

## Minutes of Mission Township Park Committee Meeting October 6, 2023

The meeting was held at the Mission Townhall at 8:30 a.m.

**Present:** Committee members present were Jim Peterson, Michael Blassey, Chuck Anderson, Jim Strampe, and Dave Baker.

**Fall maintenance:** Chuck mentioned the bathrooms have recently been pumped out. He also suggested they be pumped out another time during the summer (i.e. August) due to increased use of the park. Will address that during the next budget meeting. The water is currently shut off due to a leak in the pressure tank. A plumber or well company will be contacted to replace/repair the tank. Water lines in the park will be drained in the near future. Nets and other items in the park will be removed for the winter based on the weather. The committee also discussed the fees or potential fees for reserving the pavilion. After significant conversation no recommendations to the current fees will be proposed at this time. The committee agreed it is likely an issue to address when fees for the use of other property owned by the township is used.

**DNR Grant wrap-up:** There are still some trees by the ballfield that should be removed or trimmed and two stumps to cut down along the first base line. They will be addressed this fall. Michael mentioned three additional posts have been installed on south side of the parking lot over by the tennis courts. Still need to attach cable to the posts.

**Trails:** Significant cleanup work has been done on the trails this year. There is still more to do mostly on the trails that are furthest south. This will be completed this fall or throughout 2024. Gary has completed approximately 85% of new short trail in northwest corner. May want to consider designating one of the trails as a snowshoe trail. Dave and Michael have worked on a new trail map and Dave has a bid of \$655 for 15 new laminated signs to place on the trails along with two larger trail maps to place in the message board by the parking lot and on the pavilion. This will assist in trail identification and emergency situations. Jim P. discussed with Bob shortly after the meeting and he approved.

**Summer Starter park parade and social:** The group again discussed a potential event for 2024 and agreed Saturday June 24 would be the best date. The committee also continues to feel a new committee should be formed by the township to plan the event by looking at new activities/options to drive better attendance. We believe Bob Steele has previously brought this to the Township Board. The Park Committee will support the event but believes others may have new ideas. Perhaps someone could reach out the lake associations in the township to gauge interest.

**Pickleball:** The courts continue to see a lot of usage. Dave and Michael believe the reservation system is working well as no complaints have been received this year on the use or availability of the courts. Dave mentioned 102 people have signed up for the reservation system, 84 from Mission Township and 18 non-township members. Non-members have paid \$25 which is basically paying for the cost of the system. Dave (and the system) checks when people sign up to ensure they are members of the township. Will need to think about fee for 2024.

### **Other items:**

- Mission Park caps – Dave has a bid of \$133 for 12 caps for committee members (12 is minimum order). Jim P. talked to Bob after the meeting and he approved.
- Dead/split trees in park area – will be removed this fall.

- New landscaping around Mission Park sign; will be addressed in 2024. The current landscaping is old and needs to be supplemented. Jim S. and Jim P. both indicated their wives might be interested in assisting with this. Watering the area is an issue.
- Replace door to pavilion - the door frame is rotting and entire door needs to be replaced sometime this year. Chuck and Michael will replace it this fall.
- Picnic tables – additional repair and replacement will occur this year or in 2024.
- Restain pavilion, equipment shed, and other out buildings - Chuck and Michael indicated the plan is to restain the exteriors in 2024. Michael will get bids and the committee can decide on whether to recommend contracting out or doing with volunteer labor.
- Special wood chip fill in playground; need some additional fill for certain areas. Will readdress in 2024. Will also look at cost of thick rubber pads under the swings where the chips continue to get worn away.
- Extend hard surface in pickleball waiting area – new crushed granite this has been installed by Gary Norwood. He needs to compact the areas at some point.
- Message board by parking lot; Jim P. mentioned it would be nice to add more info to the boards. Possible pictures of supervisors and others involved in the township? Pictures of people using the facilities?
- Bike rack; will look at this in 2024
- Wind screens; Chuck mention he has one screen on hand and it will be installed as a replacement in 2024.
- Limited fencing by basketball/pickleball court – the committee discussed the possibility of adding fencing off the ends of the court to prevent balls from rolling away. Michael will contact Elite Fence to obtain a cost estimate.
- The tennis box needs to be replaced. This was previously approved for purchase.
- Chuck and Michael recommended a power washer be purchased for the park. Currently, Chuck brings his personal power washer to clean the courts and the pavilion. Will address in 2024.
- Michael mentioned it would be nice if the township had a roller to assist in grooming the cross country ski trails in the winter. He estimated a cost of \$1,500. Will readdress in the future.
- Chuck mentioned the tractor should be serviced at some point for routine maintenance.
- Chuck and Michael indicated the parking lot didn't always get plowed timely last year after some of the winter storms. Jim P. mentioned it to Bob.
- Soccer nets. There have been no requests to put the nets out. They are currently stored behind the equipment shed.
- Youth/senior programs; no requests for these. The townhall may be a better option if these are considered in the future.

**New grants:** The committee agrees we should continue to consider applying for new grants. Jim P. mentioned when applying for grants you need to specify what the funds would be used for. Typically, this would be new items versus general maintenance. The committee will continue to consider this in the future.

**Potential long-term projects:**

- Additional water lines? The group agreed not necessary at this time
- Replace exterior posts and cable around the park. The current posts are starting to rot. Many were replaced this year when the repair work was completed. Will need to start considering this as a potential project in several years.
- Parking lot and paved trails. Annual maintenance continues to be completed but more significant work will be needed in several years. A question arose whether this should be handled by the Park Committee or the Roads Committee. Jim P. discussed with Bob shortly after the meeting and he believes the Park Committee is responsible.

- Additional pickleball courts? Will continue to monitor. No current need. Michael mentioned the prior grant for resurfacing the tennis courts prohibited the striping of the tennis courts for other uses.
- Archery range. The committee agrees this should not be pursued.
- More playground equipment? The committee believes the current equipment is adequate and no new equipment is needed in the next several years.
- Building to house restrooms. The committee believes the current restrooms/outhouses are sufficient and a building is not necessary. A building with running water would require significantly more maintenance.