

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
December 15, 2021
1:00 p.m.
MINUTES

1. Call to Order by Skurski at 1:00 p.m.
2. Pledge
3. Roll Call- Shanafelt, Karczewski, Skurski, Murphy. Milliken arrived 2:12 pm. Excused absent-Zebell, Dahl. Also Chown, township clerk, Achorn, township trustee.
4. Approve Agenda-Karczewski- Bowers Harbor Park Pavilion request added to agenda as C1.
Karczewski moved to approve the amended agenda with a second by Murphy. Passed Unan
5. Brief Citizens Comments-for items not on the agenda- None
6. Conflict of Interest- None
7. Consent Agenda: any member of the board, 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 October 27, 2021
 - B. Project costs for potential bike/hike trail development at OM Park (Chown)
 - C. Correspondence from Connie Sargeant
 - D. Correspondence from Terri McDermott**Shanafelt moved to approve the consent agenda, second by Murphy. Passed Unan**
8. Business
 - A. Sleeping Bear Friends and Fundraising (Murphy/Barrilleaux)

Barrilleaux, who runs the Adopt a Trail program and is a board member of the Friends of the Sleeping Bear Dunes, discussed specifically how the trail volunteer program works. The program started 25 years ago as a grassroots organization made up of people who wanted to help preserve and protect the park and now has approximately 100 volunteers. The individuals apply, have a short training, are provided with a manual, and make volunteer activity online reports. Assignments may include mowing, walking the trails, removing trash, reporting down trees, and interfacing with park guests. Reports include number of volunteer hours, actions taken, and may include photos. Barrilleaux receives these reports and passes the information on the national park staff. The volunteer group fundraises all year long. Donors are people who use the park, community partners, and a grant writing team who look for grants to fulfill a specific need. Each spring the national park presents the group with a list of potential wish list projects regarding trails. The use of Facebook and Instagram prove effective. Barrilleaux recommended having small volunteer events to start. Chown requested Barrilleaux send the data base of grants being used, the website used to track volunteer reporting, and the volunteer handbook. (See Friends of Sleeping Bear Dune Accomplishment report and links to information in meeting packet on website).

The committee discussed possible volunteer park projects for the spring. Each member will talk to Wilkinson regarding potential volunteer maintenance projects. The winter township newsletter can publicize the events and Chown needed information by January 5, 2022.
 - B. Update on TB Meeting and Park Planning (Shanafelt)

Shanafelt-the LIAA final report will be presented at the January town board meeting. Mentioned presentation includes hiring a grant writer and providing more human and budgetary capacity for the parks. Wilkinson's time was needed by the cemeteries and reduced park maintenance capacity over the past year. More LIAA funding has been approved by the township board to complete this project, which has broadened in scope and detail due to the committee's efforts. The committee reviewed the potential pathway to a park millage vote in August, 2022.
 - C. Finalize LIAA Report & Actions for Park Planning (Skurski)

Committee members updated the park capital and maintenance budget for each of their respective park. This information was given to Chown to pass onto LIAA to incorporate into the final report. A dialogue regarding how the lighthouse expenditures

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fit into the peninsula park system took place. Potential creation of separate bike and hiking trails in the lighthouse park needs DNR agreement.

C1. The Bowers Harbor Pavilion application for an event with 900 people was deferred to the township trustees. The liability insurance also expired the day before the event.

D. Parks Rep for next Town Board Meeting-all members of the parks committee to attend the meeting on January 11, 2022.

The parks committee will hold a special public meeting on January 12, 2022 to discuss next steps.

9. Citizen Comments- None

10. Board Comments- None

11. Adjournment- You Tube channel transmission ended at 3:24 p.m.

Adjourned 3:24 p.m.