

# **Onekama Township Parks & Recreation Committee**

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes—Approved**

**January 26, 2024 8:30a**

In attendance: Michelle Ervin, Chair Bick Pratt, Al Taylor (via Zoom and telephone), Tyler Dula, Gary Madden, Brian Allen, Paul Mueller (via telephone), Ric Alameddine (via Zoom), John Wemlinger (via Zoom). Also present: Bob Blackmore, Dave Meister.

Meeting called to order at 8:34a.

Ervin gave an update on the History committee and their projects.

### **2024-25 Budget—Pratt**

Chair Pratt led discussion on final Committee agreement on several line items under Professional Services and Contract Services in the proposed budget to be presented to the Board.

Wemlinger wants the Township to kick in \$15,000 to the Village for their parks improvement project. Meister stated the Township is not allowed to do so. After discussion, Meister agreed the Board would pursue a legal opinion from the township attorney on the subject.

### **Grant writer—Alameddine**

Update on his efforts to research information regarding hiring a grant writer for the township. There are lots of grants available and he feels it's worth the investment.

### **Trail System—Alameddine**

Update on his research and contacts made regarding getting Onekama on the Trail System. Alameddine agreed to take the lead on this project going forward.

### **Park counter system—Pratt**

Pratt led discussion on possibly adding three additional park counters to gather more usage data. Wemlinger talked about how the Manistee County Tourism Authority uses geofencing to collect data. He agreed to contact them for further information.

There was discussion about improving awareness and communication for getting Parks & Recreation information to the public in a better way. Want to investigate best practices in terms of how to best manage a social media presence for a township of this size. Alameddine to take the lead on this project.

Dula updated the Committee on the removal of invasive species at Carden Park. All treatment will be done before spring. New landscaping with native plants should be installed.

North Point walking loop and parking lot resurfacing bids have been secured by Mueller.

Motion to present this budget to the Board by Allen, seconded by Alameddine. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to approve the October meeting minutes by Allen, seconded by Dula. All in favor, motion carried.

Public comment: none

Correspondence: none

Motion to adjourn by Allen, seconded by Pratt. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42a.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

Submitted by Michelle Swanson, Recording Secretary