

Niles Charter Township  
320 Bell Road  
Niles MI 49120

**Park Commission Meeting 6:30 P.M.**  
**October 9, 2017**  
**Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jill DeLucia at 6:45 pm. Present were Commissioners: J. DeLucia, J. Perkins, W. Perkins and Trustee C. Vella.  
We decided to proceed with the meeting because we had a simple majority, and technically that constitutes a quorum. Commissioners present had conflicts on other dates, including Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** We did not have a final copy of September 2017 minutes and deferred this to the November meeting.
3. **Petitions From the Public:** None
4. **Correspondence:** A citizen reached out to the Parks Commission through the Township Office, and expressed interest in fund raising for the trail. Sandra Smith contacted the Township Office on Sept. 21 and Commissioner DeLucia will follow up within the next 10 days.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner W. Perkins reported no change in spending. The balance remains at \$8,414.88 to date.
6. **Park Maintenance Report per Township Trustee Christine Vella:** Ms. Vella reported that the Township Board was made aware of the Parks Commission desire to be involved in planning the development of Ontario Park.
7. **Park Reports**
  - a. Community Park: Commissioner DeLucia reported that there is graffiti on one bench overlooking the creek which should be painted over. It contains an obscenity. The rest of the park looked good.
  - b. Fulkerson Park: No report available on Fulkerson.
  - c. South Fireman's Park: Commissioner W. Perkins reported the park is in great shape. Township Office personnel reported that there had been a break in to the concession stands and some food and equipment was stolen. The existing locks were picked and no other damage was reported.
  - 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.

## **8. Old Business**

- a. Sampson Park Bike Racks are still in process as per J. Perkins. They are currently stored in the garage next to the Township Hall. We discussed whether the installation costs will be incurred in 2017. The schedule for this work is not known at this time, so it is unclear whether these costs will hit the 2017 budget.
- b. The Commission had already approved purchase of 7 benches to be installed in various locations along the trail and in Township Parks. Chair DeLucia met with Mr. Ringler and discussed locations for the IMRVT and will seek help from Vella to place the order. Per C. Vella, we need to specify ship-to of the DPW building to ensure proper receiving process is followed.

## **9. New Business**

- a. Trail cam: A trail cam was purchased some years ago but was not installed. The cell phone service necessary to make trail cam images visible online has been paid monthly for some time, however. We discussed the need to use the trail cam to both spot bad behavior and to deter it. Commissioner DeLucia will pursue testing the trail cam, and we will confer with Township personnel on most desirable location and timing for first install.
- b. Additional cameras for trouble spots: We discussed the additional funds available this year to potentially obtain additional trail cams to improve surveillance in the Township parks. Per the ranger at Bertrand County Park, the cameras have been a good deterrent for vandalism, littering, theft and other bad behavior at Bertrand Park. Chair DeLucia will obtain price information on the make and model of the trail cam we already purchased to see if this makes a good option for the other parks.
- c. Master plan: A recommendation was made by Jim Ringler that we use a formal Master Planning method to develop a cohesive plan for Ontario and Community Parks. These represent new spaces within the Township Parks' purview and best use requires consideration of many factors. Chair DeLucia will reach out to Marcy Hamilton at SWMPC for advice.

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner J. Perkins, Seconded by W. Perkins. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Submitted by: Commissioner Jill DeLucia