

Florence Township Parks Commission Minutes

June 6, 2023

Meeting was held at the playground park.

Parks Commission meeting was brought to order at 6:01 by Jane Webster-Urbach.

Commission members in attendance were Jane Webster-Urbach, Steve Dietz, Edie Sward, Jeneann Oppedahl, and Ted Tollefson.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ted Tollefson.

May minutes were read and approved.

Potluck at the playground—Wakondiota—will be held on Thursday, June 15th at 6:00 PM. Picnic tables and garbage cans will be needed. Jane will bring 6 tablecloths for the picnic tables. Everyone will bring a dish to pass. The Park Commission will get the compostable plates and utensils and supply napkins and glasses. Jane will look into the cost of these items and order them. Char Rigelman will bring two water dispensers. Steve will speak about the new playground, donations and volunteers. Food will be served at the concession shed. Volunteers should meet on Tuesday, June 13th to clean tables, etc.,

Park updates: Rick Landau is the new grounds keeper. He started the first weekend of June and will mow on a regular basis. Dylan Hanson is the Park Manager. His duties include emptying garbage and picking up sticks. He will not do the major clean-up of the parks because he can't use his own equipment. Someone else will need to be hired for the heavy clean-up.

Wakondiota: Three new benches will be placed in the playground area in the corners. They have been on back order. Beach picnic tables and garbage cans will be moved back to the beach. Some of the picnic tables in the park need repairs. The tables will be repaired by a volunteer, Kerby Rigelman. There will be a cost to repair them. Motion made for the township to cover the costs. It was seconded and approved.

There will be replacements trees planted, for the removed dead Ash trees, in June & July. This includes a variety such as Elm, Ginkgo, Linden, Red Oak, Burr Oak, Honey Locust, Flowering Crab, etc. Discussion about what kind of park does the community want? Do we want the park wild? Keep it the same? It was noted that there are options available. One type mentioned is native planting and there are resources available. Ted Tollefson said to table this until the July meeting. Steve Dietz will do research on options.

Grass will need to be planted around Playground area. There was a discussion about hydroseeding being an option for the park. After further discussion, hydroseeding is not the best cost-effective plan. Dirt is needed. Jeneann Oppedahl will call Terry Cox for dirt to fill in low areas in Wakondiota by playground and in front of St Hubert's.

Jeneann & Justin Staker will work together to till the area and plant grass seed in the late Fall of 2023.

It was addressed to allow people to donate money for plaques on the benches. Further discussion on this will be in July.

The fenced in area of the ballpark has been used for a dog park. There is a station for dog waste and should be used by dog owners.

An outhouse has been added to the park. There was discussion about moving it or keeping it by the fence. If moved, it would need a structure around it. The outhouse will stay by the fence for now.

Valhalla-Phase 3: NRP will continue with Phase 3 timeline. They came on June 6 and did spot spraying and mowing.

Community Center-Nothing new.

Frontenac Station: One of the ducks on a spring is broken off. Does it need to be dug out? Jeneann Oppedahl will look into this matter.

EAB Grant- Stump removal is done and replanting will take place in the spring/summer of 2023. **Stumps at the beach will be removed the end of June.**

Florence Township Beach and Steamboat Landing- The Township is responsible for the in and out of the dock each year. Without wheels, Dylan is not able to put the dock in. The town board will need to make arrangements. Now that the water is down, the beach needs to be cleaned that requires equipment. Dylan can't use his equipment so this will have to be hired out. **Luhman's** has the equipment and **will be hired for the cleanup.** It was decided that the big debris should be hauled away instead of burned.

Brent Urbach is in charge of the kayak racks. He gave **broad** information about the racks. He said there are 12 spots for kayaks. Four spots have been taken. Each spot is \$100.00. Go to the website to get an application sheet.

PROJECT for 2023---Start to research park signage. This was tabled for the July meeting.

New Business---There was some **flood** debris pushed onto Steamboat **Landing from Gregg Johnson's property.** Gregg Johnson will be responsible for the cleanup or the Township will hire Luhman's to clean it up. Luhman's estimate was up to \$3,000. It was discussed that maybe "Sentence to Serve" could help with the cleanup. Jamie Lorentzen will look into if **"Sentence to Serve"** is able to take on this project in a timely manner. If they cannot do it or are not available in the near future, Luhman's will be hired. **Jamie will report back his findings to Steve Dietz.**

Jane Webster-Urbach explained what to do for a park activity application.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Edie Sward—Park Commission secretary