

Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes from the April 12, 2023, meeting at Thornapple Township Hall

Chairwoman Catherine Getty called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Present: Getty, Anne Hamming, Eric Schaefer, Tom Hamilton, Ann Williams, Kristen Cove, Emily Dock, Keara Hilton

Absent: Jeff Kenyon.

Staff present: Baseball/softball program director Nathan Fischer

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Cove, seconded by Dock to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carries 8-0.

Minutes: Motion by Dock, seconded by Williams to adopt the minutes from Feb. 8, 2023, meeting. Motion carries 7-0 with Cove abstaining as she was not on the board at the time.

Public comment: No members of the public in attendance to provide public comment.

Director report: Teams are formed and practices started Monday, April 10. Several field maintenance items still need to be done, like the batting cage, but the work is moving along at a brisk pace and is on schedule. Mike Bremer has been a great asset for getting the fields ready. Fischer reported that 323 players total signed up. The recreation league has 28 teams and the select league has three teams. Fischer is still in need of umpires. He is waiting for the rule book to be finalized. He will send it to everyone and post it on the website once it is finalized. DesignWear has all the shirts, and he is finalizing sponsorships so the shirts can be printed and get them to kids. Picture day is May 18 between soccer fields and the tree line. Getty complimented Fischer on the smooth transition into the program director role.

Treasurer's report: Hamilton presented the activity statement for February and March 2023. TeamSnap was set up to require payment at time of registration, so all payments are in. Scheduled revenue of \$21,800 and current revenue is in line with what was expected. Sponsorships are up this year by \$1,000 for select. Recreation league sponsorships are lower than expected. Hamilton received a progress update on the audit with a bill of \$1,700 toward the full \$4,000 costs of the audit that Hamilton will pay soon. Liability insurance was renewed the middle of March. Cash balance \$49,573, which is \$7,000 higher than last year. An amount of \$10,500 is reflected in the balance that will be designated for the special projects fund. Jason Bushman with NTA is going to donate maintenance of the McFall field so there will be a savings to TAPRC.

Motion by Cove, seconded by Dock, to adopt the financial report as presented. Roll call vote of 8 yes, 0 no. Motion carries.

Chairwoman's Report

- A) Getty presented the schedule of appointments so all board members have a record of when terms end.
- B) 2022 Annual Report – Annual report is done and will be shared with the TK Schools Board on April 17 and the Thornapple Township Board on May 8. It was presented to the village board at the end of March.
- C) Sale of Polaris Ranger utility vehicle – The Polaris was purchased to drag the fields. It hasn't served the needs very well. It is difficult to start and get into gear and it's too big. TAPRC got a good deal on it but most of the time it sits in the cemetery shed and it can't be driven to the fields legally. The hope is to replace it with something smaller that coaches could use, such as a garden tractor. A replacement is needed because it is too much to drag by hand. Joshua Wickham, the village sexton, has offered to buy it for \$4,000. Motion to sell the Polaris Ranger utility vehicle to Joshua Wickham for \$4,000. Motion by Dock, Seconded by Hamming. Motion carries 8-0.
- D) Board member job responsibilities: Getty asked that an ongoing agenda item be the charity shed and who tends to it each month. A volunteer is taking it through the end of April. The assignments are as follows: Keara – May; Eric- June; Ann Williams – July; Kristin – Aug; Anne Hamming -- Sept.; Catherine -- October. Getty recommended that we split proceeds with volunteer service groups if they are willing to return the empties.
- E) Committees are updated with Hilton on community events and Cove on development committee.

(Dock left at 6:45 p.m.)

Used Sports Equipment sale: Getty asked the community events committee to create some strategies for collecting used equipment, possibly at baseball team picture day to have a trailer there and advertise it through social posts. The equipment can be stored in the township hall basement.

Paddle for Parks: Last year, event organizers heard from a lot of people who wanted to use their own kayaks instead of the canoes that were provided with the entry fee. It was also discussed if a date other than Heritage Days weekend will be better for entries because there was too much competition on the Saturday of Heritage Days weekend. The events committee was asked to come to the May meeting prepared with dates to discuss.

Board comments: Board members welcomed Kristen Cove and Keara Hilton.

Getty adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.