

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

September 18, 2014

At 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014, Co-Chairperson Jon Phillips opened the Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee regular monthly meeting in the Onekama Township Hall. Agendas were 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; Sally Koon; Paul Mueller; and Mary Reed.

Additions to the Agenda—Co-Chairperson Phillips asked for **additions to the agenda**. There were none.

Approval of the Minutes of August 21, 2014—Hendricks said that the mention of damage to the new grass for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant project in the Onekama Village Park was not caused by horses owned by a local carnival. Vice Chairperson Millard moved and Mueller seconded that the minutes of the August 21, 2014, meeting be approved with this correction. The motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt presented the **financial report for the North Point Park Fund**. The bank balance was \$18,551.26 on August 1, 2014; the **\$275.50 in donations from Parks Appreciation Day was deposited**. **The balance on August 31, 2014, was \$18,826.76**. The checkbook balance was the same amount. The Township has not deposited the extra \$1,000 for the well to the North Point Park Fund, which the Board voted at its May 6 meeting to accompany the \$8,000 previously deposited.

The April through August, 2014, report for the Township's General Fund 2014-2015 Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities was read. Of \$1,794.79 spent for General Parks—\$362.93 was for Supplies; \$190.00, Contractual Services; \$20.00, Repairs and Maintenance; \$115.86, Miscellaneous; and \$1,106.00, Capital Outlay (Pierhead Light bronze plaque). The total for General Parks was \$1,794.79. Of \$40.00 spent for Glen Park, \$15.00 was for Contractual Services and \$25.00, Miscellaneous. Of \$5,000 spent for Village Parks Miscellaneous, the total amount was for the Township's portion of the MNRTF grant project match in the Onekama Village Park.

This year's expenditures thus far in the Township's General Fund 2014-2015 under Recreation/Parks Activities was \$6,834.79 (8.5 percent) out of \$80,000, leaving

\$73,165.21, which includes one-half of the match (\$43,500) pledged for the Langland Park MNRTF grant application, if the application is approved. The total match is \$87,000.

For the Pierhead Light, **\$2,750 has now been donated.** Donors include: Reverend Alec Brooks; Jack and Joyce Fischer; Paul and Ruth Anne Hickman; Lee and Lisa Nordloh; Bill and Babs Vaughan; Barbara Forwood; Sally Wood; Ralph and Shirley Baker; Ted Marty; the Portage Lake Garden Club; the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation; Gary Workman; and Tim Wade and other family members in memory of their parents, George and Nancy Wade; Bob Bennett; and Steve Applegate. **Reed asked if donations are still needed. Phillips answered that they are;** if expenses are all covered, maintenance is still required as well as payment of the electric bill to light it. **Mueller asked how the money and bills paid are kept separate for the Pierhead Light. Phillips will ask the Township about this.**

Tree Subcommittee—Mueller, chairperson of the Tree Subcommittee, reported that he had **talked with the agent of the irrigation company that has been recommended by Township Supervisor David Meister to install an irrigation system for the trees at North Point Park.** They will meet on site in the future.

North Point Park Well—Phillips said that he had **obtained addresses for the connections with electric service both at North Point Park and the Pierhead Light.** Aerial views were used to obtain the information from the Manistee County Planning Department. He sent the information to Consumers Power in Traverse City and is now waiting to hear from them. For the North Point Park well, the wiring has to go under the paved entrance drive, which requires boring that Consumers Power will do.

Peterson of Irons is the welldriller at North Point Park.

Explore the Shores Subcommittee—Millard reported that she contacted Tim Ervin and **asked if there would be a site visit for the Langland Park MNRTF grant application. He said that there would not be a site visit. He said that there should be some indication of the success of the application between now and the first week in December, when the final decision is announced.**

Portage Lake Watershed Forever—Reed reported that the **series of programs presented by the Portage Lake Watershed Forever, “Tuesdays with Water,” July 15-August 19, 2014, will be discussed in a follow-up session in the Watershed’s Education Committee meeting that is to be held this afternoon to determine how these successful programs could be presented so that those who missed them could attend them.** The series featured what you should know about living with, near, or on Portage Lake. Dan Behring and Kathy Ervin are on the Education Committee.

Park Watchers—Langland Park—Millard said that she and her husband, Jim, could not see the fire rings at Langland Park on a recent visit there, although they did not look over the dune that has formed in front of the parking lot. Roger Burger said that they were there about a month ago. All agreed that they should be taken in for the winter.

The **Pierhead Light** at the M-DNR Launch Site—Gerhardt handed out the booklet, The Pierhead Light, which had been written for the Light's dedication on July 5, 2015, at dusk (10 p.m.) Jackpine printed the booklet; the cost was \$325 for 250 copies. He said that he had mailed copies with an insert and a thank-you letter to all of the donors and those who assisted with the project in some way. Hughes thought that it would sell well at a reasonable price; additional money for the Light could be earned this way. Gerhardt said that, at the moment, the booklet is meant for those who attend the dedication.

Gerhardt said that the insert, which contains Jim Mrozinski's story of restoring the light, goes with the booklet and will have to be updated as additional donations come in. It will also have to have the dedication program listed. In reference to the program, Gerhardt said that there should be a speaker on lighthouses to go with the theme. Reed said that she will be attending a program where the speaker will discuss lighthouses.

Gerhardt asked Reed to find out about this speaker and if he could speak at the dedication. Hughes also thought that charter fishing boats and other boats might assemble in Portage Lake at the Launch Site around dark to add to the festivities on the night of the dedication.

Glen Park—Phillips reported that he is having trouble removing the "Glen Park" sign at Main Street and Fourth Avenue to be repainted. The metal parts are rusted. He says that he will take it down and have Amor Sign in Manistee repaint it. No one seemed to be sure that any of the tree work had been done yet in Glen Park.

Phillips said that he had informed the Onekama Township Board that the Committee wanted to build a bridge out of the former Community Dock sections across the ravine at Glen Park, where the north end of Glen Creek and the wetlands of Glen Springs are located. This bridge would form a bypass for the trail that wanders out into the property of the neighbors to the north.

Koon said that she still believes that a letter should be written asking the owners if they would donate the land. She made a motion that the Committee recommend that the Township write this letter. Franklin seconded this motion. The motion carried.

Phillips reported for **Feldhak Park**—A Feldhak family member told Clerk Helen Mathieu that planters could be placed near the stone with the Park marker. This, in his opinion, would not violate the deed restriction regarding no permanent structures being placed on the property.

Onekama Consolidated Schools—Hughes, who is superintendent at the Onekama Consolidated Schools, reported that **around 437 students are enrolled this year as compared to 429 last year.** The **School Homecoming is this weekend.** Soccer is being played on the campus after school by area teams. The **Community Education** program is beginning this month under the direction of Leann Burger.

There are two bond proposals for the Onekama School that will be voted on in the November 4 General Election. The first proposal, which would be for .29 mills over a 15-year period, will address roofs, heating and cooling, security, and busses if it passes. The second proposal will address technology and be for .23 mills for a period of 5 years. There is a **tax computer on the School Website** that can be used to calculate the costs to the taxpayers for these millages if they pass.

Hughes said that he has been speaking on these bond issues to community groups and will schedule appearances at meetings, if possible. He also mentioned that computer equipment used by students is insured. Koon said that the **summer school program** this past year was successful; she hopes that it will be possible to organize and conduct it again another year.

Hendricks asked if something could be put on the School website about **speeding on the streets surrounding the School campus.** Hughes said that the best thing that could be done is to call the authorities, so they can observe and report these incidents to the School. The word of the authorities would be the proof that they are happening and would bring further action.

Update on the Onekama Village Park—Roger Burger reported on the **shoreline improvement project that has recently been done with MNRTF grant money in the Onekama Village Park.** He said that the Explore the Shores interpretative sign is in place. Thin areas in the grass are to receive additional seeding. Seeking reimbursement for the money spent is continuing as Village checks are written and presented for payment. "Sweetening" the beach must be done, which requires an additional permit. The **dedication now will be done next summer.** The mobi mats have been taken up for winter.

Gerhardt said that the flowing curbs retaining the woodchips around the play equipment look beautiful as does the interpretative sign for the grant project in the Onekama Village Park. Hendricks mentioned that the Village has recently approved its new Zoning Ordinance.

Portage Lake Association—Hughes said that the Portage Lake Association's **Portage Petunia Parade** looked great this summer. Phillips said that the weather had really helped. He also said that there had been 3,300 petunias planted this year. Franklin wondered if other flowers could be planted where there are some gaps in the flowerbeds along Main Street.

The **Fall Festival is scheduled for October 11 in the Onekama Village Park, unless it rains.**

Outlet Avenue Walk to Community Dock—Phillips reported that the initial work has been done on the **Outlet Avenue walk to the Community Dock**. The road end has been surveyed with markers placed; an early concrete walk has been torn out; and a new path for the asphalt walk down the center of the road end on Portage Lake has been curved and graded to preserve existing trees. The walk is built to ADA specifications, being 8-feet wide. The pavement is to be asphalt. Onekama Township is paying for the work; the contract with Ron Brown & Sons was \$5,043 (pending the specification of the 8-foot width).

Bike Rack—Gerhardt said that the **Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation had bought one of the bike racks** that were used in a program organized by Reed and Leann Burger, and funded through Manistee Revenue Sharing with the cooperation of the Village of Onekama and Onekama Township. **The serpentine rack, which cost \$310, is for surface mounting** and was bolted to a section of boardwalk at the Sunset House.

It was torn away from its mounting this past summer and is now stored in the garage of President Jim Simons of the Resort Corporation. **Gerhardt would like to see it used at the M-DNR Launch Ramp near the Pierhead Light, but the Resort Corporation wants \$150 for it. Gerhardt will see at the Memorial Day meeting of the Resort Corporation if the organization will donate it for use at the Light.**

Next Meeting and Adjournment—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for September 18, 2014, adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., in the Onekama Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer