

Onekama Township Parks & Recreation Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes—DRAFT

June 2, 2023 8:30a

In attendance: Bryan Allen, Paul Mueller, Andrea Martin, Chair Michelle Ervin, Bick Pratt, Al Taylor, Gary Madden. Also in attendance: Jean Capper—Seasonal worker. Absent: Tyler Dula, Justin Sedelmaier.

Meeting called to order at 8:31a.

Public comment: Township member Jane Johnson volunteered to be on the ad hoc sub-committee to study the wetlands. The Committee accepted her as a volunteer.

Motion to approve the minutes of May 5, 2023 by Mueller, seconded by Allen. AIF, motion carried.

Correspondence: none

Report of Species Management ad hoc committee: none

Report of History Club ad hoc committee: Ervin. Ervin reported there were nine people in attendance for the first meeting of the History Club. They are working on cataloging artifacts to include in either a road show or a permanent display if a space becomes available. They are also working on collecting oral histories from people in the area, as well as collecting supplies for the downtown walking tour with an eye toward possible future installation of plaques on historical buildings downtown. Madden brought up the idea of using a small print publisher to print historical books for the area.

Old Business:

Seasonal worker update—Jean Capper

Capper discussed her first five weeks in the position, and the process she is using to communicate with the Committee when things in the parks need attention. Taylor reported the bathroom at Langland Park was recently found to be in awful condition. He is going to look into finding a service to clean the restrooms on a regular basis. Mueller stated trash pick up isn't happening often enough. Capper is going to start going to Langland Park five days a week to collect data on how often trash needs to be collected. The township maintenance worker will be asked to start daily trash collecting going forward. Pratt wants all collected data so he can present it to the Board for any needed funding for increased services. Capper also reported that 31 black willow trees have been planted in Cedar Grove in the wetlands. The planting project was on the front page of the newspaper. There was also an ISD field trip which was a success. Nine new cedars have been planted in the park. Summer events programming has started. Capper is compiling ongoing data to show the need for continuing this position in the coming years.

Langland Park—

Mueller gave an update on the volleyball project. EGLE doesn't require any permits. The Corps requires a detailed site plan, which Mueller and Ervin are working on. Pratt reported the meeting with MCCF for the grant application went well, but no decision has been made yet.

North Point Park—

Ervin reported the Invasive Species Committee has two members who will begin working with Parks & Rec to help manage invasive species on land. Also, the fence around the WAAG (Welcome All Abilities) garden has been installed.

Glen Park—Allen

The grant proposal was turned down. Allen is going to try to find out why.

Portage Wetlands—Pratt

Pratt proposed to form an ad hoc committee to gather information.

Motion to create an ad hoc committee for the Portage Wetlands for the purpose of gathering information by Pratt, seconded by Arthur. AIF, motion carried. Taylor, Pratt, Ervin, and Allen will be on the ad hoc committee.

New Business:

ARPA funds—there was discussion of projects the Parks & Recreation Committee might request ARPA funds for from the Board. A list of possible shovel-ready ideas was generated. Ervin and Capper are going to look into how many feet of beach access would benefit from a different type of product in addition to Mobimats. Allen to compile data on a bridge at Glen Park to include in the Board packets.

2023 Township Master Plan Recreation Map—Pratt

Pratt is working with the Township Planning Commission to update the Master Plan recreation map.

Joint Meeting—Ervin

Ervin reported the Township Parks & Rec Committee would be meeting that afternoon with the Village Parks & Rec Committee, discussing project ideas the two committees could work on jointly.

Motion to adjourn by Ervin, seconded by Arthur. AIF, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45a.

_____ Chair

_____ Recording Secretary

Submitted by Michelle Swanson, Recording Secretary