

Niles Charter Township  
320Bell Road  
Niles MI 49120

**Park Commission Meeting 6:30 P.M.**  
**August 14, 2017**  
**Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jill DeLucia at 6:36 pm. Present were Commissioners: A. Wesel, S. Craig, J. Perkins, W. Perkins and Trustee C. Vella.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner J. Perkins motioned to accept the minutes from July 10 2017, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner J DeLucia. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.
3. **Petitions From the Public:** None
4. **Correspondence:** None
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner W. Perkins reported the Parks Commission has spent \$8,414,88 to date. S. Craig motioned to accept the report as presented. Seconded by A. Wesel. All in favor, motion carried. 5-0
6. **Park Maintenance Report per Township Trustee Christine Vella:** The ongoing erosion issue has been passed to Jim Ringler to work with Selge Construction. Both Jill DeLucia and Chris Vella will follow up.
7. **Park Reports**
  - a. **Community Park:** Commissioner Wesel reported the tree as reported last month is still on the trail. The Port-a-Potties needed to be cleaned but she addressed that and it has been taken care of. Also, a new bench is needed.
  - b. **Fulkerson Park:** Commissioner Wesel reported the basketball courts have been resurfaced and it looks great. Thanks to W. Perkins for making that happen. The "air bench" still needs to be addressed as it is a danger to park goers. Chair DeLucia will follow up with the Township Board as this is a maintenance issue.
  - c. **South Fireman's Park:** Commissioner W. Perkins reported all is well and in full use.
  - d. **Samson Park:** Commissioner J. Perkins reports all is well.
  - e. **N. Fireman's Park:** Commissioner J. Perkins reports all is well.
  - f. **Trail Report:** See written report submitted by Chair DeLucia. Also, Chair DeLucia will contact Wightman about getting a "counter" of some sort on the trail for a baseline count possibly sometime this and again next summer before the IMRVT is complete and again after completion. Chair DeLucia and S. Craig will explore the "Safe Routs to School" grant that C. Vella mentioned Brandywine Schools might be applying for and see about coordination of the grant and connection of the trail.

## 8. Old Business

- a. Sampson Park Bike Racks are in the DPW and J. Perkins will coordinate to get them installed.
- b. Community Park is enjoying the new Harry's Bridges but A. Wesel suggested we get more. S. Craig suggested asking Harry and friends to make more bridges if the Parks Commission pays for the materials. A. Wesel made a motion to allow up to \$400 toward supplies to build as many bridges as possible. Seconded J. DeLucia. All in favor, motion carried. 5-0

## 9. New Business

- a. The Community Open House on July 31 was a smashing success! There were over 60 community members in attendance including some from Berrien Springs and South Bend. All Commissioners, C. Vella, Suzannah Deneau from Wightman and Marcie Hamilton from SWMPC were in attendance. Only \$85 of the \$200 was spent on refreshments and supplies for the event.
- b. Discussion about prepaying the Port-a-Potties for 2018 like we did for 2017 from the 2016 budget was tabled for a decision at the September meeting.
- c. Discussion about ordering benches in advance for the IMRVT resulted in the suggestion of:
  - i. 3 for the trail
  - ii. 1 for Fulkerson
  - iii. 2-3 for the Fishing platform and new preserve section
- d. A. Wesel suggested we explore the idea using Ontario Park or the old Fireman's Haunted house site for an "Emergency Station area" for Niles since we don't have one. S. Craig asked her to research the idea and present a "best practices of existing programs throughout the country" report at the next meeting for continued discussion.

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner A. Wesel. Seconded by S. Craig. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm

Submitted by: Commissioner Sarah Craig