

Tuscarora Township Parks Commission
March 23 Special meeting minutes

Present were Doug Schofield, Beau DePauw, Dave Meckstroth, and Jim Burke.

Also in attendance were Jennifer Andrew, Jane and Pat McGinnis, Mike Ridley, Mary Bauer, Jay Reidsma, Janet Vance, and Janice Dilliha.

The meeting was called to order at 1602 hrs.

The purpose of this meeting is to adopt a non discrimination policy.

Dave motioned with Beau's support that we adopt the aforementioned policy. All were in favor. Motion carried. Non discrimination policy adopted.

We discussed the "Cooperation Park Enhancement Community Project" grant application that Diane Rekowski and Jennifer are assisting us with. Beau motioned with Dave's support that we approve the grant application. All were in favor.

Jim entered a motion to accept Jennifer's resignation; Dave supported. Motion carried regretfully.

Public comments:

Janet talked about her desire for the Parks Commission to prioritize their projects for Capital Improvement Plans and submit them to the Planning Commission.

Jay led a discussion about the need for liability waivers from parks contractors relative to Workmen's Compensation requirements. He also questioned when the \$45K allocated for tennis court resurfacing was going to be spent, as we're nearing the end of our fiscal year.

Pat questioned why the Township Board submitted a Capital Improvement Plan for the west side in the name of the parks.

Mary read a letter from Nancy and Bob Kramer highlighting their accomplishments for Tuscarora Township. See attached.

Jennifer thanked Diane Rekowski for her grant writing assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 1627.

Respectfully submitted March 25, 2023 by Jim Burke

To the Parks Commission:

Unfortunately, Nancy and I are unable to attend today's meeting due to a family health issue. However, I would appreciate it if my comments were read during public comment.

Nancy and I, including my extended family have supported the Parks Commission over the years.

For example:

- I wrote a successful grant for the first ever Marina Parks Boat Docks.
- Advocated for additional funding over and above what was requested for park projects over the years.
- Worked with Walter Dark, Michigan Lake Products, and Kiwanis Club to donate funds for the Parks Kayak Launch.
- Promoted the Parks to receive extra funding for the Pickle Ball Court
- Advocated for Maintenance Supervisor to receive a \$10,000 raise.
- Spent our own personal funds to commission a Native American artist to design a cultural sculpture, honoring local Native Americans.
- Spent months of personal time to have the Odawa Tribe culturally accept the design concept.
- Donated personal funds for children who could not afford to be able to join Little League, and this year, we already donated \$250 for the Little League at Cooperation Park.

We had previously volunteered to assist Jennifer and the Parks Commission with writing of grants, CIP's, and the budget. As you can see, Nancy and I have always supported the parks and your commission, but due to recent personal attacks on both me and Nancy, we thought it best we step back. I know this has put your commission in a precarious position, but I do not want overstep our bounds. In the future, we will always be available to your Commission for counsel, if requested.

Thank you,
Bob and Nancy Kramer

REVIEWED MARCH 23, 2023 BY PARKS COMMISSION