

Minutes of Mission Township Park Committee Meeting May 13, 2025

The meeting was held at Mission Park at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Committee members and others present or participating were Jim Peterson, Dave Baker, Jim Strampe, Bob Steele, and Tim Moody.

Pavilion and equipment shed: Jim P. reminded the group the pavilion exterior is about 75% completed. There is some siding and corner boards on the pavilion that should be replaced due to water damage or woodpeckers. Additional staining on those buildings and the bathrooms and well shed will be completed this year. Bob will purchase a new door for the shed to be installed by the group and Jim P. will look at the corner boards and reassess. It was agreed we'd postpone any work on the bottom siding of any structures. Jim S. mentioned he knows a handyman that could assist us if we need any additional work completed. Tim has been blowing out the pavilion and will powerwash the floor once the pollen has stopped dropping.

Tree removal and trimming: There are still several stumps that need to be ground out. Tim will assess the number of stumps in the park and along the trails and the group will discuss potential action at a future meeting. No significant damage was incurred to trees in the park area during the winter. Normal trimming within the park and trails may occur throughout the summer and the group will contact Rob Saunders as necessary about potential use of his wood chipper.

Tennis courts: Jim P. mentioned there are many cracks in the courts. He estimated about 250 feet in total, approximately 75% of which are on Court #1 (most western court). Michael Blassey had contacted Nat Lee from Lee's Sports Surfacing about approximate costs to repair. The cheaper fix, but somewhat temporary, is filling the cracks with a special crack filler. The other option would be much more costly and would make more sense when the courts are resurfaced in the future. Jim P. or Michael will contact Nat again to get a better estimate of the potential cost along with timing. We'll also ask Nat about the potential cost to have his company clean the courts since there is a fair amount of dirt/silt imbedded on the courts. Greg Junker had raised that issue at the township meeting on Monday May 12 and Jim P. asked him to look at potential cleaning possibilities. Jim noted the last time the tennis courts were repaired and resurfaced was in 2017.

There are additional windscreens in the shed for potential replacements in 2025.

Jim P. mentioned Greg J. requested a new tennis storage box at the township meeting to replace the old box that was discarded last year. Jim P. asked Greg at that meeting if he would either purchase or identify a box that would meet the needs of the tennis players.

Pickleball: Dave gave an update on the Court Reserve system for pickleball. The township has collected approximately \$600 to date in fees for 2025 to participate in the reservation system. Dave mentioned it would be nice to obtain a shoe cleaner for the pickleball courts and there was agreement. He will research and make a recommendation in the future.

The committee also discussed the possibility of some sort of fencing on or around the basketball court for pickleball play, since the court is used for overflow pickleball. No agreement on fencing was reached at this meeting so it will be discussed again in the future.

Tractor and other mechanical items: Bob raised the concern about the difficulty and amount of work that needs to be done when converting the use of the current tractor from one use to another, especially at the end of the seasons. He proposed the township consider the purchase of a side-by-side ATV that could be used for mowing (with a tow behind attachment) and for plowing (the paved

trail). After discussion the group agreed this would make sense. The ATV would also be used for moving items around the park, picking up small branches, and could be driven to the transfer station. There was also discussion about the purchase of a small trailer (say 4'x8') that would assist with moving things including branches. The group agreed this would make sense. If purchased, the old tractor and the attachments would be sold or traded in on the new items. Bob also mentioned this purchase could be funded through a possible grant but a grant request would need to be approved by the board since there are other items that could be grant-worthy. Bob will research the potential costs of a side-by-side and pull behind mower and plow along with other attachments and a trailer to present at the next board meeting. Tim indicated he would research the potential value of our current tractor and attachments for potential sale or trade-in.

Other items:

- Small tools – Tim is assessing the need for various additional tools at the park and will coordinate with Bob for purchase.
- Flowers – Jim P. mentioned Sue P. and Kathy S. would be interested in planting flowers by the sign again. Bob indicated this would be fine.
- Picnic tables – overall in good shape. A few boards may need to be replaced throughout the summer.
- Special wood chip fill in playground; need additional fill for certain areas. Jim P. will contact the company based in Princeton at some point for potential pickup. Low priority.
- Some grills in the park are rarely used and due to potential fire dangers when they are used coals are not always extinguished. As discussed in prior years we may want to remove some grills. Low priority.
- Benches by tennis courts – as discussed in the past the benches outside the courts are rarely used. There was agreement it would be nice to move them to an area where they would get used and the group felt the playground area would be the most logical location. Low priority.
- Bike rack – there was discussion about the purchase of a bike rack. The group will observe the number of bikes at the park throughout the summer and then decide on the need. Low priority.
- Foul poles on ballfield – Dave has expressed an interest in repainting the poles. There is some extra paint from the previous time they were painted.