

Onekama Township Parks & Recreation Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes—DRAFT

April 26, 2024 8:30a

In attendance: Michelle Ervin, Chair Bick Pratt, Brian Allen, John Wemlinger, Ric Alameddine. Attending remotely: Al Taylor, Paul Mueller. Also in attendance: Mary Talbot, Bob Blackmore . Absent: Tyler Dula, Gary Madden.

Meeting called to order at 8:32a.

Motion to approve March meeting minutes by Alameddine, seconded by Wemlinger. All in favor, motion carried.

There were no changes made to the agenda.

Taylor told the Committee that he will be resigning from the Township Board at the special Board meeting today due to health issues, but he plans to remain as an ad hoc member so that he can continue to be a part of other committees including this one. The Board will fill his open position within a month.

Public Comment:

Thanks were offered to Taylor for his years of public service to the community.

Correspondence:

Chair Pratt shared an email from Val Harmon thanking the Committee for the ADA rigid walkway and benches. She also asked about acquiring a commemorative plaque for the bench. Ervin commented there have been similar requests in the past. Chair Pratt says the Township doesn't have a donation policy. He suggested drafting a simple policy to offer to the Board. Ervin and Alameddine volunteered to work on drafting a policy.

Committee Reports:

Village and Township Joint Efforts—Wemlinger reported the Village Council signed the Complete Streets resolution.

History Committee--Ervin reported the History Committee has asked for a new quote from Johnson Signs for the new signs. The poster is completed.

Education Programming—Chair Pratt reported the Board approved \$1000 funding for Ervin's three new educational programs. Ervin reported she and employee Jean Capper are working to get programming ready to go by May 1st.

Wetlands—Allen

Allen shared that Angie from GTRLC was very impressed with the quality of the wetlands area. There was discussion about the black willow tree planting project, including information offered from community member Mary Talbot. Allen to speak to GTRLC about scheduling a meeting with the wetlands sub-committee members.

Ad Hoc Communications Team—Chair Pratt and Ervin met with Ed Bradford to learn how to edit the website to make changes. Pratt has done edits to update the site.

Motion to establish an ad hoc Communications team composed of Pratt, Ervin, Taylor, and Alameddine by Wemlinger, seconded by Allen. All in favor, motion carried.

Trail System—Chair Pratt reported the Board approved funding for the requested feasibility study, and they signed the Complete Streets resolution. Alameddine gave update on progress in terms of data collection and grant requests, and meetings with local groups.

Bob Blackmore talked about past program Safe Routes to School. Chair Pratt to follow up for more information on this.

Old Business:

Chair Pratt reported the Board approved the lawn contracts requested by the Committee, but asked to get proposals for several other properties the Township takes care of. Pratt will be presenting them to the Board at the next meeting. The history banner was also approved, as well as sand management contract. The fire rings are ready for volunteers to install them. The ADA rigid walkway was installed in April. Picnic tables at Glen, Carden, and North Pointe Parks were delivered and assembled in April. They have not all been installed yet. The Board also approved the native plant planting project at Carden. Wemlinger reports he has teen volunteers that can help with the planting project.

New Business:

Bylaws review—there was further discussion regarding Chair Pratt's revisions, including the proposed position of Program Director and how it would fit into the Committee structure.

Motion to include Program Director as a position by Wemlinger, seconded by Alameddine. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to reinstate the position of Secretary into the Parks & Recreation bylaws by Wemlinger, seconded by Alameddine. All in favor, motion carried.

Chair Pratt to make language changes to the bylaws representing the approved changes.

Election of Officers:

Motion to nominate Pratt as Chair by Ervin, seconded by Wemlinger. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to nominate Ervin as Vice Chair by Wemlinger, seconded by Alameddine. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to nominate Wemlinger as Secretary by Alameddine, seconded by Pratt. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to nominate Ervin as Program Director by Wemlinger, seconded by Allen. All in favor, motion carried.

There was follow up discussion regarding email accounts and FOIA requests.

Wemlinger reported he and Alameddine are still in contact with the Manistee County Tourism Authority regarding geofencing data and usage data and they are still working on this.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:00a.

_____ Chair

Submitted by Michelle Swanson, Recording Secretary