

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

August 20, 2015

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At 8:05 a.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2015, 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; Roger Burger; Leann Burger; Paul Mueller; and Mary Reed. Fire Captain Clinton Osborn was also present for most of the meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes of July 16, 2015**—Millard moved that the minutes of the July 16, 2015, meeting be approved. Mueller seconded the motion; the motion carried.

**Additions to the Agenda**—Phillips added a drinking fountain at North Point Park and brochures for the Park, both under “Park Watchers.”

**Public Comment**—Osborn mentioned that one of the firetrucks had signs on it during the parade thanking people for the donations that they have made for the petunias.

**Secretary-Treasurer's Report**—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt presented the financial report for the North Point Park Fund. The balance on July 1, 2015, was \$19,274.86. A payment of \$22.61 to Consumers Energy on July 7, 2015, brought the balance down to \$19,252.25, which was the balance on August 1, 2015. **On August 12, 2015, the balance was \$14,932.18**, after a payment of \$4,763.07 was made to Peterson's Well Drilling for the new well at North Point Park and a deposit was made of the Parks Appreciation Day donations of \$443.00.

**There was no report for the Township General Fund Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities.**

**Gerhardt continued with a report prepared by Township Clerk Helen Mathieu on the fund for the Pierhead Light project.** The donations totaled \$3,238.09. Spent from the Pierhead Light Fund has been \$1,106.00 for the bronze plaque, \$325.00 for 250 booklets, \$65.00 to schedule the placing of the service wire underground from the meter pedestal for the Light to the service pole and connecting it to the overhead line, \$10.99

for paper on which to print the dedication insert for the booklets, \$35.01 for the audio system used by the speakers, and \$1,208.09 for Onekama Marine.

The Onekama Marine bill included labor and supplies for the wiring of the light tower itself, the cable and conduit for the underground wiring, and the cost of installing the plaque on the stone. The trenching for the underground wiring and the moving of the stone were donated by Swidorski Brothers. Paradigm Electric made the connections between the power source and the light tower at no charge.

**The total of the expenditures for the work to complete the Pierhead Light is \$2,750.09, leaving \$488.00 in the fund; at Roger Burger's suggestion, it was the consensus of those present to leave this amount in this fund for maintenance of the Pierhead Light.**

Burger also reported **that the Village had spent around \$8,000.00 this year for routine maintenance projects in the Village parks.** He wants to have the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant shoreline project in the Village Park at final completion by the end of September.

**Portage Lake Watershed Forever**—Reed reported that a **survey had been conducted of invasive species in the parks** paid out of the Township General Fund Budget for Recreation/Parks Activities. Also, **purple loosestrife has been found to be prevalent** around Portage Lake. **Some storm drains have been labeled.** There is a **grant available to review the Watershed Plan;** the group is working toward the September 1 deadline for the application. The **kayak raffled off** by the Watershed was won by an Onekama woman.

**Park Watchers**—At **Glen Park**, the dock sections have been placed in the wet area on the west trail above the wellhouses. These are surplus dock sections that were donated to the Township by the Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation and that were recently stored at North Point Park.

**North Point Park**—Chairperson Phillips reported that **the North Point Park well is in at a depth of 50 feet.** The cost, which has been previously mentioned, has been paid (\$4,763.07). Phillips indicated that there was a **rebate check issued by Peterson** for items that were lower than the original estimate, on which the Township used to pay the bill. This rebate check had not been deposited when the report was made on the North Point Park Fund, so the amount was not included in the report. **Phillips asked Mueller if the trees at North Point are currently in need of water.** Mueller thought that they had ample water right now.

The question has come up again about having a **drinking fountain** supplied by the well at North Point Park. Roger Burger said that in the past the Committee voted not to have a drinking fountain. Gerhardt said that this was because of the expense and the uncertain quality of the water. **At present, a frostproof hydrant is the only outlet for the water of this well.** It is assumed that with this hydrant the pump will not have to be shut off and the system drained for the winter to prevent freezing. If lines are added to irrigate the trees, the irrigation system will have to be shut off and drained.

It was decided to order **one hundred more North Point Park brochures** from Jackpine.

**Tree Subcommittee**—Mueller reported that **he had contacted Canfield Climbing Clippers, Buckley, about removing twenty hazardous trees in Glen Park near Fourth Avenue.** Canfield is busy in Leelanau County removing trees that were damaged in the storm several weeks ago. This work could be done sometime in September. The brush and timber from these trees are to be cleaned up when the trees are cut.

**Onekama Days Activities**—Despite the rain on Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8, **pickleball and tennis tournaments were held.** The **10 a.m. walk in Glen Park with Josh Shields, forester, Manistee and Mason-Lake Conservation Districts, was cancelled.** Leann Burger said that his walk for the Tree Subcommittee was very informative and this event should be scheduled again. Shields is now concerned about oak wilt, another disease that is killing trees.

**Parks Appreciation Day** and **“Sharks in the Parks!”** went on as scheduled. Millard reported that the kids were enthused about the parks. Mueller said that the Pierhead Light should be in “Sharks in the Parks!” The hot dogs were prepared by Mueller. Onekama Marine donated half of the cost of the food but could not make arrangements for the ice cream at the Pierhead Light this year. Other refreshments were served in place of ice cream for dessert at the North Point parking lot.

It was the consensus of those present to have the “Sharks in the Parks!” again next year. They praised Sally Koon and Millard for their work on this event. It was also felt that any of the prizes left over (twenty-two compasses were not awarded) should be used again for the next event. Leann Burger said that **if there is a kayak launch in place next year a flotilla should be held as an Onekama Days event.** She mentioned that the Coast Guard does have to be notified of this event.

**Langland Park Project**—Millard and Phillips reported that **Landscape Architect Tim Knutson of Beckett & Raeder was here and updated the Township Board at its August 3, 2015, meeting on the design development program for North Point Park.** Phillips said that he was not able to attend the meeting but had heard there were drawings shown to the Board at that time. The Committee was wondering what was shown and why they had not seen any plans yet if they were shown.

**Kayak Launch Update**—The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will comment soon on the plans to place the Kayak Launch at the M-DNR Launch Site.

**Onekama Consolidated Schools**—Sally Koon had reported previous to the meeting by email. She said that **sign-up for the public has started for fitness classes, the new gentle yoga class, and the new beginning karate class.** Leann Burger said that she was enthused about yoga being included in this fall's schedule. Sally's email also said that there is a lot of activity at the School now that **teams are starting practice; the first home football game is August 28, 2015. School begins September 8.**

Millard said that **there is a need for runners (presumably from the School) on the streets to wear clothing with fluorescent colors so that they will be seen more easily.**

***Nature Conservancy and Families Dedicate Wooded Tract as “Lukas’ Woods Preserve”***—Gerhardt said that he had attended on **August 6, 2015, the dedication of the Lukas’ Woods Preserve, 9850 Ivanhoe Drive off of Portage Point Drive.** The 120-acre forest was donated by Mark Ebell, Laura Bierema, Jeff Drew, and Buck Drew in partnership with the Michigan Nature Conservancy in memory of Lukas’ Willem Bierema Ebell and Charles Drew. Lukas was born prematurely and died in infancy.

The speakers were Rich Tuzinsky, director of protection at Nature Conservancy; Buck Drew, son of Charles Drew; Mark Ebell and Laura Bierema, Lukas’ parents; and Jerry Dennis, prize-winning author of The Living Great Lakes and A Walk in the Animal Kingdom. The sign for the preserve was unveiled on Ivanhoe Road just before the group walked in part of the Lukas’ Woods Preserve. Dennis spoke at the Ebell-Bierema residence, “Bierebell,” overlooking Lake Michigan; hors d’oeuvres were served. **The dedication of the Charles Drew Preserve will be in 2016.**

***Next Meeting and Adjournment***—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for August 20, 2015, adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", written over a horizontal line.

Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer