

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

November 19, 2015

At 8:05 a.m. on Thursday, November 19, 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; Ken Franklin; Kevin Hughes; Paul Mueller; and Mary Reed. Fire Captain Clinton Osborn also was at the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes of October 15, 2015—Millard moved that the minutes of the October 15, 2015, meeting be approved. Mueller seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Addition of Item to the Agenda—Phillips called for additions to the Agenda. Franklin wished to talk about Feldhak Park. This item was placed on the Agenda after the Portage Lake Watershed Forever report.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report—Secretary-Treasurer Gerhardt presented this financial report for Recreation/Parks of the Onekama Township Profit and Loss Budget Performance, April 1 through November 18, 2015.

The categories and the amounts spent thus far for the stated period 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, \$10,426.50, out of a budgeted \$137,000.00 (includes Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant match of \$87,000.00); North Point Park, \$5,301.34, out of a budgeted \$15,918.33; DNR Park, \$60.16; and Other, \$0.00, giving a total of \$27,828.91 (11.9 percent) spent for Recreation/Parks out of a budget of \$232,918.33, leaving a balance of \$205,089.42.

Tree Subcommittee—Mueller reported that Isaac Canfield of Canfield Climbing Clippers of Buckley, which was awarded the \$4,000.00 contract for removing twenty hazardous trees and debris from Glen Park, has now said that this work cannot be done until the second week in December.

In regard to the tree trimming along Consumers Power easements to be done later this fall, Reed reported that the contractors hired by Consumers have said that they will remove brush and debris from private property at the rate of \$105 per hour.

County Parks and Recreation Plan—Phillips and Reed reported that the first draft has been prepared for the Manistee 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. After receiving input from those participating in writing this Plan, a revised or second draft will be available in December for review. In January, the twenty governmental entities involved in the Plan will adopt it at their monthly meetings. The Onekama Village Council and Onekama Township Board are two of the governmental entities that will approve the Plan.

Since the goals and objectives in the new Plan for the Village and Township were from the Parks and Recreation Committee's The Portage Lake Community Five-Year Plan for Parks and Recreation in the Village of Onekama, Onekama Township, and the Onekama Consolidated Schools, which is current through 2018—it was the consensus of the Committee members present that they should also review the second draft of the new Plan and make a formal recommendation to the Village Council and the Township Board that they adopt it.

A meeting of the Committee for Thursday, December 17, 2015, was set for the usual time of 8 a.m., at the Onekama Township Hall. Millard it to notify the Committee members by email when this second draft becomes available after December 1 and where the Committee members may view it.

Roger Burger said that the Committee needs to review the Onekama Village and Township section of this Plan annually to determine if an amendment is needed for the local goals and objectives.

Kayak Launch—The first draft of the lease of the M-DNR Launch Site to Onekama Township, where the Kayak Launch would be located, has been received and is being reviewed by the Township.

Onekama Consolidated Schools—Superintendent Hughes said that the School year at Onekama is going well. The football season has been great, a new marking period has begun, enrollment is steady (around 429 students), and the Board members are working well together. **A real problem is finding affordable housing in the Township and Village to accommodate young families moving to the area.**

Village of Onekama—Roger Burger reported that the Village is still waiting for the completion of the paperwork involved with the shoreline improvements at the Onkama Village Park funded by the grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund. Burger also said that the Portage Lake Association will donate toward the jetty work at the Village Park Launch. The Village will seek funds for this project from the grant programs of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever—Reed reported that the Portage Lake Watershed Forever will meet Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 7 p.m., at Farr Center for its annual meeting. The group will prioritize some of its projects for the next year. It would like to establish a cooperative organization between watersheds in the County and area.

Feldhak Park—Franklin would like to create a landscape plan for Feldhak Park, which would provide plantings that would not obstruct the view of Portage Lake and that would satisfy members of the donor's family in regard to the restriction on the deed granting Onekama Township the property, which requires that no permanent structures be placed there.

Franklin will create a plan and will confer with Committee members and Township officials before approaching the family.

Reed said that the Portage Lake Watershed Forever still wants to place a sign on the Eagles View Wetlands—A Community Preserve, south of Feldhak Park. Phillips said that Amour Sign in Manistee has made a proposal for this project, which could be placed in the Township Budget in 2016-2017.

Onekama Township Fire Department—Fire Captain Clinton Osborn reported that the Onekama Township Fire Department has made two applications to Manistee Revenue Sharing for funds for equipment for the Jaws truck. Announcement of the grants awarded will be in December.

Portage Lake Association—Mueller announced that “Christmas in Onekama,” which will include the annual tree lighting at Farr Center and the lighting of the street decorations, will be held on November 21. He also said that the PLA donation toward the jetty work in the Onekama Village Park is \$4,000.

Mueller asked if the Township could include funding in the Township budget for parks and recreation for the watering of the Portage Petunia Parade along Main Street. Phillips will inquire about this. Franklin asked if anyone could assist Manistee's Blossom Boulevard, which is down in volunteers and may go out of existence?

Next Meeting and Adjournment—The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for November 19, 2015, adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next regular meeting is on Thursday, December 17, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the Onekama Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom H. Gerhardt, Secretary-Treasurer