

Parks and Recreation Committee
Clearwater Township, Kalkaska County, Michigan
Regular Meeting of April 6, 2021 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Meeting held in-person at the Little Red Schoolhouse, 5407 River St, Rapid City
MEETING MINUTES
Approved April 13, 2021

Welcome! We're glad you are here to support our community. We respect your time and strive to start and end all meetings on time. All attendees are encouraged to participate and be conscientious of time.

- A. Moment of Silence
- B. Call to Order at 6:07 PM
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors -
 - a. Committee Members: all present, Kristi Spencer-Nemec, Jordan Ackers, Kelli Melenyk, JoAnne Childs
 - b. Subcommittee and Community present: Israel Garza (Events Coordinator), Norm Neuenschwander (Torch Lake Protection Alliance)
- E. Additions/Approval of Agenda
- F. Corrections/Approval of Minutes from last meeting
 - a. MOTION to approve minutes from March 30, 2021. Motion by Ackers, second by Melenyk, motion carried.
- G. Reports
 - a. Chairperson: Kristi Spencer-Nemec
 - i. Tina Fields wants to interview the chairperson and write an article about our committee
 - b. Interim Vice Chairperson: Kelli Melenyk
 - i. Update on Paddle Antrim and signage
 - ii. Update on Department of Conservation
 - iii. SEEDS program interested in kids participating in gardening and creating a fairy trail
 - c. Secretary: open position
 - d. Committee Member: Jordan Acker
 - i. Updates on maintenance
 - 1. Dethatching soccer field
 - 2. Ball field bids for fertilizer and irrigation repairs needed
 - e. Board Representative: JoAnne Childs
 - i. Parks and Rec Budget: \$5k
 - 1. \$500 towards flowers and flags for cemetery
 - ii. Updates on Grant writer meeting
 - 1. Join Zone E
 - a. Goal to have at least part of Freedom Park become handicap accessible
 - iii. May be able to have a Structural Engineer working on the Ion Bridge project inspect the Freedom Park boardwalk
 - 1. Kalkaska County doesn't have one on staff - need to present concern to Township Board
 - iv. Superintendent of Rapid City school is interested in a bridge to connect school land to Freedom Park East
 - v. Welder interested in helping repair Freedom Park walking bridge
 - 1. ~\$3,700 to build metal rails on each side for stairs to footbridge
 - 2. ~\$8,000 to build footbridge to connect to schools land/ Freedom Park South
 - vi. Trying to acquire drawing of sprinklers layout at Heritage Park
 - f. MOTION for Israel Garza to become Events Committee Coordinator. Motion by Melenyk, second by Spencer-Nemec, motion carried.
 - i. Events Coordinator: Israel Garza
 - 1. Collecting food donations for Freedom Park Work-Bee

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2. Planning Evenings on Rapid River
3. Need to ask Township Board for approval to have alcohol permitted at the parks during events (ie: beer and wine from Short's Brewery and local vendors)
 - a. County Health services for permits
 - b. Township may rent space for trucks and tents

H. Other Reports

- a. Torch Lake Protection Alliance: Norm Neuenschwander
 - i. Sandbar Safety Committee
 - ii. Studies to address growing algae issue in Torch Lake
 - iii. Concerns about lack of parking at Township Lake Accesses and along Crystal Beach, especially during weekends and 4th of July
 1. Consider creating Township Parking in town and TPLA paying for busing to the Lake
 - iv. Environment would benefit from a sewer system being created for residents along waterways.
 - v. Lake Accesses would benefit from
 1. Updated, consistent signage
 2. Making entrances/road accesses safer with visibility
 3. Fence repairs
 4. Brush clean-up
 5. Erosion control
 - vi. DNR has plans to expand the Torch Lake boat launch at the Torch River Bridge in 2022
 - vii. RV Park planned in Milton Township

I. Old Business

- a. Review the Open Meetings Act 267 of 1976
 - i. Public notice of meeting at Township Clerk's office and Township website
 1. Regular Public Meetings - advance notice posted for the year and available on a public calendar within 10 days after the first public meeting
 2. Change in schedule - public notice posted within 3 days of meeting change is made
 3. Electronic meetings - advance notice of electronic meeting on public body's website with at least 18 hours of notice including:
 - a. Why the meeting is being held electronically
 - b. How the public may participate (Zoom)
 - c. How the public can ask questions in advance
 - d. Participation of persons with disability
 4. Meeting minutes must include date, time, place, members present and absent, all decisions made, and all roll call votes
 - a. Proposed minutes must be available within 8 days after the meeting date they refer
 - b. Approved minutes must be available within 5 days after the meeting they were approved
 - ii. Township Parks and Places of Recreation Act, PA 157 of 1905
 - iii. Still waiting on Clearwater Township Parks and Recreation email and access to the website.
- b. MOTION to adopt the suggested mission statement. Motion by Acker, second by Melenyk, motion carried.
 - i. The Parks and Recreation Committee works to provide clean and safe recreational areas for our residents to enjoy the outdoors and provide diverse recreational opportunities for the social, cultural, and physical well-being of our residents for present and future generations. We strive to protect the natural habitat and special outdoor places that enrich our lives and

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community.

c. Freedom Park Work-Bee

- i. May 15, 2021 from 9am - 4pm
 1. Look into local artists or NMC arts classes to paint mural under bridge
 2. Seeking donations of lumber and food
- ii. Sign at Heritage Park to advertise Work-Bee?
- iii. Advertising
 1. Facebook / Social Media (JoAnne)
 2. Spread the word to schools, youth groups, etc.
- iv. Updating Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 1. Melenyk to take the lead on updating background information needed and making contact with organizations listed on page 41
 2. Spencer-Nemec to assist with updates needed
 3. Draft will be approved by committee before submitting for a public forum.
 4. Neuenschwander, Melenyk, Childs suggested adding organizations to page 41
 - a. T.E.S.A. Torch Elk Skegemog Association
 - b. Torch Lake Conservation
 - c. Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
 - d. Paddle Antrim
 - e. Rotary of Kalkaska
 - f. Rotary of Traverse City

J. New Business

a. Creating By-Laws

- i. Spencer-Nemec to create based off of Planning Commission and Zoning Commission existing By-Laws and present to committee for motion to amend or approve

K. Public Comment

L. Adjourn - MOTION to adjourn. Motion by Deaters, second by Melenyk, motion carried at 7:48 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM