



Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, April 24, 2017

**Chikaming Township Park Board
Regular Meeting**

Monday, April 24, 2017 6:30 p.m.
Chikaming Township Hall
13535 Red Arrow Hwy
Harbert, MI 49115

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.</p> <p>Members present: EnRico Heirman, Kathy Sellers, Deborah Hall-Kayler, Joseph Reed, Janet Schrader, Shelly Taylor, and Jill Underhill were present.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Roll Call</p>
<p>Approval of the meeting's agenda.</p> <p>Moved by Schrader, seconded by Hall, to approve the agenda for the April 24th regular meeting.</p> <p align="right">CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA APPROVED</p>
<p>Motion to approve preceding March meeting minutes.</p> <p>Schrader requested that it be amended that the \$1,000 in funding secured by JV Peacock from the Michiana Bike Association is for materials.</p> <p>Moved by Hall, seconded by Sellers, to approve the minutes of the March meeting.</p> <p align="right">CARRIED</p>	<p>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p>MINUTES APPROVED</p>
<p>Sellers explained to the board that the current year's budget is \$94,350 not including the allotted money for matching funds.</p> <p>Heirman stated that he would still like to see the final numbers from the previous year's budget.</p> <p>Schrader question where the \$1,000 from new Buffalo Savings Bank went for ice skates.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>
<p>Heirman informed the board that a thank you card was received from New Buffalo Savings Bank stating that the Easter egg hunt at the Harbert Community Park was a huge success.</p> <p>James and Mary Diете sent the Park Board a letter requesting their Cherry Beach pass as well as a donation.</p> <p>The owners of Rainbow Cove, Joan McKleete and Edward Walbridge,</p>	<p>Correspondence</p>



<p>sent a letter to the township thanking them for repairing the entrance to McKinley beach.</p>	
<p>There were no public comments at this time.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>Harbert Beach – Reed had nothing new to report. Cherry Beach – Schrader had nothing new to report. Berrien Beach – Underhill had nothing new to report. Miller Beach – Hall had nothing new to report. McKinley Beach – Taylor had nothing new to report. Townline Beach – Schrader reported that Pier St. Beach – Sellers had nothing new to report. Chikaming Park and Preserve on Warren Woods Rd. – Heirman reported that the water levels have returned to normal. He added that Reed dove into the water to retrieve a bench that was waterlogged. Schrader reported that her husband witnessed someone opening the gate to access the trail by lifting a chain and opening the gate. Heirman suggested that the gate be left open during the days now and closed by the police in the evening if they are willing to close it. Hall and Taylor had nothing additional to report. Harbert Rd. Park and Preserve – Hall had nothing new to report. Harbert Community Park – Heirman reported that the Earth Day cleanup hosted by Underhill was a huge success.</p>	<p>Beach/ Park Reports</p>
<p>Hall reported on the upcoming Celebrate Chikaming event. She informed the board that the food and beverage arrangements have been sorted out. She added that 4 large tents have been reserved for the event.</p> <p>Schrader reported that the realtors association awarded the board with \$1,500 to be used to purchase signage and a kiosk for the mountain bike trails. She added that the ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for June 3rd at possibly 10:00 a.m. Schrader requested that the board move ahead with purchasing the signage and that they then be reimbursed by the association.</p> <p>Moved by Schrader, seconded by Sellers, to order signage and a kiosk for the mountain bike trials at an amount not to exceed \$1,500. CARRIED</p> <p>Schrader reported that the gate ordinance is still a work in progress.</p>	<p>Old Business</p> <p>MOTION TO ORDER SIGNAGE</p>
<p>Pat Fischer, New Buffalo Park Board and Planning Commissioner, came forth to inform the board of a new Hiking Club formation. He furthered that a main purpose of the club will be to promote ecological activities in the community and raise awareness of the physical and mental benefits of hiking.</p> <p>Fischer also suggested some surfaces new park trails including crushed stone. Heirman informed Fischer that the board is currently seeking a</p>	<p>New Business</p>

grant to add ADA compliant trails at the Harbert Community Park.

Fischer invited the board to attend the first hike to take place on Saturday, May 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the New Buffalo beach. He added that the club will be introduced on May 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the New Buffalo library.

Schrader reported that she would like to add a port-a-john to Townline beach. She would also like to move a bulletin board or find another way to screen the port-a-john.

Moved by Schrader, seconded by Underhill, to hire Whites Septic to deliver a handicapped unit at Townline Beach and budget an amount not to exceed \$400 to camouflage the unit .

CARRIED

MOTIN TO APPROVE HANDICAPPED PORT-A-JOHN

Heirman reported that he will be meeting with Corey Busch to review options to fix the welcome pavilion.

The prairie burn is to take place within the next week but the fire department did not have enough people to participate in the burn. The company will need to bring extra people at an increased cost of \$4,250.

Moved by Underhill, seconded by Schrader, to move forward with the prairie burn at a cost of \$4,250 as soon as possible.

CARRIED

MOTION TO APPROVE PRARIE BURN COST

Heirman informed the board that CNA arborists would like to do a tree planting at the Chikaming Park and Preserve on Arbor Day.

The board discussed the possibility of a millage to collect funds to acquire key properties that would improve the township. Heirman stated that it is a good opportunity to let the people vote on whether or not they want to support this initiative.

During the special meeting that a motion must be made at tonight's park board meeting to prepare language for the millage to make it on the August ballot.

Moved by Underhill, seconded by Schrader, to request wording for a 10 year, .75 millage or voter bond for acquisition and recreational opportunity from Attorney Michael Homier at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 in attorney's fees to be presented to the township board at the May 11th meeting. Roll call vote as follows:

Taylor – Aye
Schrader – Aye
Hall – Aye
Heirman – Aye
Underhill – Aye
Sellers – Aye



Reed – Aye Schrader announced that a wild flower hike will take place at Warren Dunes on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.	
No public comments at this time.	Public Comment
Moved Schrader, seconded Hall, to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. CARRIED	ADJOURNED
MONDAY, March 22, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.	NEXT MEETING
Minutes submitted by Jessica Miller	