

**NEWBERRY TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**May 13, 2025 @ 5:00 pm**

**Call to order by Diane Shellenhamer at 5:00 pm**

Pledge of Allegiance

**Attendance**

Chairman, Codie Culley

Secretary, Jane Harman

Board Member, Erick Rittle

Board Member, Kolten Gouse

Board Member, Norm Seitz

**Appointment of Officers**

MOTION        By Board Member Seitz to elect Codie Culley as Chairman, seconded by Board Member Gouse, carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION    None

MOTION        By Chairman Culley to appoint Jane Harman as Secretary, seconded by Board Member Gouse, carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION    None

**Roll Call/Introduction of Members**

A roll call from all members of the board was taken. Board member Rittle arrived late.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tony Miller – Resident, 115 St. Andrews Way – Thanked the Board Members for volunteering their time to serve on the board. Mr. Miller requested that when decisions are made about the parks and recreation sites and events that the desire of the township residents be considered. He asked the board to consider a township questionnaire or survey to find out the desires of the township residents as to the sites and events for the future. Mr. Miller suggested placing a questionnaire on the township website for residents to complete possibly rating items that they are most interested in. He also addressed two agenda items. Two different grants were also discussed.

### **Adoption of Meeting Schedule**

MOTION By Chairman Culley to have the Parks and Recreation Board meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m., seconded by Board Member Gouse, carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discuss Items Requiring the Board of Supervisors' Approval (e.g., Budget Requests, Grant Applications, Spending Allocations)**

DISCUSSION Chairman Culley stated that over the next month lists will be compiled of what needs to be completed and that would need to be brought before the Board of Supervisors. Requests whether it is funds or ideas a budget will need to be displayed to the Board annually by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. This also applies to grant applications as well. Board Member Gouse suggested to the board the priority of knowing which parks will receive the funding for finishing or adding to them all of which will fall under budget requests and possibly grants.

#### **Discuss Arbor Day-Type Events**

DISCUSSION Chairman Culley discussed possible tree plantings in a park each year or minor events to include the residents in a tree planting event. Clean up days at the parks is a possible event to be considered. Board Member Gouse expressed the importance of bringing back enjoyment of the parks and events to the residents.

#### **Consider Options for Memorial Tree and Plaque Program**

DISCUSSION A discussion took place regarding options for a memorial tree and plaque program. Chairman Culley suggested residents purchase a tree or multiple trees that could be dedicated to an individual and planted at the parks with a plaque.

#### **Brainstorm Potential Fundraising Opportunities**

DISCUSSION More discussion will take place later about potential fundraising opportunities.

#### **Overview of Current Park Locations, Amenities, Conditions and Usage**

DISCUSSION Chairman Culley started the discussion with Terry Dolan Park located off Cly Road. This park has a series of outdated equipment and currently there is an approved grant

available for this park. Waiting for approval to receive a larger amount to do a complete makeover on this park. The project is estimated to be approximately \$362,000. It is the duty of the Board to raise fifty percent of that amount. Fundraising will be important to get this project underway. Board Member Gouse suggested meeting at the park to see what opportunities present themselves for some of the fundraising they are discussing.

Tony Miller-Resident, 115 St. Andrews Way – stated the board should apply for the DCNR grant and the DCED grant and explained the difference between the two.

Secretary Harman stated the focus should be on completing one park at a time. Terry Dolan being the first park. Board Member Sietz stated at Terry Dolan Park a safe entrance needs to be addressed.

Chairman Culley started the discussion on White Oak Park located on White Oak Avenue or Drive the development is on the corner of Yocumtown Road and Valley Green Road. The entrance being between two houses. The Park is maintained and mowed by the Highway Department. No projects are currently planned for this park.

Chairman Culley stated the discussion on Shelley Park located on Cassel Road. This park is the largest maintained park. There will be events hosted at this park. Board Member Rittle stated considering setting the parks up to bring in and incentivize outside revenues to come in. He feels sixty to seventy percent of the revenues available are outside of the township and outside of the resident's area. He feels the parks should be structured to maximize revenue per square foot. Secretary Harman stated a long-term vision would be to have a dog park.

Sue Ostrander-Resident, 35 Rolling Hills Court – Would like to encourage the board to have the residents complete a survey and to include an overview of the parks that the township has. Ms. Ostrander stated if the residents are aware that the parks exist and there is work that needs to be done, people may volunteer to help.

#### **Discuss Current Recreational Programs, Events, or Partnerships**

DISCUSSION     A discussion took place of different events and programs that can be offered at the parks.

#### **Establishment of Short-Term Goals (e.g., Spring Cleanup, Inspections, Community Survey)**

DISCUSSION     Chairman Culley stated that if residents knew the parks existed, they may be more likely to volunteer for clean ups. Secretary Harman suggested residents could adopt a park and that would be the park they would check on weekly to ensure nothing is broken and trash is removed, etc. Ms. Harman suggested having a spring cleanup and picking one park that can be completed. Board Member Sietz suggested choosing Terry Dolan Park to start. Possibly two or three hours of clean up needed. Board Member Rittle suggested opening it for a business to sponsor the cleanup. Secretary Harman stated Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> as being set for the cleanup day between 2-4 pm. No power equipment is to be used due to liability reasons.

### **Establishment of Long-Term Vision (Future Improvements, Development Ideas, New Programming)**

DISCUSSION Board Member Rittle suggested an Amphitheater for events for a long-term vision. His vision is to create a destination that people will want to come to. Concerts, art festivals, etc. were some long-term ideas. Board Member Rittle would like to have an indoor facility that could be used all year round, possibly for arts and crafts or music. He would like to see this done on the 18.5 acres that are available. Board Member Sietz suggested a walking trail and possibly a swimming pool as a long-term plan.

### **Consider Funding Options: Grants, Donations, Sponsorships**

DISCUSSION Chairman Culley covered the grants that were previously discussed.

### **18.5 Acres - Discussion**

DISCUSSION Chairman Culley stated the location of the acreage is across from Lexington development. Secretary Harman stated that the residents that live in Lexington development were told by the developer that the township will be building a park that they were granted the land. Secretary Harman read a section of the Deed that pertains to the land being used as a park. Chairman Culley suggested one main park for all activities that could include younger and older residents.

Jeff Beyer-Resident, 235 Reeser Drive – Stated the importance of being able to walk to the park rather than drive. Chairman Culley agreed with Mr. Beyers statement. He said they are trying to accommodate all township residents in the planning of a park.

Tony Miller-Resident, 115 St. Andrews Way – stated the land is leased to Rex Roth Farms for \$800 a year which is deposited into the Rec Fund for him to farm it. Mr. Miller discussed the land in detail. He brought attention to the fact that it states open space which means it cannot be built upon. Chairman Culley suggested that the township investigate what the terminology means for better clarification.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION By Chairman Culley to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Gouse, carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION None

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jane Harman, Secretary

