

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

March 20, 2014

At 8:05 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2014, 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; and Mary Reed. Don Oswell of the Tree Subcommittee and Al Taylor of the Explore the Shores Subcommittee also were present. Phillips welcomed everyone.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report—Leann Burger moved and Millard seconded that the **minutes of the February 20, 2014, meeting be approved. Everyone was in favor.**

Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt presented the **financial report for the North Point Park Fund**. The bank balance was the same throughout the month of February, 2014—\$10,209.76. A check that had not been presented for payment and was written out of this account when it should have been from the Township Recreation/Parks Activities Fund had been withdrawn from the register.

The last report of the Recreation/Parks Activities Fund of the Township General Fund Budget had been issued January 21, 2014. This report, therefore, was a repeat of the one already given at the last meeting. The fiscal year had started April 1, 2013. For General Parks, \$4,853.77 had been spent, including \$3,346.00 for the Township's payment to the Manistee Recreation Association; Glen Park, \$210.00; Lake Michigan (Langland) Park, \$3,499.39; Feldhak Park, \$385.00; Harbor Commission, \$190.00; Village Parks, \$2,470.00 (for Township portion of boat launch repairs); and Wetlands Park, \$.00.

The total spent from April 1-January 21, 2014, was \$11,608.16 (15.5 percent of the budget), leaving \$63,391.84 of the \$75,000.00 budgeted for Recreation/Parks Activities. This amount includes one-half of the match for the Langland Park Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 2013 grant application, which is \$43,500 of \$87,000. This application was not approved.

Gerhardt further reported that he had **made application on March 4, 2014, to Manistee Local Revenue Sharing for the North Point Park irrigation well project in the Other Lawful Purpose category. The amount requested is \$8,500.** The request for \$8,000 was not approved on December 9, 2013, because of a lack of funds in the Other category. Gerhardt will make the presentation about the project on April 14, 2014, at the Manistee Township Hall, 5 p.m. The grant awards are to be made in June.

Reed and Oswell reported for the **Tree Subcommittee**. **Arbor Day in Michigan is April 25, 2014. There will be an educational event with refreshments; presentations; the history of the parks in Onekama Village and Township (Gerhardt agreed to do this); and the distributions of packets about trees (Reed will provide these), wildflower seeds, and trees for planting at home. It will be at North Point Park in the morning.** The next meeting of the Tree Subcommittee is to be March 24, 9 a.m., in the Onekama Township Fire Department meeting room.

Al Taylor of the Explore the Shores Subcommittee said that a meeting of this group was to be held at 10 a.m. following the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. Taylor mentioned that this Subcommittee is interested in preserving the existing open shores of Portage Lake from Portage Lake Marina on Main Street down to Onekama Marine on Crescent Beach Road. This would include protecting the shoreline wetlands. Taylor said that he has been asked by the group to set up a meeting between its members and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

The Conservancy has indicated that it will be happy to meet with Explore the Shores when it establishes a scope for its project(s) and commitment to the project(s). Commitment is shown in the Portage Lake Watershed Forever goals, Master Plan, and Five-Year Plan that has recently been completed for 2014-2018 by the Parks and Recreation Committee. Reed mentioned that the Watershed, which she announced was meeting that afternoon, is defining projects.

Phillips announced that also meeting at 2 p.m. that afternoon was the Onekama Township Board in a special session to approve Resolution 2014-06 supporting the submission of the 2014 grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the development of Langland Park. Tim Ervin is writing the application, which is the third one submitted to the Trust for Langland Park. The applications were not funded in 2012 and 2013. Trails are being explored as an option to enhance the 2014 application.

Park Watchers—Leann Burger said that she had not been able to go back into Glen Park since the last storm to see about fallen trees. More of the snow has to melt before she can go in.

Five-Year Plan—In response to Leann Burger's question about the **letters of approval for The Portage Lake Community Five-Year Plan for Parks and Recreation in the Village of Onekama, Onekama Township, and the Onekama Consolidated Schools, 2014-2018**, Gerhardt said that Christie Bayus, Region 2 coordinator for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants, had written the letters on February 19 approving the Plan for the Village and the Township, which are eligible to receive grants. She wrote the letter on February 18 telling why she could not approve the Plan for the Schools, because the Trust is no longer considering most schools eligible to receive grants.

Gerhardt reported that as of March 20 twenty-six copies of the Plan had been distributed. The ten copies remaining are for Howard Hughes, Evie McNeil, Jim Mrozinski, Paul Mueller, Ken Franklin, Audrey Kline, Margaret Panches, Susan Barnard,

Kathy Ervin, and Herb Lenon. These copies can be called for during Township office hours, 9 a.m.-2 p.m, Monday-Wednesday.

Taylor said that the **Committee for the Onekama Community Master Plan needs the top ten priorities from the Five-Year Plan for Parks and Recreation to include in the Master Plan now being written. Taylor took the materials to place the Five-Year Plan on the Onekama website. He and Sally Koon are working on this project.**

Longboarding; Parks and Recreation on the Website—Taylor continued with information on “**Rage at the Ridge**” to be held on the hill of Smith Road, April 25-27, 2014. He said that members of the Parks and Recreation Committee could assist with crowd control and safety. Taylor asked if the parks and recreation sites could be placed on the Onekama website like the historical sites? Gerhardt said that most of the information and maps are in the current Five-Year Plan.

Reed, who had been at a meeting in Marilla on March 10 about forming a museum alliance for Manistee County, wondered if **a museum and an historical society for Onekama could be worked into the website**. She said that everyone in the County had a museum but Onekama. Millard said that the Merritt School that was on the Casino property was offered to the Township just before it was torn down. A place to move it here was not found. The owner was willing to pay moving costs and to place it on a foundation.

Leann Burger said that a museum with a collection of historical resources on the internet is available (open) all of the time and could be an option. **Taylor said that he would work on these ideas for the Onekama website**. He also reminded the group that the Parks and Recreation minutes can be placed on the internet.

Township Parks and Recreation Budget for 2014-2015—The Township Board will approve the April, 2014-March, 2015, General Fund Budget at its regular meeting on April 1, 2014. This includes the Recreation/Parks Activities Fund. The Board will also approve the budget for the North Point Park Fund and the Fire Fund. Decisions were made on the budget items at a Township Board work session, March 5. Leann Burger asked how a copy of the budget is obtained. Millard said that the budget will be in the minutes of the April 1 Township Board meeting.

1930 Pierhead Light, and Parks and Recreation—Gerhardt said that in an article in the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation's March 10, 2014, Grapevine, he had asked for **donations to finish the 1930 Pierhead Light project at the Michigan Natural Resources Launch Site—\$700 for the historical plaque and \$1,300 upwards for the electrical work. He asked that checks be written to “Onekama Township” and marked “1930 Pierhead Light Project,” and included the Township’s mailing address—P. O. Box 458, Onekama, MI 49675-0458.**

Almost two pages of this Grapevine were devoted to Parks and Recreation—the Five-Year Plan, irrigation well project at North Point Park, 1930 Pierhead Light project, Boat

Launch Fee Study, Arbor Day activities at North Point Park, and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund projects at the Onekama Village Park and Langland Park.

At the request of Phillips, Gerhardt had also written an article about Parks and Recreation for the Portage Lake Association Newsletter.

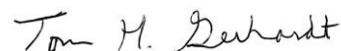
Village Parks and Recreation—Roger Burger reported on the Village Parks and Recreation. The Village Council has received three bids for the **waterfront improvement project** at the Onekama Village Park. Beckett & Raeder is evaluating the bids. The Council has said to accept the lowest bidder that is qualified. It is still expected that the project will be finished by Memorial Day.

Because of the **difficulty with snow removal in the Village Park at the island where the historical “Music” propeller is located**, it is expected that this monument will be moved. Some of the Council members are working on a **fee plan for the Village Park boat launch** to present to the entire Council.

Watershed Fundraiser—Reed announced that the **Portage Lake Watershed Forever is planning its annual fundraiser July 26 on the grounds of the Portage Point Inn.**

Next Meeting and Adjournment—The Community Parks and Recreation meeting for **March 20, 2014, adjourned at 9:35 a.m.** The next regular Committee meeting is on **Thursday, April 17, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., in the Onekama Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,



Tom H. Gerhardt,
Secretary-Treasurer