

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMISSION

Minutes

March 1, 2022

Parks Commission Meeting was brought to order at 6:pm by Jane Webster Urbach.

Commission members in attendance were Tom Johnson, Peggy Knudsen, Jane Webster Urbach, Ted Tollefson, Mike Blair and new Commission member Steve Dietz

- 1.The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ted Tollefson**
- 2. Be the Solution was read by Jane Urbach. This month the message was about volunteerism**
- 3. January minutes were read and approved.**

Park Updates

Wakondiota:

- 1. Future playground donations are at \$32,250.00. \$1000.00 from Prairie Island and \$2000.00 from the WINGS Foundation. Both grants were written by Steve Dietz.**

Swimming Beach and Boat Ramp

- 1. Dock installation will be late April or early May. We are first on the list. Point person for the dock will be Steve Dietz.**

Steamboat Landing:

- 1. Wall repair has been completed.**
- 2. Brent Urbach will continue to take care of the kayak racks. An access path from the north will be looked into by Commissioners Tom Johnson and Ted Tollefson.**

Valhalla:

- 1. Phase III Grant has been approved for \$154k. Wabasha Tree Company has removed the larger invasive trees. NRP is working this month**

weather permitting on cutting of invasives, stump treatment, and brush burning.

- 2. View Zones were marked in April 2021 . We are getting bids for the work to be done in those zones.**
- 3. A motion was made by Jane Webster Urbach to ask the Town Board to approve that the professional arborist employed by Florence Township (Wabasha Tree Company and /or NRP)shall be able to remove trees that are dead, dying, leaning, or hazardous in the marked view zones, without having to tag them for 7 days.**

Healthy primary forest species greater than 6 inches dbh(diameter at breast height) such as maple, basswood, oaks, and walnut trees, in view zones, will be marked for removal with colored ribbon or paint, by the arborist. The community will have 7 days to review the marked trees and provide feedback to the Park Commission. Marked trees that are reasonably contested will not be removed and will be discussed at the following Park Commission meeting.

Discussion followed including a lawsuit being threatened by resident Bill Bruce who voiced that his concerns have not been addressed.

Motion was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

EAB Grant Application will be written by Jane Webster Urbach to remove 130 ash trees.

Park Signage research has begun. The signs will include maps of the park.

New Business:

A Pickle Ball Court has been proposed by resident Brent Urbach. More information will be coming at the next meeting.

Resident Millie Gagnon requested permission to have 3 trees in Cnty 2 road right of way removed. Information was taken by Mike Blair to be passed on to Town Board. Goodhue County will be asked how to go about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05

