

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Lincoln Charter Township
2055 West John Beers Road
Stevensville, Michigan 49127

Monday, May 16, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tucker at 7:10 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Risk, Bill Tucker, Todd Gardner, Mike Lucker.
ABSENT: Rich Knapp, Rick Knight, and John Hoskins.

ALSO PRESENT: Tony Korican of the Lakeshore Rotarians, Lincoln Township Treasurer Terrie Smith.

Audience Comments: See report under New Business for North Lake Park and Rotary Club.

Secretary's Report: Tucker seconded by Lucker, made a MOTION to approve minutes from April 11th meeting with one correction: under Report of Officers it should state "the next general election in November, 2006." MOTION CARRIED. Corrected April 11th minutes will be given to the Township.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Tax bill was clarified to be a drain tax, not a property tax. Tucker, seconded by Gardner, made a MOTION to approve payment of bills as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Report of Officers: Chairman welcomed newly appointed Todd Gardner to a seat on the Parks Board vacated by Marilyn Anderson.

Report of Special Committees/Projects:

Budget Committee – No report. Committee met immediately after special meeting on Sunday, May 8.

Fencing for Baseball Fields – Fencing work has begun and is proceeding in a timely manner. The Babe Ruth and 9-10 fields are done. Equipment was not available for extending the height of the Girls' Varsity field fencing. Fencing will be done by the end of June.

Old Business:

Usage of Township Equipment – Action carried forward.

Clean up of Grape Field – Action carried forward.

New Business:

Parks Insurance – Action carried forward.

Parks Reservation/Procedures – Discussed problems with groups who had reserved the community shelter and North Lake Park shelter, only to find the shelters already occupied by other picnickers who refused to leave. Booking calendar is posted at the shelters, but not any signs stating ordinance or who to call if there is a problem. Parks Board should consider adding signs to the shelters.

Currently, the Parks Ordinance has only general guidelines concerning parks usage. Park Ordinance No. 691 section 5 f states:

Township public parks, beaches, and places of recreation may be restricted by the township board to township residents and property owners and their guests only (when such guests are accompanied by such residents or property owners), upon order posted at the township public park, beach or place of recreation.

Board members agreed to add more defined rules concerning reservations to the ordinance. Board also discussed instituting a charge for reserving facilities, like other parks systems around us. Such action would need to take place by January 2, 2006, to implement for next year.

Parks Permits/Collection Machines – St. Joseph last year charged \$20 for a city resident permit to enter any city park and \$40 for a non-resident. If a user doesn't have a permit and gets ticketed, the ticket is more costly than the permit. The Board is interested in pursuing this revenue source, which could bring in substantial parks funding and avoid the need for a parks millage. Gardner agreed to look into permit machines and get quotes. Discussion followed concerning cost burden for families who use our recreational leagues and how to keep rates reasonable. It would be important to keep the public informed on how new funds would be used to achieve the goals of the Master Parks Plan.

Handicapped Parking Signs/Access – None of the township parks have designated handicapped parking spots. Accessibility issues may hinder our ability to qualify for grants. Tucker will contact Randy Rood, Berrien County Parks Director, and ask for his expertise in evaluating our parks.

North Lake Park and Rotary Club – Rotary President, Tony Korican, presented a report on the May 14th Rotarian Work Day at North Lake Park. The group washed and painted the shelter and picnic tables, cleaned the restrooms, BBQ grills and playground slides, planted flowers, reset parking posts, raked leaves, and organized the storage room. A great amount of work was accomplished! The Rotary Club thanked the township maintenance department and Hugh Gillespie for their assistance. Another work day will be scheduled to complete the North Lake Park project before Memorial Day. The Rotary Club has committed \$1500 towards this project this year. Mr. Korican will bring a PowerPoint presentation showing all the improvements made by the Lakeshore Rotary Club over the last four years to the next Parks meeting. The Parks Board thanked the Rotary Club for all their efforts turning North Lake into the most well-groomed park in Lincoln Township.

The Rotary Club had some requests for the Parks Board to consider:

- 1) A drinking fountain should be added to the park. There is a fire hydrant nearby and area residents have city water, although the park is on a well water system.
- 2) Grills should be replaced.
- 3) Large potholes should be filled in.
- 4) Bathroom toilets should be replaced. City water would help eliminate rust problems.

Chairman Tucker asked for the Rotary Club to prioritize their list and add cost estimates where possible. Chairman also asked for an itemized list of work hours and material costs that the Rotary Club has put into the park to be used for matching funds for a grant re-application process. An explanation was given as to why the earlier North Lake Park grant was not able to be submitted. It was suggested the Parks Board and Rotary Club have a partnership meeting to work out continued management of North Lake Park.

Parks Maintenance:

Glenlord Beach –Terrie Smith said township office had received many calls concerning Glenlord Beach with pleas of “Please don’t sell it!” and offers of “What can we do to help?” The community would support having a workday at Glenlord Beach. It was suggested the Parks Board publicize the need for monetary donations, supplies, and labor. Fireside Inn offered to host a fundraiser.

Board reviewed structural report from Williams and Works (see attachment). The Parks Board and Township Board should meet again to strategize how to keep the park opened and pay for necessary repairs. Prior to the meeting, the Parks Board should get repair cost estimates. Lucker offered to get bids to fix and/or replace the current structure. He will check if it is feasible to move the structure off the eroded section and onto solid ground. Board discussed concern that a band-aid approach now will not be successful in addressing erosion problems in the long run.

Baseball/Softball Fields – The groundbreaking ceremony for the new indoor practice facility was held on Saturday, May 14. The baseball organization has the building permit, but still needs several signatures before starting construction. Once construction begins, the facility will be completed in approximately four months.

Soccer Fields – Initial planning has begun for a concession stand and bathrooms. Soccer representatives will present a tentative plan, including a drawing and cost estimate, next month. The concession stand is being designed to blend in architecturally with the new indoor batting facility. No action taken on the LYSL lighting request.

Parks House Site – The steel building has been torn down and removed. Hugh has done a great job cleaning up debris behind the sheds. No action taken on house insurance policy.

Maintenance Purchases – Board discussed an approval process. It was proposed that any purchases outside of normal/routine maintenance items and not in the parks budget should be cleared first by Kevin Gebhard and then Bill Tucker for board approval. Action tabled.

Announcements: Gardner questioned why Parks is paying Reliable \$513 a month. Dumpster at Glenlord Park is filled with residential trash, which Garner photographed, and should be removed. Tucker will talk to Hugh about trash concerns.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Chairman at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Risk

Kimberly Risk, Secretary