed on the walk to the beach, and a well will be drilled for water with which to wash the sand off.

The Langland Park Project Management Team will consult with the Manistee County Road Commission about parking to determine if anything can be done to provide additional parking space. A large problem, though, is that the required project budget now is running around \$392,000.00. The Portage Lake Watershed Forever and the Portage Lake Association each will give \$5,000.00. Hopefully, there will be donations come in through the Manistee County Community Foundation.

The application for a permit to remove the sand dune is being rewritten in part and will be submitted soon to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Approval of the Minutes of August 20, 2015—Millard took over the meeting at this point, as Phillips had to leave. Koon moved that the minutes of the August 20, 2015, meeting be approved. Mueller seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Regulations for Onekama Township Parks—Millard introduced a draft of **Regulations for Onekama Township Parks**, which had been sent to the Planning Commissioners by Jim Trout, chairperson of the Onekama Township Planning Commission. A request had been made by the PAR Plan, Onekama Township's insurance company, that regulations for the Township parks be placed in writing, so that there is a basis for police power and/or legal action if this becomes necessary.

The following, with comments by the Parks and Recreation Committee members, are the proposed Regulations:

Hours of use are dawn to dusk. It was the consensus of the Committee that this should be deleted or modified because people fish early and late; family picnics

do not end sometimes at dusk; enforcement is not always available; and Langland Park is being considered for a near-dark sky-viewing area—so this rule would not be applicable there.

Other than in designated parking areas, motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Trash must be carried out and properly disposed of.

No camping is allowed.

Open fires are allowed only in designated fire rings. This will be hard to enforce, but the fires should be in the fire rings.

No hunting.

Plant life must not be disturbed.

Gerhardt said that the parks included should be dedicated parks, those areas officially designated as “parks” by the Onekama Township Board. It also was questioned by some of the Committee members if the Rules should be included in the Zoning Ordinance or be recorded as a separate Township police-power ordinance?

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt presented the financial report for the North Point Park Fund. He stated that **the Township had closed the North Point Park Fund checking account and placed the balance of \$15,475.33 in the Township General Fund Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities.** Millard said that this action was taken on September 16 and would be explained at the October 6 Township Board meeting. A memorandum was issued by Township Clerk Helen Mathieu stating the account’s structure and numbers for North Point Park income and North Point expenditures.

The memorandum also stated that the M-DNR Park, on which is located the 1930 Pierhead Light, is another new account in the Township General Fund Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities. **In a report for the former North Point Park Fund checking account for April 1, 2015-September 16, 2015, Reimbursements are \$664.54,** of which \$652.54 is from Peterson’s Well Drilling for work they did not have to do when the well depth was reduced to 50 feet, and \$12.00 that had been erroneously taken out of the account, and **Donations (Parks Appreciation Day), \$443.00,** for a **total income of \$1,107.54.**

Supplies are \$109.39, of which \$6.39 is for the well padlock and \$103.00, brochures; **Contractual Services, \$4,885.68,** of which \$100.00 is for 2014 lawn service; \$22.61, utilities; and \$4,763.07, Peterson’s Well Drilling; and **Miscellaneous, \$509.90,** for trees, for **total expenses of \$5,504.97.** The **loss during that period is \$4,397.43,** which when subtracted from the beginning balance on April 1, 2015, of \$19,872.76, leaves the current balance in the account of \$15,475.33.

It was noted that the North Point Park well was billed at \$4,763.07. The bill was reduced by \$652.54, as less depth was required, which brought Peterson's cost of the well to \$4,110.53. To this cost must be added \$442.00 that was charged by Consumers Power for laying the underground cable, making the total well cost \$4,552.53. Andy Pruyne, Paradigm Electric of Bear Lake, donated the cost of making the electrical connections. Of the \$9,000.00 placed in the North Point Park Fund for the well, this leaves \$4,447.47.

The Report for the Township General Fund Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities, April, 2015-August, 2015, was given. General Parks expenditures, \$8,232.93; Glen Park, \$270.00; Langland Park, \$361.27; and Feldhak Park, \$330.00. The total expenditures are \$9,194.20; of the \$80,000.00 budgeted, \$70,805.80 remains.

A separate account has been set up for Langland Park for the expenditures related to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for shoreline improvements there. The amount budgeted is \$137,000.00. Of this amount, \$60.00 has been spent for Repairs and Maintenance. This leaves \$136,940.00, of which \$87,000.00 is reserved for the local match for the grant.

Onkama Consolidated Schools—Hughes began the report for the Onkama Consolidated Schools. The **current enrollment is 429 students. Football games have been well attended**, especially since Onkama has a winning team. There has been overflow parking in the surrounding neighborhoods. **Maintenance of buildings, equipment, and grounds is still an issue** without the funds that would have been provided by the millage that was defeated. **An increase in test scores of students is always a goal to be met.**

Leann Burger said that the **Community classes will begin September 28**. There will be a Yoga class added as well as a Saturday Karate class, for which ten participants already have enrolled.

Hughes said that the **School wants to assist in moving and storing the sports equipment, such as the pickleball stanchions and nets. He also said that Doug Calloway will repair the tennis court backboards.**

Koon mentioned that **four of the School Board members want to become certified** and are taking classes to accomplish this certification.

Hughes further reported that **several younger teachers, who are in their twenties, have been hired; they are performing well.**

Tree Subcommittee—Mueller had **two bids for removing twenty hazardous trees and debris from Glen Park**—Ed Thompson of Bear Lake and Canfield Climbing Clippers of Buckley. Rusty VanBrocklin has been invited to bid, but has not submitted a bid yet. Koon moved to recommend to the Onkama Township Board that Canfield Climbing Clippers, the lowest bidder, remove the twenty hazardous trees and debris in Glen Park as per their bid; Leann Burger seconded this motion. All were in favor.

Since the well fund for North Point Park has \$4,447.47 left in it, **Gerhardt suggested the Tree Subcommittee at least go ahead and lay from the well a 1-inch line with frost-proof hydrants along the fence in the arboretum area of The Long Loop of The Blanche Miller Trail.** Then, the drip lines for the trees could branch from there.

Mueller said that although the request has been made for the requirements and the estimates for this irrigation system, the service has not responded and that he did not know how to contact them again, because this was done through David Meister, Township Supervisor. Hughes said that he has used the service and would contact it for the Tree Subcommittee.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever—Reed reported that the Portage Lake Watershed Forever made the September 1 deadline for the application for the grant that would **provide funds to review the current Watershed Plan.** A new Plan will run through 2028. If funds are not received, the group will evaluate the Plan themselves.

County Parks and Recreation Plan—Reed further reported that she, Phillips, and Gerhardt met with Tamera Buswinka, Community Development Director of the Alliance for Economic Success, on August 20, 2015, about the Onekama Village and Township information for the County Parks and Recreation Plan. Buswinka said the County Plan will replace 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.

Buswinka further stated that she wanted to use the current goals, objectives and action programs, with some revision, for the Onekama Community from its current Five-Year Plan. She asked that this information be reviewed so that any changes could be made before she incorporates the material into the County Plan. **She also wanted a condensed description of the Community (250 words).** She asked the group to make revisions in the goals, objectives, and action plans, and then to submit them to her with a digital copy of the 2014-2018 materials and the condensed Community description.

Gerhardt did this, and Buswinka has responded with the copy that she will include in the County Plan. Reed, Phillips, and Gerhardt also later reviewed a priority list of improvements and amenities for parks and recreation sites in Onekama Township and Village. Reed in today's Committee meeting asked at this point if the Township participates in the Manistee Recreation Association and the Paine Aquatic Center? because Buswinka had asked this. Gerhardt said that \$2,700.00 of the General Parks expenditures in the Township General Fund Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities, April, 2015-March, 2016, is for the Township's participation in the Manistee Recreation Association activities. The Township does not participate in the Aquatic Center.

Portage Lake Association—Reed reminded the Committee that **the Portage Lake Association Fall Festival is October 10.** The **scarecrows for this are to be in place on October 2.** Franklin said that the **petunias are to be removed by Wednesday, September 23;** this work can be started on September 22.

Next Meeting and Adjournment—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for September 17, 2015, adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, October 15, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", written over a horizontal line.

Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer