

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE

April 6, 2022

Special Board Meeting

7:00 pm

MINUTES – CORRECTIONS MADE BY REBECCA CHOWN ON MAY 2, 2022

1. **Call to Order** Skurski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call** Present: Shanafelt, Dahl, Skurski, Zebell, Murphy, Milliken Excused Absence: Chown, Karczewski
4. **Approve Agenda: Milliken moved to approve the agenda, second by Shanafelt. passed unam**
5. **Brief Citizens Comments-for items not on the agenda**
Nancy R. Heller 3091 Blue Water Road: on March 30, 2022, the township board held a special meeting to approve a matching grant of approximately \$469,000, with the township needing to commit \$235,000. Thanked Mike Skurski and Armen Shanafelt for attending, providing excellent research, and stopping the grant application from moving forward. Recommend citizens watch the YouTube tape of the March 30th meeting as the comments are valuable.
6. **Conflict of Interest** None
7. **Consent Agenda:** None
8. **Business**
 - A. Pickleball Plan Presentation
Dawn Hemming 2455 Neahtawanta Road: there are now about 100 people playing pickleball on the existing courts. Pickleball play has grown by about 40% in the last 2 years. I just started playing last year and found a passionate group of people who welcomed new players. There is camaraderie, joy, passion, and great exercise. I play with a 91 year old who has one leg and one prosthetic leg and we play with teenagers and everyone in between. We play 5 days a week minimum. We have fixed play on Tuesday/Thursday and fixed play on Monday/Wednesday. Friday is free for all. The tennis courts are double lined, so it is super confusing. The courts are currently cracked, with sand coming up and there is concern for injuries. The 4 pickleball nets are carried over 100 feet to install and then carried back at the end of play. At the end of December, I had an idea we could raise money to gift pickleball courts to Bowers Harbor. Many of us drive to Glen Arbor, Sutton's Bay and the south YMCA to play pickleball. I read the 2018 Park and Recreation Plan and on page 81 it said pickleball courts. I found a group of talented, enthusiast people at the end of last year who helped draw up some plans. We used USA Pickleball specifications for safety in court design. I will turn this over to Don Conway, who is a retired geologist and engineer, who is part of this team.
Don Conway Mapleton Lane: my wife Jane and I have lived on the peninsula since 2005 and owned property here since 1999. Currently, 4 pickleball courts are made painted within the tennis courts. We bring our own nets. This sets up a potential conflict for court usage between the tennis and pickleball players. We are using USA Pickleball Association guidelines as to what makes a good playing surface and court. Last week members of the parks committee, Jennifer Hodges of Gourdie-Fraser, and Jason Horton from Elmers met with members of our group to select a site within Bowers Harbor Park, which fit into the parks master plan. The design fits into the current location of the basketball court. There will be barrier fences between the courts to prevent errant balls interfering with other games and a social gathering place. Pickleball is a social game both on and off the court, so there is a place for players, friends, and families to interact. Distributes cost analysis from Gourdie-Fraser from April 6, 2022 scaled down from 8 courts to 6 (see end of minutes). The cost is \$366,503.78. The pickleball group will pay for the engineering with a 15% cost overage contingency for the project.

The committee asks questions regarding the type of surface material to be used, necessity of fencing between the courts, resurfacing costs every 10 years, crack sealing annually, water drainage, and the area needed for a bathroom drain field. The committee requested an annual cost for maintenance be calculated, including amortizing the 10 year resurfacing cost. While the pickleball group stated they will cover the annual crack sealing, the township is ultimately responsible for the courts going forward. To move the basketball court costs \$25,000.

Skurski: beginning the project around June 1, 2022 is going to disrupt everything but pavilion 1 and baseball.

Murphy: expressed thanks for the group's efforts, passion, fund raising, and commitment to the project. A group of citizens presented a detailed and thoughtful plan for a dog park. The public needs an opportunity to express their thoughts through a public comment process. We have 833 acres of parks and don't have a boat launch to replace what was lost at Haserot.

Shanafelt: balancing the needs of constituents is important when it comes to public land. For the public hearing, the project's exact cost is required. The pickleball group knows their cost, but what about the relocation and cost of replacing the basketball court. The parks master plan needs to be considered.

Milliken: perhaps presenting the location and construction of the pickleball courts is a first step.

Skurski: it makes sense to do both the basketball court and the 6 pickleball courts at the same time. This would reduce the overall costs and would only have one construction period instead of two. Pickleball was in the 2018 Township Parks and Recreation Plan and resulted in the restriping of the tennis courts. The finance part of this project is up to the town board.

Zebell: is what do we need to make a recommendation to the town board regarding the pickleball court project and placement? Having a basketball court replacement, working within the framework of the master plan, stating the pickleball group has to bear the full cost including the landscaping, having the maintenance costs on both a yearly basis and a 10 year basis calculation are needed.

Chad Jed Hemming 2459 Neahtawanta Road: suggests making a motion for amending the parks master plan by the parks committee at the public hearing and then the details for construction and payment could go before the town board.

Skurski: what we do need to know to amend the parks master plan; the layout for the court and where to put the displaced basketball court, the retaining wall, and storm water collection. This leaves bathroom and playground capabilities.

Shanafelt: the public hearing informs our recommendation to the town board.

Murphy moved to have a public hearing to recommended changes to the parks master plan.

Skurski moved to amend motion to include the layout of the 6 pickleball courts and a junior basketball court from Gourdie-Fraser's design and a public meeting on April 27, 2022. Milliken seconded motion and amendment. approved unanimously

Citizen Comments Jane Boursaw 12875 Bluff Road: There are trees in this area planted by the women's club; what will happen to them?

Hemming: no trees will be touched.

Nancy R. Heller 3091 Blue Water Road: the first thing the town board will ask is how much does it cost and is the money in hand. The numbers tonight were extrapolated from 8 down to 6. Make sure you numbers are correct and tight. You may get through a public meeting, but the town board is different. Bring the people with you who are providing you with this information. You have worked hard on this and I want you to be successful. Come prepared. I do not understand how the township board can miraculously come up with money for things, but not provide the parks committee with adequate funding to do even the most basic maintenance in our current parks.

10. Board Comments Skurski: a grant is being put together to complete some of the Bower Harbor Expansion projects.

Peninsula Township
Parks Committee Special Meeting
April 6, 2022 7:00 p.m.
Lola Jackson Transcribing Secretary
MINUTES

Murphy: I was asked by ~~the Oleson Foundation~~ Peninsula Township to work on a grant for the Pelazzari Pelizzari Natural Area ADA boardwalk. This did not come before this committee.

**11. Adjournment Shanafelt moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Murphy. passed unam
Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**