

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMISSION

Minutes

October 3, 2023

The Parks Commission was brought to order at 6:00 PM by Jane Webster-Urbach.

Commission members in attendance were Steve Dietz, Ted Tollefson, Jane Webster-Urbach, Edie Sward and Town Supervisor, Mike Blair. Jeneann Oppedahl was via by phone.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ted. 'Be the solution' was presented by Jane.

The September minutes were read and approved.

Park updates: 1. There is a new light at the boat landing. The boat landing light is lower, although not quite at the Historic District guidelines of 15' from ground level.

2. A pollinator garden (450 sq/ft) is being planted in October on the corner of Cty 2 Blvd and Van Blarcum. The garden will take 3 growing seasons to mature. Contact Steve Dietz or Jeneann Oppedahl if you would like to volunteer to help.

3. Presale for kayak rental is \$75 for the season. You must pay between Nov.1-Apr.1 for the \$75. After April 1, the amount will increase to \$100. The season goes from May to October.

4. New signage for Wakondiota is on order.

Guest speaker—The meeting had a guest speaker, TJ Lenaerts. TJ Lenaerts spoke about the restoration of Valhalla Park, answered residents' questions, and spoke about some of the needs for maintenance going forward. TJ suggested prescribed burns as maintenance, with burning every 2-years and rotating different parts of the park so as not to burn the whole area at once. This is best for the wildlife habitat. His scheduled work for the 3rd year is to target invasive species, spot herbicide, hand pull, and have repeated treatments.

Park Budget - We began a discussion about how to go about asking for what the Parks need and may want in the future. Jane had printed out budget sheets showing past expenses and what the current budgets are. We are going to go into more detail about specifics at the November meeting.

Jane suggested to Mike Blair, the Town Board Supervisor, that they add to the Agenda in October a discussion about Ice Fishing and the problem with parking. There was discussion that the township planning commission may need to add something to the ordinances that is enforceable.

New Business—Tim Jonas dragged the beach and removed any invasive grasses and plants. The park commission will discuss in November if this should be continued.

Discussions for the November meeting will be:

Budget – what expenses we will have in the future.

Wakondiota - solutions for mowing.

Beach Grasses - What should be done and should we hire Tim Jonas to take on this project.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32.

Park Commissioner Secretary-Edie Sward