

**ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP
BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021
8:00 A M**

Meeting called to order by Supervisor David Meister at 8:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: Al Taylor, Bob Blackmore, Ed Bradford, Shelli Johnson, and Meister

Amend Agenda: Taminga Added

Public Comment: Comment received from Dave Wallace to remove CG Davis, Cron, Morey, and William Forth out of the Ordinance and Plan as they are not Road Ends and were removed from the list.

Goal Review on Manistee County Parks and Recreation Resolution: Lengthy Discussion on the verbiage submitted as discussed in the regular board meeting earlier this week vs what the Parks and Rec Committee discussed on passing.

Motion by Johnson, Second by Blackmore to remove Morey, CG Davis, Cron, and William Forth from the Road End list and from the Rec Plan. M/C

Motion by Johnson, Second by Blackmore to accept the Manistee County Recreation Plan as provided with the Goals that the Onekama Park and Recreations Department sent to Zach Vega on 10/29/21 with the adopted changes, per attached below. Roll Call Vote:
Yea: Taylor, Blackmore, Meister, Johnson, Bradford.
Nay: None
M/C

Goal 1: Continue to manage parks and road ends within the Township in a manner that balances user needs, intended uses and ecological stability.

- Develop and implement a master plan for each park in Onekama Township.
- Conduct an inventory of each park using the Parks Management Plan.
- Keeping original intended uses and purposes of each park in the system in mind, solicit public feedback and input regarding parks and recreation at public meetings.
- Implement a Park Watchers and Park Advocates program to monitor park properties regularly. Engage members of the community to recruit volunteers. Encourage the Advocates to participate in park planning processes.
- Add signage at road ends that describe their intended uses and designations.
- Add wayfinding, informational and historic signage throughout the community.
- Conduct assessments of the community's road ends to evaluate violations.
- Based on the road ends assessments, prioritize enforcement efforts and present these efforts to the Township Board for review.

- In order to promote appropriate uses at individual parks, add informational signage, wayfinding signage and interpretive signage. Supported activities at individual parks will also be listed on the municipal website.
- Employ a part-time employee to maintain Onekama Township's parks.

Goal 2: Collaborate with other local units of government, Manistee County, businesses, and civic organizations to improve existing park facilities and to identify new parks and recreation opportunities.

- Encourage collaboration between Onekama Township and the Village of Onekama When budgeting and planning for parks and recreation.
- Township Board to seek out and appoint member of the Onekama Township Parks and Recreation Committee, or other interested volunteers, to engage with parks and recreation stakeholders to foster ongoing collaborative relationships.
- Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Manistee County and other relevant stakeholders to identify and implement trail connections.
- Identify opportunities to reduce municipal expenditures on parks and recreation maintenance by sharing services with the Village.
- Support the Portage Lake Management Plan for the control of Invasive Species both in and around Portage Lake.
- Work with the Manistee Recreation Association, Onekama Consolidated Schools, Manistee ISD and other organizations to provide programs for residents, Youth, and those with disabilities.

Goal 3: Enhance and expand upon the parks and recreation sites in Onekama Township.

- Where feasible and appropriate, provide seating, potable water, restrooms and lighting at park facilities.
- Develop a bike path or trail around Portage Lake
- Provide ADA accessibility at recreation sites.
- Continue to support the ongoing stewardship of the Portage Lake Watershed.
- Continue to identify and acquire land that contribute to environmental preservation, education, viewsheds and recreation experiences.
- Support public education efforts regarding invasive species and septic system monitoring.
- Improve parking access at recreation sites.
- Develop additional hiking trails at park sites in addition to supporting non-motorized connections between recreation sites.
- Investigate new recreation infrastructure for activities not currently offered in the community. These may include, but are not limited to, a pickleball court, ice skating and fitness equipment.
- Continue to budget and fund annually for Parks and Rec

Goal 4: Encourage the use of recreation sites by members of the community through effective public engagement, marketing and partnerships.

- Continue to promote and provide recreation programming for Township residents via nature walks, birding, pollinators, dark sky and beach activities.
- Install a map of Onekama Recreation sites at a site with pedestrian traffic

- Continue to publish a brochure of parks and recreation of sites for residents and visitors. These should be placed at the library, Township Hall, bank, restaurants, lodging and other highly visible sites in the community.
- Publish a parks and recreation newsletter for donors and local taxpayers.
- Consider Justification for Parks and Rec funding via a local Township Parks Millage.

Taminga: Discussion on Taminga PUD over confusion on number of buildings.

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned 9:10 a.m.

Shelli Johnson, Clerk