

Tuscarora Township Parks Commission
January 12, 2023 APPROVED meeting minutes

Present were Doug Schofield, Pat McGinnis, Jennifer Andrew, Dave Meckstroth, and Jim Burke.

Also in attendance were Shiloh Slomski, Nancy and Bob Kramer, Sallie Snyder, Vicki Losh, Jane McGinnis, Mike Ridley, Jay Reidsma, Ron Odenwald, and Rich Miller .

The meeting was called to order at 1402 hrs.

Shiloh led a discussion about the forthcoming “Payback Bass Tournament” scheduled for the first weekend in June at Marina Park. There will be about 70 boats. She discussed some of the past problems such as harassment, fees, and overcrowding. We proposed solutions such as parking in Lower Marina Park first, then the boat launch; weigh in at Upper Marina Park. Shiloh will contact them and with Doug’s assistance the parties will work the details out. All agreed that this is reasonable.

Bob Kramer walked us through a discussion of a concept Strategic Plan that Cheboygan has been using that was developed by MSU and MEDC. The MEDC Scorecard can open the door for grant funding. The plan should involve the whole community and will take time to develop. It’s about the quality of life, and TTPC is a major player. It has to be led by the highest form of local government to be successful. We will need a neutral facilitator, possibly from MSU.

Bob also talked about chapter four of our township policy that describes zero based budgeting that we plan to introduce April 1 in development of the 2023 – 2024 budget.

We discussed budget line transfers for the purchase of a new mower. Pat motioned and Dave supported moving \$7225 from DDA to Parks. All agreed. Because this is a transfer between departments, the township board should have final approval.

Mike Ridley explained that the Red Barn grant requires that a kiosk needs to be placed on the property as originally agreed before the final reimbursement is paid. Joe Hines is working on it.

We discussed the two SPARKS grants and agreed that the new bathrooms at Devoe Beach should be the first priority (round one); the bathrooms at Cooperation Park second (round two). Jim motioned with Dave’s support to proceed as such. Motion carried. We also agreed to accept Nico’s offer of help on the grants, not to exceed \$1500 combined. Jim motioned and Pat seconded. All agreed.

We approved the bid policy, with Jim abstaining as he hadn’t read it.

Public comments

Shiloh commented that the township needs a lead grant writer and compliance officer. Bob explained that it is in the new job description of the Administrative Assistant.

Ron commented that the key to success for fishing tournaments at Marina Park is communication. He also said that our plan B of using a septic drain field at the south end of the park for the Devoe Beach bathrooms (if phase one sewer doesn't materialize) probably isn't viable due to health code requirements.

Jay talked about the need for grant tracking.

Bob commented that TTPC supplied no report for the January Township Board meeting. Jim clarified that he (Jim) emailed our minutes to Jay, Laura, and Bob asking that the TTPC December meeting minutes be included in the board packet. Jay explained that it was busy during the holidays and was probably overlooked.

At 1513 Pat motioned that we adjourn. With Dave's support the motion carried.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2023 at 1400 hrs.

Respectfully submitted January 13, 2023 by Jim Burke