

Tuscarora Township Parks Commission
March 9, 2023 DRAFT meeting minutes

Present were Doug Schofield, Beau DePauw, Jennifer Andrew, and Jim Burke.

Also in attendance were Trudy Maves, Mike Ridley, Sallie Snyder, Billy Andrew and Rich Miller .

The meeting was called to order at 1359 hrs.

We approved the February minutes as written. Jim moved, Beau seconded.

Discussion of “Toon Time” application to use Lower Marina Park for three days beginning June 22. They plan to have a tent and adult beverages, the latter being coordinated by the Indian River Chamber of Commerce. They will probably need a dumpster; Doug will call them and work it out. Beau motioned and Jim supported approval of their application. All agreed.

Ball field six still needs work to be playable in the Spring. Between Doug, Beau, and Lee Nash it'll be ready for play when the weather breaks. Most of the work will be completed over Spring break. The playground is ready; we need to figure out what to do with the old equipment. We can't sell it because of liability concerns.

Kiwanis prefers a wooden gazebo rather than a sail over the playground picnic area, but a sail seems to be the better choice. The Indian River Women's' Club supports that but will let Kiwanis take the lead. Doug will talk to Kiwanis about reconsidering the sail, which is reported to last twenty years if kept up year round. We would plan to store it in the Winter. The cost is around \$5K.

The tennis courts will be renovated this Summer. Ball field 3 needs a new mound, by TTPC. Fields 4 and 6 need new batters' eyes.

The RedBarn irrigation system is complete and ready to be activated when the weather breaks. It will be seeded in the Spring. The new swingset for Marina Park playground is in the barn.

Mike Ridley updated us on the SPARKS grant for the Devoe Beach bathrooms; Nico has it ready when the grant opens.

The ARPA grants are underway; Diane Rekowski is going to help us out.

We discussed the Mingo Trail property and are thinking that we may decline, but tabled it for a future discussion. Mike will discuss further with Enbridge to understand if they want to give it to us or sell it. Even if it's free, we may walk away.

We approved the job descriptions as written by Doug.

Review of our budget reveals \$66,664.50 in the Parks revenue account 101-000-386-00. There is also \$103,782.74 in the restricted boat launch account 101-000-377-00. We have a budget balance of \$178,552.73 with three and a half months remaining with no significant expected expenditures, which is very favorable.

Pat McGinnis was removed by the township board at their meeting earlier in the week due to a technical oversight and as such the township board posted the open position. We all agree that this is a Parks Commission responsibility and that the new township board has usurped their authority. Pat has been an ardent supporter of Tuscarora Township and an asset to the Parks Commission. We find this very disappointing and disturbing.

After nineteen years on the Parks Commission, Jennifer regretfully resigned, citing a toxic environment, negativity, distrust and uncertainty created by the “new township board”. She has been a dedicated leader always mindful of prioritizing the kids. We are disheartened to have her leave, but we understand. She asked us to remain focused on what’s best for the kids, and we will.

Public comments

Trudy Maves asked us to think about accepting the Mingo Trail property.

Rich Miller cautioned us to be careful about acquiring the Mingo Trail property.

Sallie Snyder thanked Jennifer for all the hard work that she has done for the parks and for her dedication to the community.

Mike Ridley thanked Jennifer for all that she has done for Tuscarora Township Parks.

At 1447 Jennifer motioned and Jim seconded that we adjourn.

Respectfully submitted March 10, 2023 by Jim Burke