

MINUTES FROM MAY 6, 2023
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP SPRING MEETING
SUNSET SHORES PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

PRESENT:

Conrad Rieckhoff, President
Missy Goldberg, Chair Communications Committee, Vice-President
Betsy Ruley, Recording Secretary (Present via Zoom)
Cheryl Istvan, Chair By-Laws Committee
Ron Watson, Chair Beach Committee
John Taylor, Chair Park Committee

Held at New Buffalo Township Public Library – 10:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order by President, Conrad Rieckhoff, at 10:07 a.m.

Conrad: Role call. Missy has agreed to serve as Vice-President until her term expires in Fall 2024. We still don't have a Treasurer. We are asking for volunteers.

We had a very successful food drive. Thank you. Tons of people sent from Amazon. We had approximately 1400 items of food. Thanks to Missy for organizing the Amazon shopping list.

I have been in touch with the City about the lines at the crosswalk at Shore Drive and Water Street by the park. Also, some Children at Play signs. The Police Department said they would be happy to post an officer by the park to be able to ticket speeders.

We have provided a copy of the Minutes from the Fall Meeting on September 10, 2022.

Betsy: I make a motion to approve the Minutes from the September 10, 2022 General Membership Meeting.

Conrad: I second it. Minutes approved. Ron?

Ron: Beach Committee. The levels of the lake are going down and then it will go up over the summer. Most of our beaches have little or no sand. In 1964, the lake was 36" lower than it is now. In 2020, the lake was 30" higher than now. We want to get a more accessible beach. It's very difficult to get down to the East beach. I've talked with the Drain Commissioner and Oselka's—told them we need the pile of rocks and sand moved. We did surveys last year. They will be very important going forward.

We sent letters to the property owners with association easements and told them when we get sand, we will need to work with them to access our easements.

I received a note from the Drain Commissioner sending plans and drawings asking us to tell them what we think. The plans show putting more rocks on our easement. We will have to challenge them on this, and we are talking with an attorney. If they go forward with this, we will

lose a lot of our easement. The “easement” at the East beach is a fee simple property owned by all of the property owners of Sunset Shores. I have been working with the City and EGLE also.

Conrad: We have not done anything other than talk with them. We just found out about this on Monday.

Ron: Along the creek, they are supposed to build a 3 ft. berm to protect those homes from flooding. The New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance filed suit against the Army Corps of Engineers (this has nothing to do with SSPOA). NBSA is planning to use whatever damages they collect from their lawsuit to add sand nourishment and underwater attenuation devices to reduce wave energy and redirect sediment. The goal of this not-for-profit organization is to restore the beaches from the New Buffalo Harbor south through Grand Beach.

Conrad: Conrad reads letter from Christopher Quattrain, Berrien County Drain Commissioner.

(Extensive discussion regarding easement.)

Cheryl: By-Laws Committee Chair: I want to point out to everyone that at the Fall meeting one motion was taken and voted on from the floor. That process is not allowed by the By-Laws. Cheryl reads by By-Law relating to Item #4. Therefore, the result was a NO vote. We will take that motion back to the By-Laws Committee and bring it up in the fall.

John: Park Committee Chair: Looking to get more sand for the playground. Maybe 10 more loads for around the playground and to fill in some areas of the park at some point to level it. I would also like to see a few more tables and benches installed.

Arlene: Let’s take one thing at a time.

John: We will need equipment to move the sand. The quarry is open now (it was closed for a time). For 8-10 loads, it will be \$25-\$30 per load. I would also put a board over the edge of the sand to make it look more finished.

???: Can the tables and bench be repaired?

John: It would not be worth it. We could probably install 3 or 4 tables. I would like to have them on hand so I could do everything at one time.

Ron: Part of the issues we have is to stay within budget.

Conrad: Missy has agreed to stand in as Vice-President. Thank you.

Missy: Communications Committee Chair and Acting Vice-President: I sent invoices via e-mail, website, Facebook and US mail.

Arlene: If you go back to when I was Secretary, there was a vote that people did NOT want e-mail, etc.

Conrad: We mailed bills to all people who want USPS.

Missy: We also have PayPal for convenience.

Conrad: I took bids for Park maintenance. We have a new gentleman at about the same price as last year. Fertilizer and weed control would be \$35 each process. He has also offered to do individual homes. It is Sanchez Landscaping from Three Oaks. 269-612-7157. Angelique (his wife) does the scheduling.

OPEN FORUM:

Sharon Kenny: Could there be a section of the website to “Ask the Board”?

Conrad: That’s a good idea.

Missy: We have about 70 members now.

Arlene: When I left, we had 110.

Ron: We lost some members as a result of the commotion at the last meeting.

Conrad: We have a review of the financials that was available at the desk when you checked in. Dues are trickling in. With the change of the fiscal year, we sent bills out early. We also have about \$2,000 to be transferred from PayPal.

Ron: I got a call this week about a tree in the park.

Conrad: We are getting an arborist to look at it. We will also talk with the City about the tree by the trash can.

We plan to have another food drive in the fall. Also, a pumpkin sale.
Anyone interested in doing something in the park, maybe a picnic? No responses.

Do we have any volunteers for a nominating committee for officers? It would be for President and Secretary this year. No response.

John: I make a motion to adjourn.

Betsy: I second the motion.

Conrad: Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.