

**Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Commission, March 21, 2022**

Meeting was called to order at the Township Hall 4:09 p.m.

Call to Order

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL - MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Taylor, Andrea Arthur, Michelle Ervin, Lara Treemore-Spears, Doug Barry & ABSENT: Gary Madden, Paul Mueller

MINUTES: January and February meetings reviewed and approved

COMMENT: No members of the public present

**ACTION ITEMS FOR BOARD:**

1. Request Township Board write a letter of permission for habitat restoration on Township wetland properties if Village is awarded SOGL (Sustain our Great Lakes) grant, NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) enhancement at Village entry wetlands. Michelle moved, Andrea supported, motion carried.
2. Approve 2022-23 Parks Budget with the addition of the \$8,000 summer intern discussed in the parks budget work session on March 17, 2022.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Draft Plan for Parks Strategy, Annual Maintenance and 20-Year Capital Improvements will be recirculated for discussion at April meeting.
- Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network will be asked about their ability to control invasive species on Township property in 2022-2023, to minimize spending on invasive species treatment in parks.
- 2022-23 Budget – version provided by Township Treasurer on March 21, 2022, was reviewed and recommended for approval by the board, with the addition of the \$8,000 summer intern discussed in the parks budget work session on March 17, 2022. Lara moved, Andrea seconded, motion carried.
- 2022 Parks and Recreation Survey by MSCreative – Discussion: much of the population of the Village doesn't use a computer; in the past, printed copies at the Post Office and Library had a low response rate; additional information is needed for decision-making such as focus groups and paper copy surveys in tax bills; Distribution for this survey: ask the schools to send to parents and students, PLA email, social media. Andrea moved, Al seconded, motion carried (Lara objected, Doug abstained).

**PARKS UPDATES:**

NORTH POINT PARK UPDATE – Michelle – The Board approved \$1,500 invasive species removal by James Scarlata. James has been contacted for a quote detailing what he would prioritize to prepare for the WAAG. The Board approved a grant application to NEEF (National Environment Educational Foundation) for accessible eco-system sign. The Board approved a grant application to Manistee Community Foundation, if necessary, as back up to NEEF for accessible eco-system sign. Letter of Intent submitted to NEEF. ZOOM Meeting with Toyota

to discuss possible partnership if Onekama is chosen to proceed with Grant Application. Bidding out WAAG plant identification signs. Working to collaborate with LRBOI for Anishinaabe names of plants. May also add Spanish. Applied for Manistee Leadership Counsel Big Day of Service help for June 11.

LANGLAND/GLEN/EAGLE VIEW PARK UPDATE – Lara -Led a meeting with Dave Meister, Al Taylor, Roger Berger, Wayne Miller and DNR grant administrator, Alex McBride. Brainstormed potential grant projects.

LANGLAND PARKS. New door for restroom approved and ordered.

KAYAK LAUNCH UPDATE – DNR is considering paving the access road so that the potholes don't recur.

ONEKAMA SCHOOLS UPDATE – Gary Madden: The district is continuing to invite input from interested parties regarding changing the district's mascot. There is no timeline. 23 people showed up at the School Board meeting to complain about the use of certain books in class. They were listened to and thanked for attending.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. Andrea moved, Doug seconded, motion carried.

The next Meeting will be: April 18, 2022 at 4 p.m. in the Township Hall