

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

January 21, 2016

At 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2016, Chairperson Jon Phillips opened the Onekama Village and Township Community Parks and Recreation Committee regular monthly meeting in the Onekama Township Hall. Agendas had been distributed. Other Committee members present were Mary Lou Millard, vice chairperson; Tom Gerhardt, secretary-treasurer; Leann Burger; Roger Burger; Kevin Hughes; Sally Koon; Paul Mueller; and Mary Reed. Al Taylor of the Explore the Shores Subcommittee was there. Fire Captain Clinton Osborn and Township Supervisor David Meister also were at the meeting briefly.

Approval of the Minutes of December 17, 2015—Roger Burger said that the minutes of December 17, 2015, should be corrected. On the second and third lines of the third page is stated “Roger Burger said that all of the Village Council members have copies of the County-Wide Plan [Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan].” Burger said this should actually say that the Council members have copies of pages 123-128 of the Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan. Millard moved that the minutes of the December 17, 2015, meeting be approved with this correction. Mueller seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Addition of Items to the Agenda—Taylor asked that there be a **discussion of the park and recreation plans in Onekama Township and Village for 2016**—things that the Committee should be looking at and things for which grant applications could be filed. Leann Burger said that we should be prioritizing these items. Approximate costs also should be included. This should be done before the 2016-2017 budgets are established for Onekama Township (April 1, 2016-March 31, 2017, fiscal year) and Onekama Village (March 1, 2016-February 28, 2017, fiscal year).

Phillips thought that this should be done outside of the regular monthly meeting. Millard, Reed, Leann Burger, Taylor, and Phillips will meet at 8 a.m. on January 28, 2016, in the Township Hall to make a list of the parks and recreation projects for Onekama Township and Village, and establish approximate costs and prioritize them as well as create a timeline for them.

Koon suggested that an **Onekama School class should be involved in the activities of the Parks and Recreation Committee**. Phillips commented that he has **found from working with the County-Wide Plan that most of the entities participating do not have a parks and recreation committee**.

Taylor also asked **what the Committee is doing for Onekama Days, August 5-7.** This is to be discussed under "New Business."

Secretary-Treasurer's Report—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt said that there **has been an update to the financial report for Recreation/Parks of the Onekama Township Profit and Loss Budget Performance, April 1 through November 18, 2015, that was presented at the last meeting. The update was issued on December 29, 2015.**

The categories and the amounts spent for the stated period (April 1-December 29, 2015) are General Parks, \$9,218.64; Glen Park, \$955.00; Lake Michigan Park (Langland Park), \$1,097.27; Feldhak Park, \$770.00; Harbor Commission, \$0.00; Village Parks, \$0.00; Wetlands Park, \$0.00; Langland Park, \$11,629.29, out of a budgeted \$137,000.00 (includes Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant match of \$87,000.00); North Point Park, \$5,361.34, out of a budgeted \$15,918.33; DNR Park, \$132.82; and Other, \$0.00, giving a total of \$29,164.36 (12.5 percent) spent for Recreation/Parks out of a budget of \$232,918.33, leaving a balance of \$203,753.97 as of December 29, 2015.

Between November 18 and December 29, additional bills were paid for Langland Park, North Point Park, and the DNR Park. There was no report on the Onekama Village budget for parks.

Tree Subcommittee—Mueller reported that **some of the members of the Tree Subcommittee had met recently. It is hoped that the youngsters and young adults can be involved again like they were during Arbor Days in previous years.** Mueller further explained that the Subcommittee would like to do something again for Arbor Day this year.

Hughes said that the Subcommittee members would have to talk to the Onekama School principal and teachers about this activity. He also told the group that Friday, April 15, is a half day of school. He mentioned that Onekama Consolidated Schools has contracted for harvesting some of the trees within the School Forest. If possible, he would like for some of the students to watch this activity with an explanation of what is being done.

Mueller said that if Josh Shields, Forester for the Manistee Conservation District, is to make a presentation during Arbor Day activities, he must be contacted soon. Mueller also stated that the Subcommittee had discussed a **downtown beautification program in Onekama with potted trees.** Another item those present at the Subcommittee meeting talked about was the **installation of the irrigation system at North Point Park for the new trees.** The design and price of this system need to be established for inclusion in the 2016-2017 Township Budget, when it is written in March. Mueller said that another Tree Subcommittee meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan—Public hearings and adoptions of the **Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan**, the five-year plan for parks and recreation prepared by the Manistee County Planning Department in

cooperation with the Alliance for Economic Success, were held by the twenty governmental entities in the Plan during January. Onekama Township had the required public hearing and adopted the Plan at its regular Township Board meeting on January 5, 2016. The Village of Onekama at its regular Council meeting on January 20 held the public hearing and then voted to adopt the Plan with the deletion under Goal 4, Projects (page 125), of “Public Marina: Apply for State funding to hire an engineering firm to study the feasibility of establishing a small public municipal marina.”

Gerhardt asked if the County-Wide Plan now supersedes 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? Leann Burger says that the term “supersede” should not be used. The 2014-2018 Plan is a synergy with the County-Wide Plan, which provides a central contact.

Langland Park—Taylor reported that the **drawings for the Langland Park project almost have been completed**. He said that there is no bicycle parking provided in the plans. He asked the group if this could be placed in the southeast corner of the parking lot? and the number of spaces for bikes that should be provided? Leann Burger said that a rack for ten to fifteen bikes should be provided. The southeast corner of the lot could be the location. The rack south of the walk to the gazebo complex should remain.

Taylor continued by telling the Committee that the gazebo complex will be rehabilitated, although it will no longer provide access to the beach since that access is too close to the south property line of the Park. Additional seating will be provided in the existing complex. The beach access from the northwest corner of the parking lot will have a long ramp to make the incline handicap accessible. There will be benches for viewing Lake Michigan at this entrance to the beach.

There will be one unisex restroom and a hydrant outdoors for washing off sand and also to be used for water supply.

The **permit for the construction has been obtained from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality**; Taylor did not know if the Army Corps of Engineers has issued a permit yet. Bids could be called for in February; work could begin in April but would have to cease during July and August. Work would resume in September. Taylor is project manager. He said that work on the grant project at Arcadia, also funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, might be coordinated with the Langland Park work.

Township Supervisor Meister said the **application to remove the sand dune at Langland Park is going to the M-DEQ in several days**. The **application for a grant to do the sewer project around Portage Lake and on the Lake Michigan shore will be submitted soon**. He also discussed the **proposed vacation of the Seventh Street and Ninth Street Portage Lake Road Ends and the deeding of them to the Portage Point Inn**. In return, the Inn would provide shoreline for public access from Portage Point Drive to Portage Lake at

the south boundary of the Inn's property. This land could be deeded to Onekama Township.

Phillips left the meeting at 9 a.m. Millard then chaired the meeting.

Kayak Launch—Taylor said that the **M-DNR wants to negotiate a lease for the M-DNR Launch Site with the Township**. There is still the need to determine the costs associated with maintaining the site on both a short-term and long-term basis. The **funding application for the kayak launch** is due April 1; Pat Bentley is working with this.

Onekama Consolidated Schools—Hughes reported that the **Onekama School students have done well in State testing**. The **administration and staff at the School are being evaluated**. **Leann Burger has been doing a great job with the community education program**. The **building is being heavily used**. **Enrollees in the Onekama School can and do come from outside of the District**. The **sports teams are doing very well**. Hughes is superintendent of the Onekama Consolidated Schools, and Koon has recently been re-elected president of the Board of Education.

Village of Onekama—Village Council President Roger Burger said that the **Manistee County-Wide Park and Recreation Plan was passed by the Village of Onekama Council last night**, as reported earlier in the minutes. The **Village is waiting for the final payment from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the reimbursable expenses it incurred in the shoreline project at the Onekama Village Park**.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever—Reed reported the **Portage Lake Watershed Forever has applied for and received a mini-grant for a rain garden at Farr Center** from the Manistee County Community Foundation and also has received a grant for this project from the Oleson Foundation.

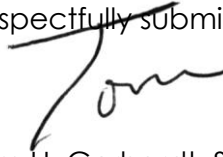
Portage Lake Association—Taylor told Roger Burger that **application should be made for permits from the Michigan Department of Transportation so that PLA volunteers can put in the Portage Petunia Parade along Main Street**. Also, a **permit is needed for the closing of M-22 (Main Street) through the Village for the Onekama Days Parade on August 7**. The **Lions Club has no money to put into fireworks this year for Onekama Days**. **Envelopes will be distributed by the PLA requesting donations for the fireworks and for the petunias**. The fireworks cost around \$7,000. Gerhardt said that the envelopes will be included in the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation March, 2016, Grapevine.

Packets of informative materials for area residents are being distributed. The **Concerts in the Park** have been well attended. The PLA is looking for **interest and participation in an event around Halloween**.

Next Meeting and Adjournment—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for January 21, 2016, adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, February 18, 2016, at 8:00 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall. If the

Onekama School is closed on that day due to the weather, the Committee will not meet.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", written in a cursive style.

Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer