

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP  
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PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE  
May 24, 2023  
Regular Committee Meeting  
**CORRECTED MINUTES BY LOLA JACKSON JULY 13,  
2023  
7:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** by Skurski at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call:** Dahl, Butler, Milliken, Zebell, Skurski, Murphy, Chown-Township Clerk.
4. **Approve Agenda:** Skurski changed Business Item C to become A and added Business Item E to review the protocols for structuring a meeting agenda and packet. Milliken adds Business Item D to discuss Archie Park improvements. Item B will include updates from Murphy on Pelizzari Nature Area. Zebell adds Business Item F for updates on Bowers Harbor Park and the upcoming celebration plan. Chown added Business Item G for a basketball court update.  
**Milliken moved to revise the agenda with a second by Murphy. Motion Approved by Consensus**
5. **Brief Citizens Comments (for agenda items only)** None
6. **Conflict of Interest** None
7. **Consent Agenda:** any member of the committee, staff, or the public may ask that any item on the consent agenda be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion.
  - A. Bowers Harbor Park Pavilion Reservation form with Ordinance 57.
  - B. Peninsula Township Special Event form with Ordinance 57.**Chown moved to approve the consent agenda with a second by Butler. Approved by Consensus**
8. **Business**
  - A. Bench Donation Robert A. Gould (Moved to Item C)  
**Murphy:** I met with Bob (Gould) regarding **refurbishing** placement of a bench dedicated to his wife **located** in Pelizzari and the **installation of a potential second bench potential refurbishment of an existing bench in the same location within the park.**  
The board discussed placement of the new bench and decided to leave the existing **original** bench as is.  
**Milliken moved to approve the idea of a second bench in Pelizzari and if you can get together with Bob Gould and find a spot he agrees with, let's move forward. Second by Zebell.**  
**Approved by consensus**

B. Park Signage and Pelizzari Update (discussed after C)

C. BH Soccer Sunday mornings - Drew Denison, Tony Mosqueda (Moved to A)

**Drew Denison 2768 Victoria Drive Traverse City:** this group has been playing soccer here for 20 years with Miguel Osorio. This started as a group of migrant workers, and they played most Sundays. We are now back playing every Sunday at Bowers Harbor Park. The 90-minute games are played at 10 a.m. and noon with referees. We want to grow the league to 10 teams and add 2 p.m. to the schedule. We are currently an 8-team league. We would like to play games at 10 a.m. using both fields and 2 more games at noon. The season is 12-14 weeks long and ends on September 10, 2023.

**Tony Mosqueda 8372 East Home Road:** I have a form we can share with Michelle (Zebell) where every player has signed a waiver of liability. We are asking for a standing reservation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday. The soccer field is in great shape.

**Zebell:** last weekend the players came over to help with a load of wood chips around the new playground equipment after playing their games. This was an immense help.

**Chown:** what is the name of the league?

**Mosqueda:** today we are called the Traverse City Soccer League. Twenty years ago, this was called the Traverse City Hispanic League. We are happy to be back playing where this first began and embracing our roots. We do envision a semi-professional team going forward. We want to get sanctioned with the State of Michigan, so we can play against other state leagues and eventually have other teams play on our home field here.

**Zebell moved to reserve the 2 soccer fields at Bowers Harbor Park for the Traverse City Hispanic League every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from May-September 2023 with a second by Milliken.**  
**Motion Approved by Consensus**

B. Park Signage

**Steve Lagerquist 146 Blackridge Ct Traverse City:** I have provided you with some samples of signage used by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC). We are interested in helping you with potential sign design. There are interpretative signs for different kinds of habitats. My understanding is the peninsula is interested in doing signage for all the parks on the peninsula.

**Murphy:** Pelizzari can be used as a template with a section recognizing the role GTRLC played in the creation of the park.

**Chown:** the main goal is consistency throughout the parks system with the signage.

**Lagerquist:** yes, if you have artwork or language to share, we can aid in the creation of a template. Have you thought about the signage colors or a logo? Our timing would be the design of the signage this fall and installation early March or April 2024.

**Chown:** no, we don't and need a committee to work on signage design.

**Murphy:** can you give us an update on the trail counter at Pelizzari?

**Lagerquist:** the numbers are only from March and April. Each month had approximately 2,100 visitors and this does not count the people entering from the cul-de-sac.

**Murphy:** ~~oak wilt has been found on the Meeker property~~. Claire Herman from GTRLC went out ~~there to the Meeker property~~ and wrote "Ellie (Johnson) from the Conservation District did a site visit and is fairly certain there is oak wilt on the neighboring property. However, she needs to return

and get a better sample to send to MSU". This is a private property issue for the neighbors, and they can chose not to do anything about the wilt.

**Lagerquist:** if there is a confirmation oak wilt exists, the red oaks need removal. The wilt is spread through the root system of the infected trees to other oaks nearby.

**Murphy:** the fundraising for the Meeker property acquisition is in full gear and the property should be obtained. We want to keep the momentum going and are continuing to talk with neighbors around the Meeker parcel for potential purchase **and easements.**

**D. Archie Park Update-Milliken**

**Milliken:** 8 native dogwood trees were planted using DTE grant money. The DTE grant awarded \$380, which covered the cost of the trees. The matching costs were for Wilkinson to plant the trees, \$153 in volunteer hours planting trees and shrubs, and the purchase of soil amendment and gators. The total project was \$1,131. The township cost is \$751. A bike repair station grant was awarded, and the township portion is \$1,100. The total cost is \$2,878. Due to a time constraint, Wunsch, the supervisor, can approve expenditures under \$10,000.

**Butler moved to request \$1,851 to complete the 2 projects at Archie Park with a second by Murphy.**

**Roll call vote: Yes-Murphy, Butler, Dahl, Skurski, Zebell, Milliken, Chown**

**Motion approved by consensus**

**G. Bowers Harbor Park Basketball- Chown**

**Chown:** the township board was unwilling to allow the proposed pickleball courts to eliminate any existing uses in Bowers Harbor. Mike Query is a township resident and works for Spaulding Sports of Northern Michigan. Query can provide the stanchions and nets for \$2,867; Brian Peace stated Elmers can pour the foundation, strip the court, and install the hoops for \$8,870. This brings the total under \$12,000. The township is funding this with ARPA money.

**F. Update on Bowers Harbor-Zebell**

**Zebell:** the new playground equipment installation is complete, and volunteers helped move wood chips to surround the base.

Committee discussed plans for the Bowers Harbor Park Celebration on July 22, 2023.

**E. Protocols for Agenda and Packet Preparation-Skurski**

The committee discussed the procedure for creating meeting materials and agendas.

**9. Citizen Comments**

**Nancy Heller:** make sure to have adequate parking for the Bowers celebration. (from the audience).

**10. Committee Comments None**

**11. Board Comments**

**12. Adjournment Murphy moved to adjourn with a second by Dahl. Approved by consensus**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**