

Superior Charter Township Park Commission
Regular Meeting
February 22, 2016

Approved Minutes

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Mirada Jenkins at 6:30 pm.
- II. Roll Call
Park Commissioners present: Mirada Jenkins, Nahid Sanii-Yahyai, Marion Morris, Sandi Lopez, Terry Lee Lansing, Martha Kern-Boprie

Park Commissioners absent: none

Other present: Trustee Alex Williams; Juan Bradford, Park Administrator; Supervisor Ken Schwartz; Patrick Pigott, Recreation Coordinator; Tom Brennan, Keith Lockie, Diana Ravis, Lindsey Wooten, Mary Mikolosovich, Paula Jefferson
- III. Flag Salute
Vice-Chair Mirada Jenkins led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Ms. Jenkins asked all present to join in a moment of silence in memory of Commissioner Jan Berry who died on February 4.
- IV. Agenda Approval
It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to approve the agenda as drafted. The motion carried.
- V. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval
 - A. January 25, 2016
It was moved by Sandi Lopez and supported by Marion Morris to approve the minutes of 1/25/16 as drafted. The motion carried.
- VI. Citizen Participation
Several members of the audience introduced themselves to the Park Commission, including Paula Jefferson, Mary Mikolosovich, Lindsey Wooten, Diana Ravis, Tom Brennan and Jack Smiley.

Ken Schwartz, Township Supervisor spoke about remembrances to Jan Berry by the Township Board, and about information gathered in successful bee keeping.

It was moved by Terry Lee Lansing and supported by Marion Morris to amend the agenda by adding to New Business: item C Request from Jack Smiley concerning Clark Road property. The motion to amend the agenda carried.
- VII. Reports
 - A. Chairperson
Vice-Chair Mirada Jenkins informed Park Commissioners that a celebration of Jan Berry's life will take place on May 4 at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens
 - B. Administrator
Juan Bradford submitted a written report. He added an update from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) conference last week. Superior Township will be part of a pilot program grant involving several other communities in Michigan. Participation in this grant will require

addition of a part-time administrative support staff member. Juan estimates the staff member will cost approximately \$5,000 in 2016, and will bring in up to \$10,000 for programming and up to \$24,000 for park improvements. The staff member will have to be in place by early April. Park Commissioners asked Juan to bring a proposed job description for the staff person to the March commission meeting.

C. Board Liaison

Trustee Alex Williams reported on the 2/16/16 Township Board meeting. Redwood submitted another area plan for property adjacent to Bromley Park. The Township Board’s annual meeting with the Road Commission is scheduled on 3/18/16. The Township Board held a moment of silence in memory of Jan Berry and Charles Swanson. Ypsilanti Community Schools propose closing more school buildings. At this point we do not know what will be done with Cheney School in Superior Township. Significant road repair is necessary to a bridge on Cherry Hill Road between Gotfredson and Napier Roads. The township is covering part of the cost of that repair. The State of Michigan has sued Fairfax Manor, seeking to close three of its units. The Fire Chief is getting a vehicle. The Redwood area plan was tabled for factfinding. The township adopted the 2012 Fire Code, which is the most recent update. Minor corrections were made to the township zoning map.

D. Board Meeting Attendee

Mirada Jenkins attended the 2/16/16 Township Board meeting. She reported that dead trees along roadsides would be removed by DTE Energy.

E. Park Steward

No report.

F. Safety

There have been no accidents or injuries in the past month.

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Marion Morris to receive the reports. The motion carried.

VIII. Communications

- A. 2016 Events Flyer
- B. Restoring Nature with Fire pamphlet
- C. Parks & Recreation Fact Sheet: Parks and Healthy Kids

It was moved by Nahid Sanii-Yahyai and supported by Marion Morris to receive the communications. The motion carried.

IX. Old Business – none

X. New Business

A. CHNP Prescribed Burn

A proposal to conduct a prescribed burn in Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (CHNP) by David Borneman, LLC for \$3,700.00 was reviewed by Park Commissioners. Mr. Borneman and his company have conducted prescribed burns previously and successfully. It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Sandi Lopez to approve the proposal from David Borneman, LLC to conduct a prescribed burn in CHNP for an amount not to exceed \$3,700.00. A roll call vote was taken.

| <u>Commissioner</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Absent</u> | <u>Abstain</u> |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| Mirada Jenkins | X | | | |
| Martha Kern-Boprie | X | | | |
| Marion Morris | X | | | |
| Nahid Sanii-Yahyai | X | | | |
| Sandi Lopez | X | | | |

Approved by Superior Township Park Commission on 3/28/2016.

Terry Lee Lansing X

The motion carried.

B. Commission Vacancy

Supervisor Ken Schwartz informed the Park Commission that applications for the open position on the Park Commission are due to his office by Monday, March 14.

Park Commissioners agreed to schedule a special meeting on Thursday, March 17 to interview all applicants. Juan Bradford will make copies of all applications available to Park Commissioners pm Tuesday, March 15. The Park Commission will endeavor to send its recommendation to the Township Board in time for the March 22 meeting of the Township Board.

Park Commissioners asked Supervisor Schwartz to update the website posting about the Park Commission opening with the information that nominating petitions for the term commencing November 20, 2016 are due to the Township Clerk, with the due date.

C. Jack Smiley presentation about 325 E. Clark Road

Jack Smiley introduced himself to Park Commissioners as representative of the SouthEast Michigan Land Conservancy and Superior Land Conservancy and particularly the Superior Greenways project. He reviewed a map containing parcels in Superior Township that have been acquired or otherwise protected from development. He seeks to have the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) purchase a parcel of approximately 53 acres at 325 E. Clark Road in Superior Township. This parcel is on the north side of Clark Road, between River Street and LeForge Road. Acquiring this parcel will make a big step toward an unbroken greenway from Clark Road north to the township hall on Cherry Hill Road. Mr. Smiley asked the Park Commission to recommend purchase of this parcel by the NAPP to both the County Park and Recreation Commission and the Superior Township Board.

It was moved by Martha Kern-Boprie and supported by Marion Morris that the Superior Township Park Commission recommend to the Washtenaw County Park Commission and the Superior Charter Township Board acquisition of a parcel of approximately 53 acres at 325 E. Clark Road in Superior Township by the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program. The motion carried.

XI. Bills for Payment

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Terry Lee Lansing to approve payment of the bills totaling \$27,163.32. The motion carried.

XII. Financial Statements

January 31, 2016 Financial Statements were reviewed by Park Commissioners. Terry Lee Lansing noted that Taxable Benefits for Maintenance Staff was over budget already, and asked why. Sandi Lopez also asked about this item. Keith Lockie responded the budget was too low, and would be corrected with a budget amendment.

It was moved by Marion Morris and supported by Sandi Lopez to receive the January Financial Statements. The motion carried.

XIII. Pleas and Petitions

Marion Morris recommended dedicating the new CHNP board walk to Jan Berry's memory. She suggested a boulder placed near the boardwalk. Marion will collaborate with Juan Bradford on this.

Ken Schwartz commented that the jail work crew could plant some spruce trees in our parks. The Park Commission could make decisions about this suggestion at the March commission meeting in time to order the trees.

Approved by Superior Township Park Commission on 3/28/2016.

XIV. Adjournment

It was moved by Sandi Lopez and supported by Marion Morris to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. The motion carried.

Submitted by,
Martha Kern-Boprie, Park Commissioner and Secretary