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PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
June 28, 2023
Regular Committee Meeting
MINUTES
7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order by Zebell at 7:00 p.m.**
2. **Pledge**
3. **Roll Call:** Dahl, Milliken, Zebell, Murphy, Chown-Township Clerk. Excused absence-Butler, Skurski.
4. **Approve Agenda: Milliken moved to approve the agenda with a second by Chown.**

Approved by Consensus

5. **Brief Citizens Comments (for agenda items only)**
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. Minutes from April 26, 2023 and May 24, 2023.
 - B. Correspondence
 1. Correspondence from Brent Wheat “Beach Monitoring Results”-June 15, 2023
 2. Correspondence from Keith Konen “Kelly Park” – June 16, 2023
 3. Correspondence from Fred Danielson “Parks Ordinance 57 Campfires” – June 9, 2023

Chown moved to approve the consent agenda with the amended minutes from May 24, 2023 with a second by Milliken.

Approved by Consensus

8. **Business**
 - A. Basketball, Tennis, Pickleball Court Update-Chown/Zebell
Kent Rabish 13383 Bluff Road-the start of pickleball court construction begins next week and the grading and surfacing should be finished.. On July 10, 2023, the fence company is coming out to begin their work. The pickleball court surface then needs one month to cure. After that the nets, striping, and basic structure should be completed. The hope is by the end of August or beginning of September, we can be playing. With just 6 courts, we are investigating some type of reservation system. There also needs to be signage as to what the court rules are. One question is regarding the existing tennis courts and their resurfacing. Is there still money in the budget for this?
Chown-yes, this will be happening at the same time the pickleball courts are installed. This gives us the opportunity to save some money as Elmer’s is doing both the tennis and pickleball courts. It is about \$30,000 to do the tennis courts. Last week, Mike Query, a local township resident, told us the engineers at Spaulding did not approve of a basketball court sharing space with a pickleball or tennis court. Brian Peace from Elmer’s saved the day by surfacing another suitable, separate location for the basketball court at a low price. We have postponed the celebration in July and see

something in September where we can all celebrate the Estee Lauder make-over of Bowers Harbor. We would love your help in planning this celebration.

Rabish-we have an email list with 104 members, and we can send out a notice of the date and a request for help in planning this event. We have 4 portable nets, and we are wondering if one of the tennis courts could be stripped for pickleball? The new pickleball courts have permanent nets.

Chown: I have had some tennis players tell me they are glad to have dedicated courts back, so this needs to be explored.

Jane Conway 14542 Mapleton Lane-about a year and a half ago, we were asking for 8 pickleball courts, and it came to fruition there was only room for 6. It was discussed at several parks committee meetings about having one of the tennis courts lined for pickleball overflow. I went online and could only access parks minutes through last July; it would have been a discussion before last July 2022. I believe this was approved.

Chown-I would like a tour of the pickleball and tennis courts as I do not know which lines are which, so maybe you could give me a tour?

Conway- yes, I am available to give you a tour anytime.

Murphy- this is a public park and to have an online reservation system for your group may present a conflict with people just showing up and saying, "why can't we play". If you are setting up reserve hours, then how many hours are available for walk-on players?

Rabish- our group plays 2 days and a morning; we are not looking to make this into a private court. The goal is to have 2 of the courts be walk-ons at all times. Sutton's Bay courts have an app to reserve play, and this seems to be working well for them. We do understand this is a public space.

Murphy-this committee is working to brand and update the park signage. We need to stay within the township signage ordinance, which is separate from the park's ordinance; we want to make all of this mesh.

Rabish-we could use the same company, so the signage is all the same.

Chown-yes, we need the proof of your signage for approval.

Peg Rabish 13383 Bluff Road-we want to have a sign somewhere recognizing the donations and support that we received from this community.

Chown-yes, we can work that out. It would be good if you could get us the signage information before the July parks meeting.

B. Bowers Harbor Park Celebration Postponement-Zebell

Zebell- we have already discussed why the celebration is being postponed. I want to be clear about the purpose of this celebration and how best to create intentional engagement from individuals who want to help make this happen.

Chown- we have had deferred needs in our parks for a very long time and this will continue unless we can create interest and ownership of the parks by the community. We need several people from the town board, the pickleball group, tennis players, and others who have a reason to love the park to come out and advocate for it. In 2017 a concept plan for Bowers Harbor Expansion Park was approved and not a single, forward step has been taken to implement this concept plan. I see this as a way to mobilize community support of this incredible park. The purpose is to mobilize interest and support and then the question becomes is this a fundraiser or not?

Bill Catinella 2600 Bowers Harbor-my wife walks the park, and we take our grandchildren to the park. The new playground equipment is wonderful. Yes, we do meet other grandparents there and

we strike up conversations. The reason people think you voted down the dog park idea is because you did not tell anybody what happened. I do not know if you have a way of telling people.

There is the online thing called “Next Door.” That is where I heard the dog park had been denied.

Zebell- the dog park was not denied. The group that came and gave an excellent presentation has not responded to any of my follow-up emails or phone calls.

Chown-I am averse to social media for plenty of reasons. Conversations can get out of control rather quickly. However, the lighthouse manager uses social media quite effectively.

Murphy-the lighthouse manager is a paid full-time employee with benefits. Until we have more township staff working specifically on creating a volunteer parks network and handling social media, the capacity is not there. This township deserves staff for the parks. Until we have a new form of government that permits us to have a park’s manager working with other township staff to create things like a celebration, it is taking on too much right now. This is my opinion. A ribbon cutting celebration is enough.

Dahl- you need a project manager working with all the parks. Right now, if there is problem in one of the parks, who does a person call? We do not have enough help to do this.

Zebell-I am torn because I see the value of a celebration. What we are doing fits my value system and I want to contribute. I have the ability to organize this, but what I can’t do is be the only person who is on the ground. We have Mike Query for basketball and he thinks there is interest from the Y members to help. He can also organize a tennis demonstration.

Milliken- having a fundraiser turns this more into an event rather than a celebration. By waiting until September is better, and you can use the school, library, churches, and the township website to let people know this is happening.

The committee agreed to hold another meeting of the park’s celebration sub-committee. If enough people show up and are willing to commit to a particular aspect of the celebration, the celebration will occur. There was acknowledgement people are busy in these summer months, including volunteer members of the parks committee.

C. Bowers Harbor Park Update-Zebell

Zebell- covered this topic.

D. Signage, QR codes-Zebell/Chown

Chown- the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) can help us with signage. They have staff doing signage for other properties, not just their managed properties. We could ask them for help and a price for the work. Since helping with the acquisition for Pelizzari, GTRLC has long wanted to have more comprehensive signage.

The committee discussed the need for the creation of a logo to go on the park signage and who to ask for help.

Zebell-for the next meeting the business items are logos, celebration, park updates, and signage.

E. Volunteers/Park Task Distribution-Skurski

Zebell- I am creating the email to go out to people regarding taking an active part in the celebration. Does the Murray Trailhead and Ridgeway Trailhead need a park’s committee member assigned to

them?

Dahl- those are part of the lighthouse park that I take care of. Hunting is allowed out there and hunting dogs are allowed to be off lease. At Ridgeway, there is a large, metal storage shed and the door was partially open. This was the place the docks from Haserot Beach were stored and we don't have docks anymore. I worked to get the door closed and I had to get a key from the township. I would like to have a key as the township is not always open. My other question is who does Bob (Wilkinson) report to? When I call him directly, he always calls me back.

Chown- I will talk to Susan (Piehl) about the key tomorrow. Bob reports to the township board and the personal committee.

Zebell- on the website there is a TBD under Murray and Ridgeway and I will put Pete's (Dahl) name there. Ronessa (Butler) and I discussed her taking over Bowers Harbor Park and I begin to work on the expansion plan.

9. Citizen Comments

Lola Jackson 11376 South View Place- I was out at Haserot Beach with my visiting brother-in-law and saw the life jacket station for the children. A group had made a presentation to this committee and there it was. I would just like to thank you for the work you all do; it is appreciated.

10. Committee Comments

Zebell- the mowing job at Bowers Harbor Park was haphazard and poorly done. I ran into Bob (Wilkinson) and he had already contacted his sub-contractors. Bob is going to regularly check their work, and if mowing continues to be poorly done, he will hire someone else. These are the the same people he used last year.

Milliken- Archie Park is getting the bike repair stand as the grant money has been received.

11. Adjournment- Murphy makes a motion to adjourn with a second by Milliken.

Approved by Consensus

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.