

**CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP**

**Board Meeting**

**May 15, 2023**

This meeting was called to order by Treasurer Walker at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

**Roll Call:** Board Members present: Lynn Gardner, Catherine Walker, Rosalie Sauser, Kyle Oomen

**ABSENT:** Lee Hyslop

**Guests Present:** Ron Smith, Gary Gardner, Dawn Riley, Tim Scovill, John Wilson, Gary McKeen (Oceana Co. Parks), Paul Erickson

**Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes:** The April 17th, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes were presented. **Motion by Sauser and supported by Walker to approve the April 17, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

**Changes to Agenda:**

**Citizen Comments:**

**Letters and Communications:**

**Fire Department Report:** Fire Chief Allen Purdy reported nothing new going on.

**Zoning Report:** Ron Smith submitted his zoning report. He wrote 1 (one) new zoning permit reported a bon fire incident on a non-burn day. Fire department was called to put it out. Ron has bids for the demolition of five property old buildings. Ron removed 6 more signs that were not permitted in the township.

**Clerk's Report:** Lynn continues to work on the budget and updated the lay out of the budget as suggested by our new auditor. There are a couple of items in our old budget layout that seem irrelevant, so we'll remove them.

**Review and Pay Bills:** May 2023 bills were presented in the amount of \$10,662.77. The monthly bill from Great Lakes Energy had not yet been received. It is now available so Gardner will pay it, update the List of Checks and re-issue that to the Board members.

**Motion by Sauser and supported by Gardner to approve the payment of claims as presented. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Walker presented the April 2023 Treasurer's Report.

Beginning Balance	Cash Receipts	Cash Disbursements	Current Balance
\$343,391.85	\$4,538.77	\$10,268.02	\$337,662.60

**Supervisor's Report:** N/A (Lee's absent this month)

**Old Business:** The Planning Commission approved the Amended Solar Ordinance. We are waiting on wording for the Escrow Polich. Approval pending Escrow Policy write up. This is tabled until our June 5<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting (see below).

**New Business:** Paul Erickson introduced Gary John Wilson for presentation of the Crystal Valley Park Redevelopment through a Spark Grant. John presented information on what is involved in acquiring the Grant. Crystal Township is on track for the Grant. An RFP (Request for Proposals) is to be posted in the newspaper and the Crystal Township website for bids to be given by a professional company to perform the requested job. The community was asked to provide requests for the park (what they would like to see improved). Several citizens provided input including new playground equipment for smaller children, removal of some of the pine trees to open it up and make it brighter along will elimination of pine needles on the current ball field, better storage building and

Approved 06/19/2023

bathrooms, etc. **(See excerpts inserted below from letters and social media requests).** Vandalism was also a topic of discussion. Citizens would like to see cameras put with proper postings to help defer the vandalism. Tim Scovill stated if we can get more people to come and use the park, it will show presence and hopefully also defer the vandalism.

The grant is not for the pond or dam improvements, only for the park and nature trails, sports fields and courts, etc. The other issue is vandalism. People need to use the park and make it more visible to show it is being used so help defer the vandals away. The public would like to see cameras installed but there is a privacy issue. Still could be something to be looked into. **Motion was made to Authorize for Grant Application. Motion by Oomen, Supported by Walker. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

Paul Erickson stated the dam / pond issue is still in the works for improvements. The County would like Crystal to have skin in the game and be part of the improvement process. The pond provides sea lamprey barriers for other waters. There is a need for fundraisers such as Save the Dam Fund/ Fundraiser or some way to come up with money to help. **Sauser made a motion for Crystal Township to pay to J.E. Tiffany (Design Builder for Crystal Valley Dam Remediation Project) \$2,400 for the plan submittal as presented to the Board for agreement of services. Supported by Walker. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

The Board will need to have a special meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> to review the bids and approve the best bid. Deadline for the Grant application is June 26<sup>th</sup> so the next few weeks are important and will be on a fast track to make the necessary things happen. John is offering his services to help make this happen in the time frame needed. Also **Motion by Oomen and supported by Walker to plan the Special Meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

No further comments or questions. **Motion to Adjourn at 7:50 by Walker, Sauser second.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Gardner

To whom it may concern,

My name is Howard Gardner and I am a community member and I also maintain the lawns at Crystal Park. I maintain several parks in the area and I believe that Crystal Park could benefit from the Grant to make improvements. The township is taking steps to improve the area. With the improved road that is coming and if the grant is improved this could be a wonderful place for families to feel safe, enjoy nature and enjoy family time.

Over the past several years I have watched a decline in the ballfield, an increase in vandalism of buildings and outhouses. With that, I feel the following could make the Park more inviting and safer for families to use.

I would like to see that the equipment building be replaced or refurbished. With signs that there is security monitoring to deter people from vandalizing it.

To make the park more inviting to families, I would remove most of the pine trees. How the park is now, it is dark and uninviting, there are too many pine needles. With opening the park up it would make it feel safer and inviting for families. I feel it would slow down the vandalism. I would also remove the horseshoe pits and clean up the area with new sand. The playground area needs to be improved. It could use more playground equipment that could be used by children from 1-12. As a grandfather who has taken his grandchildren there to play, some of the equipment my 9 yo could not reach to use. Some of the equipment is not user-friendly for a child.

The ballfield needs improvement, moles are taking over and the infield is overgrown and the diamond is not taken care of.

A security fence along the whole east side of the property would tremendously help with keeping the park secure and cleaner.

I would love to see the pond stocked with fish that young and old can enjoy catching and make a beach area at the north end of the pavilion. I could see several families utilizing this.

Parks are essential for communities to spend time with their children. They use parks to have family outings, walk, think and to enjoy nature. But if they do not feel safe they will not use it. I believe with the improvements Crystal Park will become energized as it once was.

Sincerely

Howard Gardner

May 10, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Debra Gardner and I am a community member of Crystal Township. I would like the following improvements to be made if the Grant is improved.

I have taken my granddaughter to the park several times over the years and I have watched a decline in the use, vandalism and just how it is not as inviting anymore.

I would like to see the playground area fixed up. It needs more equipment that can be used by a child. Some of the equipment my granddaughter tries to use but is not able to because it is to high to reach. I believe our community would use and benefit from a soccer field and I am unsure if baseball leagues use the park anymore but the baseball diamond needs maintenance. Maybe then we can get leagues back again.

Remove the tall pines and open the area up. Let the sunshine in. With the trees it makes the park dark and it drops needles all over the basketball court making it very difficult to play. I would love to see a privacy fence between the park and the homes that are adjacent to the park.

I would love to see fishing with a stocked pond and a beach area. We love the deck area by the pond. My daughter was married there because of its beauty and our connection to the community.

I visit parks all the time but not Crystal as much as I would like to. I don't feel safe like I do at the other parks. Crystal Park is dark and gloomy and I would love to see these improvements so I don't have to travel into town to play with my children. Crystal township residents deserve a safe and beautiful park to use.

I could see this park getting reenergized with family get togethers, get back to family and friends softball games. Using the pavilion for cookouts and birthday parties.

Crystal Township is beautiful and it is our community and we deserve a safe haven to walk, play and just to get out in the outdoors.

Thank you for your time,

Debra Gardner



**Tim Scovill**

May 9 · 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻



**If you could have anything you want at  
Crystal Valley Park , What would it be?**

## Comments to above Facebook Posting:

-  **Tim Scovill**  
There is grant money available to improve the park . would you like new dock , pickle ball court , basketball , soccer, bathrooms , please let me know asap. i need to compile a list in 2 days , please help me help you get the park you want/we need  
Like Reply 4w  6  
↳  Connelly Bowling replied · 2 Replies
-  **Dawn Riley**  
For sure real bathrooms! I'd love the tennis courts back. We used to play down there all the time. Now have to do Hart or Pentwater.  
Like Reply 4w  3  
↳  Dawn Riley replied · 2 Replies
-  **Samantha Verschueren**  
Maybe a fence between the adjoining properties would be a good start.... their trash ends up over there 😞  
Like Reply 4w  1  
↳  Tim Scovill replied · 1 Reply
-  **Elizabeth Hambright**  
A bigger better playground!! I would also say bathrooms but id be afraid it would get destroyed.  
Like Reply 4w  2
-  **Tim Scovill**  
this is our park , we are responsible , let's watch it and allow it to be an asset. currently a few bad apples need to be held accountable for their actions and everyone else needs to enjoy this beautiful site  
Like Reply 4w Edited  9
-  **Faith Carroll**  
Did someone buy the tavern on the corner?  
Like Reply 4w  1  
↳  Tim Scovill replied · 4 Replies
-  **Pasha Ruggles**  
Maybe a lil hiking trail back through there by the bottom of the waterfall would be kinda cool.  
Like Reply 4w   5  
↳  Pasha Ruggles replied · 5 Replies
-  **Samantha Anne Hughart**  
To add to **Elizabeth Hambright**, the sand not being so low compared to the play equipment the kids slide off the slide supper hard and hit the ground  
Like Reply 4w  2
-  **Jenna Sauser**  
The pavilion needs re-done, they should put security cameras on it after that, to discourage all of the graffiti  
Like Reply 4w  4
-  **Steve Standfuss**  
Best exercise a kid can get! Have police cruse by once in a while!  
Like Reply 4w  2
-  **Kay Theresa Rizzotto**  
Pickle ball!!  
Like Reply 4w  1
-  **Melinda McMillin**  
That's a great spot. Seems like my family used to have picnics there many many years ago. Nice to see that it's going to get spruced up.  
Like Reply 4w  1
-  **Vickie Borden Oomen**  
New large dock  
Like Reply 4w  1
-  **Judy Kokx**  
Soccer Field  1