

# Oakland Township Sentinel

Sunday, April 24, 2022

Bob Yager – Editor

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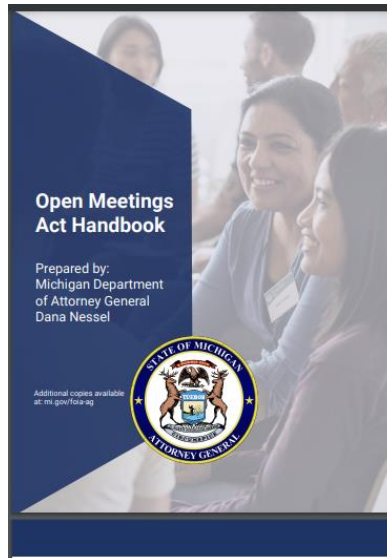
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## Good Reasons for Unusual Board Meeting Timing, 10 AM Friday 4/22/22

It was explained at the meeting that a quorum would not be at the regularly scheduled 4/26 meeting as some want to attend an important Michigan Township Association meeting and at least one other Board member has a personal scheduling conflict. No new items were added to the agenda and the brief meeting moved us forward on a Fox Nature Preserve contract proposed by PRC and presented by Director Milos-Dale to deal with environmental issues with buildings at 1401 Lake George. Commissioner Brian Blust was also present. I rate it as a productive meeting. Watch the video – link on page 23.

## Laws Governing Township Board and other Public Body Decisions

Residents should understand the potential damage to our Township if OMA is violated on important decisions. Not that it's happening now; but we all should be skilled at detecting it in some future public body.



Excerpts from page 7 –

### ALL DECISIONS MUST BE MADE AT A MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The OMA defines “decision” to mean “a determination, action, vote, or disposition upon a motion, proposal, recommendation, resolution, order, ordinance, bill, or measure on which a vote by members of a public body is required and by which a [public body](#) effectuates or formulates public policy.”<sup>24</sup> The OMA provides that “[a]ll decisions of a public body shall be made at a meeting open to the public,” and that, with limited exceptions, “[a]ll deliberations of a public body constituting a quorum of its members shall take place at a meeting [open to the public](#).”<sup>25</sup>

The OMA does not contain a “voting requirement” or any form of “formal voting requirement.” A “consensus building process” that equates to decision-making would fall under the act.<sup>26</sup> For example, where board members use telephone calls or sub-quorum meetings to achieve the same intercommunication that could have been achieved in a full board or commission meeting, the members’ conduct is susceptible to “round-the-horn” decision-making, which achieves the same effect as if the entire board had met publicly and formally cast its votes. A “round-the-horn” process violates the OMA.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> MCL 15.262(d).

<sup>25</sup> MCL 15.263(2) and (3).

<sup>26</sup> *Booth Newspapers, Inc v Univ of Michigan Bd of Regents*, 444 Mich at 229.

<sup>27</sup> *Booth Newspapers, Inc*, 444 Mich at 229 – “any alleged distinction between the [public body’s] consensus building and a determination or action, as advanced in the OMA’s definition of ‘decision,’ is a distinction without a difference.”

[Link to OMA Handbook](#)

## **Sentinel Decision to stop Using the Term “War on Parks”**

While this term draws reader attention, I’m not selling newspapers for a profit. It is too inflammatory and implies an unknowable motivation on the part of the Board of Trustees to take over Parks and destroy the Parks and Recreation Commission. Therefore it could logically be considered a personal attack. I believe it ranges from very difficult to impossible to know a person’s or groups motivation, unless they tell you.

In any case the important facts are what has been said, what has been done, and what could or will be done in the future. I’m just trying to get reliable facts out in front of people so they might react to said facts as they see fit. Using the term “War on Parks” gets in the way of that and starts down a slippery slope of attack “journalism” which we have too much of already in the USA.

## **What were voters told about the Land Preservation Fund before voting on 9/11/01?**

**See this Township (not Parks) Newsletter and other material – Next several pages**

(That was a Township Newsletter, not a Parks Newsletter. The Township Newsletter was discontinued at some point. This invited residents to two open houses 8/25 and 8/29 to hear “...***several well-respected natural resource and management speakers...***”)

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2001

Charter Township of Oakland Volume 3, Issue 2

## COME VOTE: TOWNSHIP ELECTION

on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> About Oakland  
Township Land Preservation Millage Proposal



On Tuesday September 11, 2001, Oakland Township registered voters will have the opportunity to vote on a land preservation millage proposal at their normal election polling places. The proposed millage would fund the acquisition and preservation of open land within Oakland Township. The green spaces acquired would be representative of the Township's natural and rural history and would be protected from residential or commercial development.

Highest priority would be given to land containing or protecting the following features:

- Land along Paint Creek and Stony Creek
- Land that contains lakes, ponds, and wetlands
- Land with future passive recreation potential where residents could hike or observe wildlife
- Land that connects existing green spaces or natural areas
- Habitat for our native plants and animals
- Land with important natural features such as forests or prairie remnants

The Township Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) would be responsible for evaluating, recommending properties for acquisition and for managing these properties. The PRC would proactively seek, evaluate, and recommend these properties. Surveys of Township environmental areas as well as citizens' recommendations would be incorporated into this selection process. The PRC would also concurrently pursue grants to leverage millage dollars and maximize their potential value.

The Land Preservation Millage Ballot Questions will be worded as follows: Shall the Charter Township of Oakland be authorized to levy a total of 0.75 (3/4) of 1 mill for a period of ten (10) years, starting with the December 2001 levy, for the purpose of providing funds for the acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the Township? Approval of the proposal would authorize a tax limitation increase of 0.75 of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of the taxable value of all taxable property in the township. It is estimated that this proposal would result in the authorization to collect \$572,250 in the first year if approved and levied.

If approved, the following are examples of millage costs to property owners: \$100,000 home: Taxable Value \$50,000 = \$37.50/year or \$3.12/month \$250,000 home: Taxable Value \$125,000 = \$93.75/year or \$7.81/month \$500,000 home: Taxable Value \$250,000 = \$187.50/year or \$15.63/month.

Two open houses will be held at the Township Hall where residents can learn more (see next column). Please direct questions concerning this proposal to Maryann Whitman, President of the Oakland Township Committee in Support of the Land Preservation Millage, at (248) 652-4004 or at maryannwhitman@home.com or to the Township Parks and Recreation office at (248) 651-7810. Please address questions concerning voter registration, polling places or absentee ballots to the Clerk's Office at (248) 651-4440 x 218.

## INVITATION to Millage Proposal Open Houses

Sat., Aug. 25, 9-30 a.m. &  
Wed., Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m.,  
Oakland Township Hall

Each to feature:

Well-respected natural resource protection and management speakers discussing the need and opportunities for land preservation in Oakland Township.

Maps, photographs, and data presented by Oakland County Planning which shows our Township's land use patterns as well as opportunities for land preservation.

Question and answer sessions with residents, Park Commissioners, other Township officials and staff, Oakland County Planning staff, natural resource planners and ecologists.

The 8/25 meeting will feature Doug Pearsall, Director of Conservation Science of The Nature Conservancy - Michigan Chapter, who will speak about plants, animals and natural communities which should be priorities for preservation. The Nature Conservancy has protected more than 80,000 acres of Michigan's finest natural areas.

The 8/29 meeting will feature John Paskus, Conservation Planning Specialist for the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI), who will speak about MNFI's current effort to identify and prioritize "potential conservation areas" in Oakland Township. MNFI is a 21-year old organization that collects, analyzes and communicates information on Michigan's rare plants, animals and natural communities.

**Please take advantage of these two opportunities to learn more about this millage proposal.**



**Page 2 - The agenda's for the 8/25 and 8/29 open house sessions** follow on the next page This helps orient us now to the likely vision put forward back then. But, what we really need are the speakers' written notes or PowerPoint slides. I will attempt to obtain them.

Note that six different people spoke to explain Land Preservation.

**“Land Preservation Millage: Purpose, Funding and Goals”**

Mary Ann Whitman

Alice Tombouliau

There were four outside speakers –

**Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:**

**Oakland County Natural Areas Identification and Preservation**

Jim Keglovitz, Oakland County Planning and Development

**Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:**

**Southeast Michigan Preservation Priorities: *Plants, Animals, Natural Communities***

Doug Pearsall, Director of Conservation Science,

The Nature Conservancy – Michigan Chapter

**Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:**

**Oakland County Natural Areas Identification and Preservation**

Nina Misuraca, Oakland County Planning and Development

**Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:**

**Michigan Preservation Priorities: *Plants, Animals, Natural Communities***

John Paskus, Conservation Planning Specialist

Michigan Natural Features Inventory

## Oakland Township Land Preservation Millage Open House Agendas

Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road

### **Saturday, August 25, 2001, 9:30 am**

**9:30-9:45** Viewing of aerial photos and natural feature maps

**9:45-10:00** **Land Preservation Millage: Purpose, Funding and Goals**  
 Maryann Whitman, President  
 Oakland Township Committee in Support of the Land Preservation Millage  
 &  
 Alice Tomboulion, Vice Chairperson  
 Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

**10:00-10:15** **Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:**  
**Oakland County Natural Areas Identification and Preservation**  
 Jim Keglovitz, Oakland County Planning and Development

**10:15-10:45** **Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:**  
**Southeast Michigan Preservation Priorities: *Plants, Animals, Natural Communities***  
 Doug Pearsall, Director of Conservation Science,  
 The Nature Conservancy – Michigan Chapter

**10:45-11:15** **Question and Answer Session**  
 Facilitator: Mindy Milos-Dale, Parks Manager, Oakland Twp.

**11:15-11:30** Viewing of aerial photos and natural feature maps

### **Wednesday, August 29, 2001, 7:30 pm**

**7:30-7:45** Viewing of aerial photos and natural feature maps

**7:45-8:00** **Land Preservation Millage: Purpose, Funding and Goals**  
 Maryann Whitman, President  
 Oakland Township Committee in Support of the Land Preservation Millage  
 &  
 Alice Tomboulion, Vice Chairperson  
 Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission

**8:00-8:15** **Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:**  
**Oakland County Natural Areas Identification and Preservation**  
 Nina Misuraca, Oakland County Planning and Development

**8:15-8:45** **Oakland Township's Land Preservation within the Larger Picture:**  
**Michigan Preservation Priorities: *Plants, Animals, Natural Communities***  
 John Paskus, Conservation Planning Specialist  
 Michigan Natural Features Inventory

**8:45-9:15** **Question and Answer Session**  
 Facilitator: Mindy Milos-Dale, Parks Manager, Oakland Twp.

**9:15-9:30** Viewing of aerial photos and natural feature maps

## Pages 3 and 4 – Questions and Answers

### OAKLAND TOWNSHIP LAND PRESERVATION MILLAGE SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2001 BALLOT PROPOSAL

#### Frequently Asked Questions (8-28-01)

##### What is the purpose of the proposed millage?

The proposed millage will fund the acquisition and preservation of open land within Oakland Township. The green spaces acquired with millage monies would be representative of the natural and rural history of our Township and would be permanently protected from residential or commercial development.

##### What land would be considered highest priority for green space acquisition?

Oakland Township still has high-quality green spaces that contain or protect these features:

- Land along Paint Creek and Stony Creek
- Land that contains lakes, ponds, and wetlands
- Land with future passive recreation potential where residents could hike or observe wildlife
- Land that connects existing green spaces or natural areas
- Habitat for our native plants and animals
- Land with important natural features such as forests or prairie remnants

##### Does sufficient vacant land remain for preservation as green space?

Yes, Oakland County Planning and Development Services has estimated that there are approximately 6375 acres of undeveloped land in the Township. This represents about 27% of all Township lands, exclusive of parkland.

##### Will this millage stop development in Oakland Township?

No, the Township cannot prevent people from proposing developments. However, millage funds will enable the Township to work with willing sellers to take advantage of opportunities to purchase and preserve portions of the remaining green spaces.

##### How will the land preservation ballot question be worded?

Shall the Charter Township of Oakland be authorized to levy a total of 0.75 (3/4) of 1 mill for a period of ten (10) years, starting with the December 2001 levy, for the purpose of providing funds for the acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the Township? Approval of the proposal would authorize a tax limitation increase of 0.75 of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of the taxable value of all taxable property in the township. It is estimated that this proposal would result in the authorization to collect \$572,250 in the first year if approved and levied.

##### Which Township entity would manage the land preservation millage funds?

The Parks and Recreation Commission, having considerable experience in land purchases and donations, would be responsible for managing the land preservation millage monies. They currently own and manage five parks and also manage the Oakland Township section of the Paint Creek Trailway. The park staff includes one full-time manager and one part-time administrative assistant.



### **Who would evaluate and recommendation properties for acquisition?**

The Parks and Recreation Commission has obtained ecologists' reports on the significant environmental areas within the Township. This information has been instrumental in the purchases of Bear Creek Park, Blue Heron Environmental Area and Cranberry Lake Park. The Commission would proactively seek available green space properties and evaluate them according to well-defined criteria, incorporating the recommendations of Township citizens. They would then work with real estate and legal professionals to pursue acquisition of the top-priority areas.

### **If approved, what would the millage cost property owners?**

\$250,000 home: Taxable Value \$125,000 = \$93.75/year or \$7.81/month

\$500,000 home: Taxable Value \$250,000 = \$187.50/year or \$15.63/month

\$750,000 home: Taxable Value \$375,000 = \$281.25/year or \$23.44/month

### **How much funding would this millage provide over the 10-year period?**

The millage itself would raise about \$5 million and would enable the Township to maximize its value by concurrently pursuing grants that could add up to \$15 million more to the green space fund. The Parks and Recreation Commission has been successful in obtaining state grants totaling over \$2.5 million that funded the purchase and ensuing development of the Paint Creek Trailway, the recent purchase of Oakland Hills Park as well as the planned addition of amenities to Bear Creek Park.

### **Will this millage restrict private landowners' rights to sell or develop property?**

No. The millage funds will enable the Township to work with willing sellers to purchase remaining green spaces and will have no effect on regulations concerning private property development.

### **Will any of this proposed millage pay for the maintenance of green spaces?**

Yes. While a high percentage of the millage funds will be devoted to property acquisition, it will be necessary to monitor and preserve these green spaces once they are purchased. Each property's natural features will be managed to prevent degradation of the site's ecological and scenic values. After careful planning, trails will be added where appropriate. Volunteers have successfully completed many current park stewardship, maintenance and improvement projects and would also be involved, as appropriate, in the management of these proposed green spaces.

### **In addition to retaining our Township's natural and scenic areas, why is it preferable to purchase green spaces instead of developing them?**

Green spaces owned by the Township will not need the types of services required by residential developments, including police protection, fire protection and public schools. Green spaces will not contribute to traffic congestion, whereas each new residential household averages 10 vehicle trips per day. Green spaces are a desirable amenity that will positively affect nearby private property values.

### **How many governmental entities have green space initiatives?**

The Land Trust Alliance, a non-profit organization, has been tracking this type of initiative on a nation-wide basis. During the past three years, voters across the nation designated more than \$17.5 billion for open space protection, approving 85% of 459 state, county and local ballot proposals. Michigan voters approved a statewide initiative in 1998. Local ballot proposals in Michigan have been approved in Ann Arbor in 1999, in Washtenaw County in 2000, and in Meridian Township in 2000.

**Page 5 – Vote tally from 9/11/01** (can't believe the date) and two renewals. Support grows.

#### LAND PRESERVATION PROPOSAL RESULTS

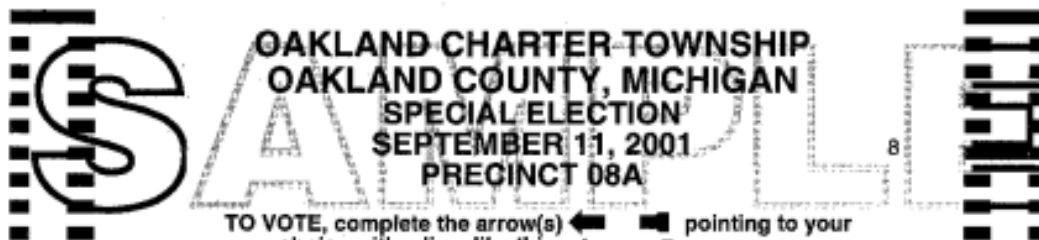
September 11, 2001





Precinct 1	Yes <u>160</u> <i>OK</i>	No <u>67</u> <i>OK</i>
Precinct 2	Yes <u>119</u> <i>OK</i>	No <u>71</u> <i>OK</i>
Precinct 3	Yes <u>104</u> <i>OK</i>	No <u>81</u> <i>OK</i>
Precinct 4	Yes <u>181</u> <i>OK</i>	No <u>60</u> <i>OK</i>
Precinct 5	Yes <u>132</u> <i>OK</i>	No <u>88</u> <i>OK</i>
Precinct 6	Yes <u>135</u> <i>OK</i>	No <u>65</u> <i>OK</i>
Precinct 7	Yes <u>23</u> <i>OK</i>	No <u>17</u> <i>OK</i>
AVCB	Yes <u>348</u> <i>OK</i>	No <u>342</u> <i>OK</i>
TOTALS	Yes <u>1202</u>	No <u>791</u>

### Oakland Township Land Preservation Levy Votes

	YES	NO	TOTAL	% YES	%NO
9/11/2001	1202	791	1993	60%	40%
8/8/2006	1815	934	2749	66%	34%
11/6/2018	6521	2994	9515	69%	31%

Then there is this (next page) with the 9/11/2001 ballot language

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**

TO VOTE, complete the arrow(s)   pointing to your  
choice with a line, like this  

**IMPORTANT: Use only the marking pen or #2 pencil provided.  
DO NOT USE RED INK!**

When you have completed voting, place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve so that the votes cannot be seen. Then return the ballot to the inspector stationed at the tabulator. (If voting by absentee ballot, follow the instructions provided by the clerk for returning the ballot.)

**NOTE: If you make a mistake, return your ballot to the Election Official and obtain another. Do not attempt to erase any marks made in error.**

**LAND PRESERVATION  
MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

Shall the Charter Township of Oakland be authorized to levy a total of 0.75 (3/4) of 1 mill for a period of ten (10) years, starting with the December 2001 levy, for the purpose of providing funds for the acquisition of land, the protection of natural habitat, and the preservation of green spaces within the Township? Approval of the proposal would authorize a tax limitation increase of 0.75 of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of the taxable value of all taxable property in the Township. It is estimated that this proposal would result in the authorization to collect \$572,250 in the first year if approved and levied.

YES  

NO  

## **Learn About Natural Area Stewardship Component of Land Preservation, 3:30 Wednesday, April 27. Attend Open Meeting of Stewardship Committee of Parks and Recreation Commission – Walk New Fox Nature Preserve - Agenda Below**

It is my opinion that many residents are unfamiliar with Natural Areas Stewardship component of Land Preservation. Attending this open meeting; some of which will take place walking through Fox Nature Preserve may be a good way to increase your knowledge. I see no reason that Township Board members cannot attend, and perhaps should, if possible. I know there may be a Michigan Township Association meeting conflict.

### [Parks and Recreation Stewardship Committee 4/27/22 Meeting](#)

#### **Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission**

##### **OAKLAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**3:30 pm, Wednesday, April 27, 2022**

**Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland MI 48363**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval/Amendments to the agenda
4. Public Comment for items not on the agenda
5. Fox Nature Preserve Site Walk - Meet in the parking lot at Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland MI 48363.

After Site walk meet at 5 pm at the warming shelter, Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland MI 48363

6. Review: Oakland County CISMA Invasive Species Control Grant for Lost Lake Nature Park and Cranberry Lake Park
7. Review: Existing Stewardship Management Plans for Lost Lake Nature Park and Fox Nature Preserve
8. Review: Proposed 2022 Stewardship Work for Fox Nature Preserve
9. Adjournment

Lost Lake Nature Park is #12 on the map below. Take Adams or Rochester Road to Predmore. Lost Lake Trail is off Predmore, Look for the sign. See whole map at this link: [Parks Map](#)





## Do Natural Area Stewardship in Your Own Yard

The Michigan Audubon Society in Okemos has a webpage devoted to creating a bird friendly yard.

<https://www.michiganaudubon.org/bfc/bird-friendly-plants/>

This pamphlet on that page is sort of a “Natural Area Stewardship 101” mini-course in my view.

[https://www.michiganaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/MI-Native-Plants-for-Bird-Friendly-Landscapes\\_Website.pdf](https://www.michiganaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/MI-Native-Plants-for-Bird-Friendly-Landscapes_Website.pdf)



Thanks to resident and former Parks Commissioner Diane Bennett for showing me this pamphlet.

## **Township Manager Report**

**[Township Manager Report April 8, 2022 – on page 82](#)**

## **Public Body Meeting Records**

**Meetings should conform to the Michigan Open Meetings Act**

**[Open Meetings Act Handbook - by Attorney General](#)**  
**[Open Meetings Act - The Law - Act 267 of 1976](#)**

For the best summary of how these public bodies work and laws governing them see “**The Red Book**”, \$76 from Michigan Township Association. Order [here](#). The author is a lawyer who has familiarity the many laws and has organized and summarized them around each Township Function.

From MTA website: (next page)



## **Authorities and Responsibilities of Michigan Townships**

*Revised 2020*

Known as MTA's "little red book," this primer for township board members and officials includes terms of office, vacancy, recall, meeting notices, minutes, elections, ordinance publication, investments and tax collections, in addition to the statutory duties of each elected official and township boards and commissions.

**Member:** \$52.50

**Non-Member:** \$76

## Recent Meeting Records

(Items in blue and underlined are links to meeting documents, videos and public body webpages)

[Planning Commission](#) - Tues. 4/5/22 – Regular Meeting - Cancelled

\*\*\*\*\*

[Safety Paths and Trails Committee](#) - Wed. 4/6/22 – Regular Meeting - [Agenda](#) -  
Packet-none - [Video \(1:11\)](#) - Draft Minutes – not yet posted

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call
- II. Approval/Amendments to the Agenda
- III. Approval/Amendments to the Draft Minutes:  
December 1, 2021  
January 5, 2022
- IV. Public Comment for items not on the agenda
- V. Discussion: Carlisle Wortman – Future Path Priority
- VI. Update: Oakland County Grant Opportunity – Gallagher Road
- VII. Approval of the 2022 Meeting Dates
- VIII. SPTC Member Reports
- IX. Adjournment

\*\*\*\*\*



[Parks and Recreation Commission](#) – Thu. – 4/7/22 – Special Meeting - [Agenda](#) -

## **Charter Township of Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission**

### **SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

#### **Lost Lake Nature Park Public Meeting**

**Thursday April 7, 2022 7:00 p.m.**

Oakland Township Hall, 4393 Collins Road, Oakland Township, Michigan

#### **MEETING AGENDA**

1. 7:00 PM Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and Roll Call
3. Amendments to April 7, 2022 Agenda/Approval of April 7, 2022 Agenda
4. General Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda
5. For Review and Consideration : Parks and Recreation Resolution 22-02  
for Recission of Parks and Recreation Resolution 11-01
6. For Approval: Request to Schedule Joint Meeting of Board of Trustees  
and Parks and Recreation Commission
7. Current Status of Lost Lake Nature Park: Chair Barkham
8. Review of Parks and Recreation Meeting Purpose and Format: Chair Barkham
9. Timeline of Lost Lake Nature Park Acquisition, Facilities, Programs: 2004-2020
10. 2020 Lost Lake Nature Park Michigan Natural Resources (MNRTF) Grant Application and  
MNRTF Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions
11. 2022 Lost Lake Nature Park Purchase and Addressing Safety Recommendations
12. Lost Lake Nature Park Natural Area Habitat Restoration 2004-2022
13. Public Comment Concerning Lost Lake Nature Park
14. Adjournment

[Packet \(109\)](#) - [Video \(3:00\)](#) – Draft Minutes – not yet posted

\*\*\*\*\*

[Parks and Recreation Commission](#) – **Music in the Meadows Committee** – Fri.  
4/8/22 - [Agenda \(1\)](#) – Video-none – Draft Minutes – not posted yet

Single agenda item - "*Review and discuss 2022 musical genres for concert performances and vendors*"

\*\*\*\*\*

[Township Board of Trustees](#) – Tues. – 4/12/22 – Special

Agenda –main part below

- I. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call**
- II. **Announcements and Proclamations**
- III. **Public Comment for items not on the Agenda**
- IV. **PENDING BUSINESS**
  1. Closed session:  
Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h), closed session to discuss confidential legal opinion regarding sanitary sewer and water system issues.  
Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h), closed session to discuss a confidential legal opinion regarding budget approval process.
- V. **Public Comment for items not on the Agenda**
- VI. **Adjournment**

Draft Minutes – Main part next page

Note that a special meeting allows public comment at some point. Had I been there I might have commented that I would want to understand how we township residents benefit from a closed session on “budget approval process”.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Board heard public comment from:  
- Cam Mannino – 3666 Locust Dr

**CLOSED SESSION**

MOTION by Mabry, supported by Mangiapane to approve going into closed session at 6:07 PM pursuant to MCL 15.268(h), closed session to discuss a confidential legal opinion regarding sanitary sewer and water system issues and a confidential legal opinion regarding budget approval process.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Abbate, Buxar, Giannangeli, Mabry, Mangiapane, Zale  
Nays: None  
Absent: Elder

Motion carried 6/0.

**MEETING RECONVENED**

Supervisor Abbate reconvened into open session at 6:35 PM.

**Township Board of Trustees – Tues. – 4/12/22 – Regular - [Agenda](#) - [Packet \(84\)](#) - [Video \(3:30\)](#) - [Minutes](#)**

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of Bills
  - a. Payroll via ACH
  - b. March 29, 2022 in the amount of \$12,719.31
  - c. April 12, 2022 in the amount of \$833,727.58
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. March 22, 2022 Special Closed
  - b. March 22, 2022 Regular
3. Emergency VFD Well Repairs
4. Memorial Day Parade Payment Approval
5. Contract for Chloriding with Rochester Hills

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**VII. PENDING BUSINESS**

1. Posting for Maintenance Technician
2. Stoney Creek Crossing Sanitary Sewer Improvements
3. Review and Discussion: Employee Handbook Update
4. Resolution for Repayment of Interfund Loan
5. Resolution Regarding the Financing and Approval of the MNTRF Grant Property Improvements

Added was grant application opening deadline extension regarding #5. #5 was the most controversial as it renamed former Lost Lake Nature Expansion to Fox Nature Preserve and requires Board approval of significant Parks plans for this park and asserts that the Board ultimately controls the Land Preservation Fund.

#2 was a very pleasant surprise. Due to Township research and action, this development will be hooked up to a sewer instead of a private wastewater plant whose effluent was planned to go into Stoney Creek, west branch.

If you go to watch the video of this be aware that the agenda order was changed.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Wed. 4/13/22 – Regular

Agenda excerpts – note that this agenda was assembled before Lost Lake Expansion was renamed by BOT.

1. 7:00 PM Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States and Roll Call
3. Announcements
4. Amendments to April 13, 2022 Agenda/Approval of April 13, 2022 Agenda
5. Invoice Approval: April 13, 2022 Invoices
6. Approval: Minutes: March 9, 2022 Regular PRC Meeting
7. General Public Comment
8. For Approval: Proposed Update to Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Procedures
9. For Approval: Dates and Location for PRC Summer Meetings
10. For Review: Marsh View Park Basketball Court Rehabilitation Drawings
11. Lost Lake Nature Park:
  - A. For Review: Geotechnical Investigation of Culvert at Stony Creek Trail Crossing
  - B. For Review: Result of ACM & HAZMAT inspection at 1401 Lake George
  - C. For Discussion: Public Comment Received from April 7 Special Meeting
12. For Approval: Extension of Insect Control Services Contract for 2022
13. For Approval: Award of Contract for Marsh View Park 2022 Fertilizer and Herbicide Application
14. For Approval: Replacement of Parks and Recreation Gator
15. For Approval: Annual Equipment Inventory/Items for Disposal
16. For Approval: Award of Contract for 2022 Prairie Mowing
17. For Approval: Printing Services for Postcard and Newsletter
18. For Approval: Contracts for Music in the Meadows:
  - A. Performers
  - B. Sound and Lighting
  - C. Mobile Stage
  - D. Rain Location
19. Project Reports:



A. Paint Creek Junction Trailhead Project – Review of Remaining Project Timeline

B. Bear Creek Nature Park, Marsh View Park and Paint Creek Junction Signage

1) Review Project Timeline

2) For Discussion: Bear Creek Nature Park Entrance Sign Graphic Alternatives

C. Bear Creek Nature Park and Marsh View Park Restrooms

1) For Approval: Change Order #1

20. Park Director's Report

21. Commissioners' Reports

22. Adjournment

[PRC Packet 1 - 4-13-22 \(418\)](#)

[PRC Packet 2 - 4-13-22 \(36\)](#)

[Video - PRC - 4-13-22 \(4:17\)](#)

Draft Minutes – not posted yet

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[Zoning Board of Appeals](#) – Tues. 4/19/22 – Regular – Cancelled

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[Historic District Commission](#) – Wed. 4/20/22 – Regular

Agenda excerpts

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1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda for April 20, 2022
4. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: March 16, 2022
5. Welcome Public Comments
6. Local Historic District Spring Maintenance
  - a. Axford-Thomas Historic District Discussion
7. RCS Administration Building Update
8. Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District
  - a. Eagle Scout project – East Entrance Eagle Direction
  - b. Underground water lines – Recommendation
  - c. Hazardous Tree Removal Status Report
  - d. Orchard Trees
  - e. Scrub Mowing from December, 2021
  - f. Comcast Security Camera proposal
  - g. Programming and Outreach – Happy Little 5k
  - h. Weddings May 21 and June 18
9. Big Red Logging Wheels update - OTHS
10. Historic Preservation Planners Report
11. HDC April FY 2022 Invoices – For Approval
12. HDC March FY 2021 - 2022 Invoices – For Approval
13. HDC Commissioner Comments
14. Adjournment

[HDC Packet 4-20-22 \(70 pages\)](#)

[HDC Video 4-20-22 \(1:47\)](#)

Draft Minutes – not yet posted

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[Township Board of Trustees](#) – Tues. – 4/22/22 – Special

Agenda excerpt

## **Charter Township of Oakland**

4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306-1670

Telephone: (248) 651-4440

Fax: (248) 651-1510

[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)



### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE AND AGENDA Friday, April 22, 2022**

#### **10:00 AM - OAKLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING**

- I. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call**
- II. **Announcements and Proclamations**
- III. **Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda**
- IV. **Public Comment for items not on the Agenda**
- V. **PENDING BUSINESS**
  - 1. Cancellation of Board of Trustees Meeting - April 26, 2022 7:00pm
  - 2. Maintenance and Elevator Equipment Purchases
  - 3. Election Primary Precinct Location Changes
  - 4. Authorization for ASTI to move forward with bidding - Abatement plan for potential buildings to be removed at Fox Nature Preserve
- VI. **Public Comment for items not on the Agenda**
- VII. **Adjournment**

[BOT Packet 4-22-22 \(93\)](#)

[BOT Video 4-22-22 - Special \(0:31\)](#)

Draft Minutes – not yet posted

## Meetings Next Week 4/25-4/29

[Rochester Community Schools Board of Education](#) – Tues. 4-26-22 – Special – 6 PM – Rochester High School auditorium, corner of University and Livernois (across from Kroger)

### [RCS - BOE Agenda and Packet 4-26-22 - 6 PM](#)

I think this meeting will have a huge attendance and much public comment. I looked through the citizens asking to be put on the agenda and I see these most popular comment topics that I have paraphrased:

- Fire some top Administration and /or BOE resignations – 10 comments
- Book policy – 6 comments
- Save historic administration building – 3 comments
- Better listening to parents needed and / or better two-way communication – 6 comments
- Question if complaining parents represent majority view – 2

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[Parks and Recreation Commission](#) – Stewardship Committee – Wed. - 4-27-22 –  
3:30 PM – Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail

**OAKLAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION  
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**3:30 pm, Wednesday, April 27, 2022**

**Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland MI 48363**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval/Amendments to the agenda
4. Public Comment for items not on the agenda
5. Fox Nature Preserve Site Walk - Meet in the parking lot at Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland MI 48363.

After Site walk meet at 5 pm at the warming shelter, Lost Lake Nature Park, 846 Lost Lake Trail, Oakland MI 48363

6. Review: Oakland County Cisma Invasive Species Control Grant for Lost Lake Nature Park and Cranberry Lake Park
7. Review: Existing Stewardship Management Plans for Lost Lake Nature Park and Fox Nature Preserve
8. Review: Proposed 2022 Stewardship Work for Fox Nature Preserve
9. Adjournment

## **How to find other meeting records on Oakland Township Website**

<https://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/reference-material-t-z/township-website-help/>

## Letters to the Editor & Policy

We accept letters to the editor. Requirements are:

- No restriction preventing appointed or elected official from sending letters
- Provide your name, no anonymous letters
- If you welcome direct contact from other readers, say so and include contact info. Otherwise I will leave out any contact information like phone, address, email.
- If you want to describe who you are, that can be helpful – “38 year resident, former Township Supervisor” for example
- No personal attacks. We define personal attacks as making statements of opinion about the character, intelligence, diligence, motivation, values or other largely unknowable attributes of a person or group. Examples:

Personal attack – “Trustee X cannot be trusted.”

Not a personal attack – “Trustee X has voted differently on the same issue as seen in these records.....”

Personal attack – “Trustee X does not care about issue L.

Not a personal attack – “Trustee M voted against putting issue L on the ballot.”

Personal attack – “Trustee X is trying to undermine Group B with their statements”

Not a personal attack “Trustee X has made these statements which we find potentially damaging to Group B for these reasons.....”

Personal attack – “Trustee X never knows what is going on.”

Not a personal attack – “Trustee X never commented on important “motion X” before the vote and had no questions. It is difficult to determine Trustee X’s level of understanding of or position on this issue.

Personal attack – “Group P is out of control”

Not a personal attack – “There does not seem to be an effective employee managing system within Group P as evidenced by the following facts .....”

By this standard I declare that my usage of the term “War on Parks” is a personal attack on our Board of Trustees and will stop using it. It implies a vaguely defined motivation that I cannot possibly know.

As I see it, avoiding personal attacks forces us (that includes me) to focus on facts and our own opinions about what these facts mean for issues. What happened? Do we approve of what happened? Why or why not? What did we wish had happened? Why? What would we like to have happen? Why?

If we attack people we allow the conversation to be diverted from the important issue at hand to a pointless discussion of their intelligence, motivation, diligence, etc. That is not an argument of importance.

As there are few letters, I plan to keep them in a numbered list until the list gets too long.

1. <http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/2022/04/11/resident-suggest-mediation-in-board-of-trustees-parks-commission-dispute/>
2. <http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/2022/04/11/another-resident-weighs-in-on-last-lake-nature-park-expansion-issue/>
3. <http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/2022/04/12/dr-moore-letter-about-april-7-prc-meeting/>
4. <http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/2022/04/12/view-of-former-trustee-frank-ferriolo-on-lost-lake-nature-park/>
5. <http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/2022/04/12/another-resident-weighs-in-on-lost-lake-nature-park-expansion/>
6. <http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/2022/04/14/dr-drew-moore-email-to-parks-recommendations-for-moving-forward/>
7. <http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/2022/04/14/reg-brown-and-cam-mannino-individual-responses-to-dr-moores-email-to-prc/>

8. <http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/2022/04/16/letter-to-editor-from-frank-ferriolo-regarding-4-12-bot-meeting-and-4-13-parks-meeting/>

**(Mr. Ferriolo's letter #8 referred to Dr. Moore's 4/14 letter which can be seen as #6 above)**

## **Schools**

As no parent seems concerned about the issue of our (Barbara and I) perceived non-compliance to the RCS School-Police Liaison Officer agreement annual goal-setting and reporting requirements, I am dropping pursuit of that issue. Schools are, by state law, asked to pay attention to parents' wants. I am not a parent or grandparent of RCS school children. If you want a reminder about the issue I reported it here on February 13, 2022.

<http://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/2022/02/13/rochester-community-schools-police-school-liaison-program-does-not-appear-to-have-the-required-annual-goal-setting-and-reporting/>

See the meeting section, page 25 for RCS BOE 4-26-22, 6 PM meeting information.

## **The End**