

Dog and Horse Discussions – Oakland Township

(A summary of code, and minutes that mention, dogs, horses or pets)

Dog Discussions– Oakland Township

[Chapter 20: PARKS AND RECREATION](#)[Article II: General Park Regulations](#)

[Sec. 20-33 Rules and regulations.](#)

[Ord. No. 38A, art. III(03.02.00), 3-12-2002]

[\(12\)](#) All persons walking or exercising pets in a park are required to **clean up all debris resulting from the pets** with the exception of leader, guide, hearing and service animals. Pets must be on a leash not exceeding 10 feet in length and under control at all times.

[\(27\)](#) It shall be lawful to ride or lead a horse within any park with the following exceptions:

[a.](#) It shall be unlawful to ride, lead or allow a horse in any park, or portion of a park, where horses and/or horse riding are not permitted and such parks or park areas are specifically designated and posted as such.

[b.](#) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a horse in a careless or reckless manner so as to create a nuisance or to endanger the life, property or persons of others.

[Sec. 20-34 Conservation areas.](#)

[Ord. No. 38A, art. IV, 3-12-2002]

[\(a\)](#) Definition. A "conservation area," as such term is used in this article, means and is defined as an area of undeveloped land retaining or being returned to its natural character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is managed so as to protect its natural conditions and which:

[\(1\)](#) Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature; or

[\(2\)](#) Contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

[\(b\)](#) Designation. The parks and recreation commission may designate conservation areas within parks by resolution, copies of which shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the parks and recreation commission. Such resolution shall have attached a drawing designating the area of park land which is a conservation area. The borders of conservation areas shall be delineated by posting or other means so as to inform the public that the area is a conservation area.

[\(c\)](#) Maintenance. Conservation areas shall receive minimal maintenance and for all intents and purposes shall be left in or returned to a natural condition, subject only to the necessary removal

of man-made debris and the maintenance of pathways, lands, rivers, streams, watercourses or previously existing easements as required by law or deemed necessary to the public health, safety and welfare. Nature paths, feeder stations, and similar nondisruptive uses shall be acceptable within the designated area.

(d) Rules and regulations. All conservation areas shall be subject to the rules and regulations set forth in section [20-33](#). In addition, the following rules and regulations shall apply in all conservation areas notwithstanding anything contained in section [20-33](#) to the contrary:

(1) There shall be no commercial enterprise, permanent road, temporary road, use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or any form of motorized transport within a conservation area, except as may be necessary for maintenance or in case of emergencies.

(2) No bicycles shall be operated within a conservation area.

(3) **No pets shall be allowed in a conservation area.**

(4) **No horses shall be allowed in a conservation area.**

(5) It shall be unlawful to use a loudspeaker, public address system, bullhorn or amplifier within a conservation area.

Sec. 36-1 Definitions and rules of construction.

[Chapter 36: ZONING](#)

[ARTICLE I: In General](#)

[Chapter 36: ZONING ARTICLE I: In General](#)

Sec. 36-1 Definitions and rules of construction.

[Ord. No. 16, § 32.00.00, 1-13-1976; Ord. of 3-17-1977; Ord. of 6-17-1979; Ord. of 10-3-1981; Ord. of 10-23-1982; Ord. of 4-7-1984; Ord. of 10-12-1984; Ord. of 1-19-1986; Ord. of 5-26-1990; Ord. of 2-12-1991; Ord. of 1-11-1994; Ord. of 8-25-1994; Ord. of 2-3-1998]

KENNEL, COMMERCIAL

Means any lot or premises on which three or more **dogs, cats, or other domestic animals** are either permanently or temporarily boarded or bred for commercial purposes

Stony Creek Metropark

Ord. No. 21, § 6, 3-14-1972; Ord. No. 21B, 4-9-2003]

(a) No person shall bring into, or have in his possession or control within the boundaries of Stony Creek Metropolitan Park any **dog** or pet unless such dog or pet shall be kept on a leash not over six feet in length and under the immediate control of some responsible person.

(b) No person shall bring into, or have in his possession or control any dog or pet, in any area of Stony Creek Metropolitan Park except in picnic areas and other areas designated by the authority by posted notices, provided that this section shall not apply to **leader dogs** for the blind or to dogs under the control of the authority.

(c) No person shall ride or lead any horse within the boundaries of Stony Creek Metropolitan Park, except in areas designated by the authority. All **horses** must be in possession of an authority bridle tag.

(d) No person shall permit or allow the running at large, herding, grazing or driving of any livestock of any kind within the boundaries of Stony Creek Metropolitan Park.

Disturbing the Peace

Ord. No. 87, § 4.10, 10-26-1999]

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or harbor any **dog** which by loud, frequent or habitual barking, yelping, howling or other noise materially disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood or public, or causes annoyance to persons in the neighborhood who are of reasonable and ordinary sensibilities.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FEBRUARY 11, 2009

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS – Page 113

Commissioner Mammen questioned the Park Department's dog policy in Bear Creek Nature Park, as during his walk he noticed that some park visitors may not be adhering to the OT park dog policies. The PRC agreed that the policy would be published in the next OT Parks Department newsletter

**NOVEMBER 18, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.
OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HALL – 1st FL. MEETING ROOM
APPROVED MINUTES Pages 119-120**

**FOR DISCUSSION: REVIEW OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS AND DRAFT OF PARKS,
RECREATION, LAND PRESERVATION AND TRAILS
MASTER**

PLAN

Courtney R. Piotrowski, McKenna Associates, Inc., stated that at this point the PRC would review open house comments to determine if the input which was received would change the direction of the master plan document. Commissioner Whitman stated that four people suggested that the PRC make specific plans for **horse trails**. Discussion followed. The PRC agreed that one of the capital improvement items is to encourage trail use within DTLP, particularly the East side of DTLP, and having a trail connection between DTLP and Charles Ilsley Park to encourage equestrians to go to Charles Ilsley Park

Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion questioned whether the creation of a dog park is in the master plan. Ms. Piotrowski stated that dog park was not currently in the Capital Improvement Plan, and wasn't a heavily supported item. Discussion followed. Ms. Piotrowski stated that she will add 'assess opportunities for **a dog park**' at the end of Chapter 4 of the Master Plan. Ms. Piotrowski stated that all open house and public hearing comments, as well as the strategy matrix will be incorporated into the master plan. Ms. Piotrowski stated that the PRC will make a resolution recommending adoption of the plan to the OT Board of Trustees at the PRC's December 2, 2009, meeting.

Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Land Preservation, Trails - 2009 Other Facilities – Page 72

Other facilities noted during the public input process include a sledding hill, skateboard park, and a **dog park**. These facilities should be evaluated for inclusion in future park developments in the Township as they are deemed appropriate

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING APRIL 28, 2010 – 7:00 p.m. PAINT CREEK CIDER MILL BUILDING – 1ST FLOOR MEETING ROOM APPROVED MINUTES

PARK DIRECTOR's REPORT – Page 7

Director McLogan provided a copy of an e-mail from an OT homeowner, Mr. Bill

Luberda, stating that he had reported instances of dogs off their leashes in BCNP on the morning of April 19, 2010, as he walked his dog on a leash. Mr. Luberda stated in his e-mail that he contacted the Parks Department and was directed to the Oakland County Sheriff, who directed him to Animal Control Unit, who then directed him back to the OT Parks office.

Commissioner Tomboulion stated that she and Commissioner Mammen have started to research dog parks. Ms. Tomboulion stated that a dog park could be a possible use for the vacant property on Orion road. Discussion followed. Ms. Milos-Dale stated that she feels citizens want to walk with their dogs more than visit a dog park. Commissioner Barkham stated that she is a proponent of a dog park but that providing a dog park is a separate issue and that the issue of dogs running off leash in BCNP needs to be resolved first. Ms. Barkham further stated that the large field on the South side of BCNP could be a possible area to allow dogs to run off leash, but otherwise the problem of dogs running off leash on the trails of BCNP must be resolved. Commissioner Mammen stated that perhaps letters could be sent advising of the leash ordinance(s) to residents in the subdivision on the East side of BCNP. Director McLogan stated that adequate signage is needed. Ms. McLogan further stated that the Sheriff's deputy did meet with Mr. Luberda, and did suggest to Director McLogan that signage be put up which includes the ordinance and the penalty on it. Ms. McLogan advised the PRC that the penalty is up to a \$500.00 fine or up to ninety days in jail. The PRC discussed requesting that the deputies enforce the ordinance by issuing tickets. Director McLogan stated that she will confirm with OT Manager Jim Creech that she may request that the deputies enforce the ordinance by warning people and/or issuing tickets. Ms. McLogan stated that information regarding the ordinance is on the OT website and has been in the OT Parks newsletter.

Commissioner Barkham requested that the letter to the subdivision residents on the East side of BCNP discussed earlier include a friendly reminder to clean up after their dogs at the subdivision entrance to BCNP. Commissioner Barkham suggested that the OT Sheriff's deputy could be invited to a future PRC meeting. Director McLogan stated that she would invite a Sheriff's Deputy to the PRC's May 12, 2010 meeting regarding the bike patrol and the dog leash ordinance.

Commissioner Tomboulion asked the PRC if it would be acceptable to them for her and Commissioner Mammen to provide a report on dog parks. **Commissioner Mangiapane stated that she is more interested in developing parks that we already have in place, and that funding at the present time is not in place for a dog park. However, she would welcome the research information from commissioners Tomboulion and Mammen.** Ms. Milos-Dale stated that she will look up some information that she has previously obtained and will provide to the PRC. Commissioner Mammen stated that this report is for future use, further out, and for a possible partnering situation to fund it. Commissioner Peruzzi stated that if a dog park is not on the radar, it won't happen. Commissioner Peruzzi further stated that he supports ticketing for violations of the ordinance and that ticketing will help solve the problem of dogs running off leash in BCNP.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 12, 2010 - Page 20**

**FOR DISCUSSION: OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION PRESENTATION**

Mr Dunleavy stated that OCP&R currently operates two dog parks and that a third smaller dog park is currently planned for Red Oaks County Park. Mr. Dunleavy said the dog parks are very popular. OCP&R **rotates the dog park area** among four acres at Orion Oaks County Park, and they also have incorporated within the four acres an area for smaller dogs.

**FOR DISCUSSION: DOGS OFF LEASH (OCSO SGT. TOM PARKER IN
ATTENDANCE)**

Director McLogan stated that she invited a representative from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Sgt. Tom Parker' to tonight's meeting based on a **complaint Received from an OT citizen regarding reporting instances of dogs off leashes in BCNP.** Commissioner Whitman asked Sgt. Tom Parker how the bicycle patrols are going. Sgt. Parker explained that two officers were cut from the OT substation, and therefore only one officer stationed at the OT substation is currently certified for bike patrols and he has been out twice this year.

Commissioner Whitman questioned whether an out of uniform officer would help the dog off leash issue. Sgt. Parker stated that he would rather be visible to create awareness of the OCSO's presence in BCNP. Sgt. Parker stated that if it becomes necessary he will, however, he does not initially want to take discretion away from officers by mandating that they issue tickets for all instances of dogs off leash.

Sgt. Parker stated that he currently does not have a certified bike officer available during the day shift. Commissioner Barkham asked if a patrol car could drive-through at BCNP at the start of the morning's day shift for visibility and to show a police presence in the park. Sgt. Parker stated that this would not be a problem. Commissioner Tomboulion stated that an officer could walk BCNP entrance area, but wouldn't have to walk the entire park.

Sgt. Parker suggested that OCP&R employees could become Ticket Ordinance Writing Officers who could issue tickets. It was noted that the parks employee then

becomes a witness to the dog off leash incident, and would have to appear in court if the ticket recipient chose to take their ticket to court. Brief discussion followed. Director McLogan stated that she would rather not put Tom Hoard or Roger Smith in that position. Sgt. Parker confirmed that he could ask officers to drive through BCNP at the beginning of their shift. Commissioner Mammen and Commissioner Peruzzi agreed that the neighborhood(s) entrance to BCNP should be patrolled as well. Sgt. Parker asked if there have been any incidents of dog bites in the past. Ms. Milos-Dale stated that yes, in the past there have been instance(s) of dog bites, although they were infrequent.

Commissioner Mangiapane asked Sgt. Parker for his impressions of the dog off leash issue. Sgt. Parker stated that park visitors may ignore signage. Commissioner Barkham questioned the PRC's liability if someone were to get seriously hurt by a dog off leash. Sgt. Parker stated that it appears to him that by working with the OCSD, the PRC is putting forth a good faith effort to alleviate the problem and that the courts would view this as such.

Director McLogan provided two sample signs, one landscape and one portrait for the PRC's input. Director McLogan stated that the proposed signage states that dogs must be on a six-foot leash, since the state law of six feet supersedes the OT ordinance of ten feet. Commissioner Mammen suggested that a brochure with the leash ordinance on it could be provided to any OT resident who registers their dog.

Sgt. Parker stated that he periodically conducts walking patrols on the Paint Creek Trailway and he will instead conduct his walking patrol at BCNP. Chairman Mackley suggested that Sgt. Parker could focus on the east side of the park near the adjacent subdivision

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 28, 2010**

Director McLogan provided the following items for the PRC's information

A copy of the **dog ordinance signage** that Deb Gallo ordered, and that is now ready to be installed in concrete at all BCNP entrances

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION*****APPROVED*******October 13, 2010****VICE-CHAIRMAN TOMBOULIAN'S REPORTS – Page 129****Bear Creek Nature Park – Dogs**

Vice-Chairperson Tomboulia reported that she encountered a dog owner who had his dogs on an “**electronic leash**.” She would like to learn more about this type of leash.

Parks Planner Milos-Dale said that she has run into a number of people with dogs. She has thanked the owners who have leashed their dogs, but was upset when she and her dog were approached by a dog off leash and the owner refused to use the leash that he had with him.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION*****APPROVED*******January 12, 2011****COMMISSIONER MANGIAPANE'S REPORTS****Request for Dog “Bark” Park**

Commissioner Mangiapane said she was approached by a couple asking if the PRC has plans for a “bark” park in Oakland Township. They recently moved from a community that had such a park, and reported that this was a wonderful experience for their pets and their family. The PRC recalled that they have discussed this in the past, but have no plans for a “bark” park at this time.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION*****APPROVED *******March 28, 2012****AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director McLogan asked that items be added to the agenda to discuss the purchase of a vehicle for stewardship, and to discuss **unleashed dogs in Bear Creek Nature Park**. The Commissioners also agreed to revise the order of items to move the Parks and Trails Planner's

report earlier on the agenda.

MOVED BY PERUZZI, SECONDED BY BARKHAM, to approve the agenda with the addition of discussions regarding the purchase of a vehicle for stewardship, and unleashed dogs in Bear Creek Nature Park, and to move the Parks and Trails Planner's report earlier on the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

BEAR CREEK NATURE PARK: Dogs Off Leash (page 190)

Director McLogan stated that she received a telephone call this week regarding problems in Bear Creek Nature Park with dogs off leash. Mr. Bill Luberda of 4038 Oak Tree Circle was present this evening and stated that it was he who called. He said that he has lived in Oakland Farms for 17 years. He recounted an **unpleasant confrontation** he had two years ago when he encountered a woman walking her dogs off leash in the park and one of the dogs ran at him and his dog. When Mr. Luberda later contacted the police, the officer told him that the police cannot enforce the ordinance. He questioned why the ordinance is not being enforced.

Mr. Luberda continued that he has since routinely seen dogs off leash in the park. Today, again, he encountered a dog off leash, and pointed out that when the dogs are off leash, their owners typically are not picking up after them.

Mr. Luberda was very upset about this situation, stating that his wife and dog are the two dearest ones in his life. He threatened that there "will be hell to pay" if he or they are ever injured.

Parks and Trails Planner Milos-Dale recalled that she has also had negative experiences with dogs that are not on leashes in Bear Creek Nature Park. At times, she has told the owners that they are required to leash their dog, and the owners have become irate. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion had similar stories, and Chairman Mackley and Treasurer Peruzzi recalled disrespectful and rude behavior from a dog owner who had his dog off leash at the Goodison Good Tyme event.

Director McLogan passed out copies of correspondence, past minutes of PRC meeting discussions, and information that has appeared in the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation newsletters related to the issue of dogs being off leash in Bear Creek Nature Park and attempts at resolving the issues. The information timeline covers the period of 2009 to the present.

The Commissioners discussed that the park is posted with signs stating that dogs are required to be kept on a leash. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion recalled three different occasions when the PRC has discussed with the deputies the problem of dogs off leash in Bear Creek Nature Park. The Commissioners reviewed a memorandum received today from Sgt. Spencer stating that it is difficult for the police to enforce due to their limited access to the interior of the parks. He continues that when the police arrive, the violator usually sees the vehicle and leashes their dog.

Mr. Luberda questioned if anyone has ever been ticketed for having their dog off leash. He and the Commissioners remarked that an offender is subject to a \$500 fine. Mr. Luberda suggested that if a police officer in plain clothes were in the park, he could video tape

offenders and issue tickets. He added that if offenders were ticketed periodically (“surprise” enforcement), he believes the word would get around and it would curb the problem. Next, Mr. Luberdia shared that if you want to walk a dog in Rochester Community Park, you are required to show proof that the dog is up to date on all shots, has an Oakland County dog license, etc. in order to purchase a special license for \$40 for this purpose. The Commissioners thought this was interesting and that they can consider this. (Mr. Luberdia left at this time.)

The Commissioners discussed what the PRC should do. They agreed to ask Maintenance Foreman Caruso to make sure the dogs must be leashed signs are posted in the park and in good repair. Chairman Mackley will set up a meeting with Township Manager Creech, Supervisor Fogler and any interested Commissioners to discuss this

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED *****

April 11, 2012

DOGS OFF LEASH IN PARKS – Page 2

The Commissioners recalled that at the last meeting, Mr. Luberdia, a resident who lives near Bear Creek Nature Park, had expressed his concerns about **dogs running off leash** in that park. The Commissioners had discussed that the park is posted with signs stating that dogs are required to be kept on a leash, and that the PRC has discussed this problem with the deputies. Chairman Mackley pointed out that Oakland Township’s Parks Ordinance, as well as State law both require that dogs be kept on a leash.

Supervisor Fogler was present this evening. She explained that Oakland Township only has two deputies on the day and evening shifts, and they need to be available for other matters. She suggested that the PRC consider a mini-contract with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department to address the dog concerns in Bear Creek Nature Park. Chairman Mackley inquired if the deputies could patrol in plain clothes (i.e., not in uniform). Supervisor Fogler said the PRC would have to address that question to the Sheriff’s Department.

Parks and Trails Planner Milos-Dale said that she has mainly observed dogs off leash in the mornings, evenings/after work and on weekends. She added that she believes the people who let their dogs run off leash are neighbors as well as people who drive to the park. Chairman Mackley questioned if the Sheriff’s Department could park an unmanned police vehicle in the parking lot with the view that this might discourage owners who drive to the park from letting their dogs run off leash. Supervisor Fogler said she will ask Sergeant Spencer. The Commissioners also discussed that they should ask the Sheriff’s Department if they have recommendations for a private security firm that could help in this matter.

John Markel of 245 Birch Hill Drive suggested that the PRC contact Oakland County Animal Control and inquire if they can help. He said it is his understanding that they have the authority to issue tickets, and he thought this might be a less expensive way to address this problem than contracting with the Sheriff's Department. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Markel for his suggestion.

Commissioner Mammen said that he visited Bear Creek Nature Park over the weekend and spoke with all of the dog owners that he met there. He said we need to get our park neighbors and park users to help patrol the park. Commissioner Mammen presented a draft letter that he prepared, which references the Parks Ordinance, identifies the problem park users have been experiencing with dogs off leash, and states that if this situation cannot be resolved, the PRC will need to consider making certain changes to address the problem. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that a letter should be sent out as an insert in the upcoming Parks and Recreation Newsletter. Commissioners need to email any changes to the letter to Director McLogan tomorrow, as the newsletter is scheduled to be sent to the printer on Friday.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED*****

April 25, 2012

DOGS OFF LEASH IN PARKS – Page 16

At the last meeting, Commissioner Mammen shared a draft letter regarding the problem of dogs being off-leash in Bear Creek Nature Park. Since that time, Treasurer Peruzzi and Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion proposed various revisions. Parks and Trails Planner Milos-Dale said that, while it would be a start to send this letter to neighbors, she does not believe it will resolve the problem. The Commissioners pointed out that the letter could be posted in the parks, appear in the local newspapers, be mailed to nearby neighborhoods (including those across Snell Road and Gunn Road), and be publicized by Patch (online local news reporting). Director McLogan said it can also be published in the next PRC newsletter.

In follow up from the last meeting, Director McLogan said she contacted Sergeant Spencer. Oakland County is willing to enter into a mini contract for police services to patrol the park. He recommends that the officers be in uniform, and proposed the hours of 7 to 9 a.m. or 12 noon to 3 p.m. The cost would be \$68 per hour.

Director McLogan said she discussed the possibility of patrolling the park on bicycle. Sergeant Spencer said he hopes to get this program up and running again, but it is not available at this time.

The Commissioners agreed that they would like an officer to patrol during the morning (7 to 9a.m.), two mornings a week. Sunday would be a good day to patrol, but the Commissioners agreed that the days of the week should vary. They agreed to follow Sergeant Spencer's

recommendation regarding a uniformed officer, which also is a visible statement to park users that the park is being patrolled. The PRC thought it might be good for the officer to park the patrol car at the Township Hall

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED*****

June 13, 2012

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Bear Creek Nature Park – Mini-Contract with Oakland County Sheriff's Department

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department started patrolling Bear Creek Nature Park in May at the direction of the PRC after receiving complaints about dogs off leash in the park. Director McLogan and the Commissioners reviewed the police reports, which reflect **that two dog owners were cited for having their dogs off leash.** The Commissioners noted that this mini-contract with the Sheriff's Department will expire at the end of this month, and the Commission can decide at a later time if they wish to extend the contract. Director McLogan indicated that she received an email from Secretary Barkham. One of the dog owners who received a ticket spoke with Secretary Barkham and inquired about sectioning off an area of Bear Creek Nature Park for off-leash dog activity. **At a future meeting, Secretary Barkham may bring up the idea of designating an area in the park where dogs may run off leash**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED*****

February 13, 2013 – Page 191

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Addison Oaks, an Oakland County park, is located just north of Cranberry Lake Park. Ms. Folland said Oakland County wants to complement, not duplicate, what the Oakland Township PRC is offering in its parks. She said she looks forward to an ongoing open dialogue with the PRC. She reviewed some proposed park improvements for Addison Oaks including replacement of the boathouse, installation of new picnic pavilions, installation of yurts, and the establishment of a trail connection with the Polly Ann Trail. Oakland County is also looking into developing a **dog park** at that location.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED*****

February 27, 2013 – page 203

SECRETARY ROGERS' REPORTS

Dog/Equestrian Park

Secretary Rogers read a memo she prepared dated February 27th proposing that the PRC consider creating a dog park as well as an equestrian park in Oakland Township. She said that when she was campaigning over the summer, many residents were interested in these parks. She would like residents and their pets to be able to enjoy these facilities within Oakland Township. There were nine residents present this evening in support of such parks.

Dog Park

– Secretary Rogers proposed that a dog park be created at Watershed Ridge. Chairman Mackley said the PRC has talked about a dog park in the past. Commissioner Peruzzi said it would be helpful to have someone who has experience operating a dog park share their experiences with the PRC. Director Milos-Dale said that she could contact Sue Well of Oakland County who is an expert on dog parks; the Commissioners agreed.

Chairman Mackley recalled that when Oakland County Planner Donna Folland was present at the last meeting, she had indicated that there are plans to put in a dog park at Addison Oaks. Teri Dunlap of 3201 Lake George Road said she and her dog visited the Orion Oaks dog park facility and enjoyed it very much. Ms. Dunlap said she is not opposed to going outside Oakland Township to enjoy a dog park.

Libby Dwyer of 1234 Lake George Road said that when she has visited the dog park at Orion Oaks, she noticed a sense of community, much like when adults and children visit a playground. She suggested that a dog park also include picnic tables and benches. Commissioner Barkham concurred with Ms. Dwyer's observation about the positive feelings that such a community can create.

Mark Russell of 442 Oak Drive said he takes his dog to Orion Oaks approximately once a week. They have a "doggie dock" where the dogs can jump into the water and said the dogs enjoy this.

Trustee Maureen Thalmann noted that Canton has a dog park. Residents purchase an entry pass when they purchase a dog license, which helps ensure that the dogs visiting the park are up to date with their vaccines. Commissioner Peruzzi acknowledged that if the PRC decides

to offer a dog park, this will entail establishing a number of policies.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED*****

March 13, 2013 page 214

SECRETARY ROGERS' REPORT

Dog Park

Secretary Rogers reported that she contacted Sue Wells and Laura Stasiac from Oakland County Parks, and they indicated that they will be at the PRC's March 27th meeting. Recreation Manager McLogan stated that she had already emailed Ms. Wells about attending an upcoming PRC meeting to discuss her experience with operating a dog park

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED*****

March 27, 2013 – pages 5-7

OAKLAND COUNTY DOG PARKS

Sue Wells, Manager of Parks and Recreation, and Laurie Stasiak, Recreation Programs Supervisor, were present from Oakland County Parks. Ms. Wells first stated that Director Milos-Dale and Recreation Manager McLogan have the highest respect in the parks and recreation sector, and said that Oakland Township is very fortunate to have them on staff. Ms. Wells then discussed dog parks in the Oakland County Parks system. Oakland County Parks wanted to be – and is – the leader in establishing dog parks. They opened their first dog park in Orion Oaks in 2000, which now covers 24 acres. Since that time, they have added two more dog parks: a second in Lyon Oaks, which opened in 2003 and covers 13 acres, and a third in Red Oaks, which opened in 2010 and covers 5.2 acres. She and the Oakland County Parks staff are currently working on a master plan, which proposes dog parks in Addison Oaks (a 20 acre dog park is proposed) and Groveland Oaks. There are currently approximately 25 public dog parks in southeast Michigan, and there are plans for placing dog parks in state parks as well.

The Commissioners questioned how expensive it is to create a dog park. Ms. Wells estimated that it costs approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000 to put in cedar posts, graduated farm fencing, pavilions for shade, water and restrooms. The PRC would have to decide which

amenities it would want to offer in a dog park. Ms. Wells said that Oakland County has teamed up with a sponsor that provides waste bags for dog owners to pick up after their dogs, and said that this helps a lot with keeping the parks clean.

The PRC asked how Oakland County charges for use of its dog parks. Ms. Wells responded that Oakland County Parks decided to simply require either a day permit or an annual permit for use of all Oakland County Parks parks. Some dog parks – particularly those put in by a municipality – require dog owners to visit their local parks and recreation department, show that the dog has a current license and is up-to-date on vaccinations, and purchase a “fob.”

Ms. Wells continued that, while most dogs certainly enjoy the dog parks, she feels the parks are really for the people. She added that if there are problems, it is usually the people (and not the dogs) that cause the problems. Also, people have to remember that their dogs are animals (and not humans), and therefore behave as animals. She then briefly reviewed the rules that Oakland County Parks has adopted for their dog parks, which include that a visitor may bring a maximum of two dogs, and that the dogs must be able to respond to voice commands. She noted that some parks limit the age of people who may be in the dog park (e.g., no one under the age of 18 years). Other parks have areas for small dogs only (although small dogs are allowed in the area large dog area).

Recreation Manager McLogan asked how Oakland County Parks enforces their rules. Ms. Wells responded that parks staff, Oakland County Animal Control and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department all help in this regard. Oakland County Parks does have to pay the Sheriff's Department for their services, and tends to limit their patrols to higher use times. Finally, Ms. Wells said that Oakland County Parks is working with SEMCOG to create a comprehensive inventory of all parks and recreation facilities and opportunities in the area. (This data will help avoid duplication of services.) They will then meet with the entities that are responsible for making decisions regarding those facilities with a view to working collaboratively to provide the recreation opportunities for residents in the most cost effective manner.

Next, Ms. Stasiak spoke about the popularity of the dog parks. In 2012, there were over 208,000 (human) visits made to the Oakland County Parks' dog parks. She continued that the dog parks offer programming opportunities. Some of the programs that Oakland County Parks has offered include a Doggie Tail Gating Party, 4th of July and Halloween activities, a “Canines, Coffee and Conversation” series (including an “Ask the Vet” opportunity), dog themed festivals and expositions, 4-H agility training clinics, and “dog swims” (when the dogs can swim in the water parks at the end of the season). Oakland County Parks has been able to partner with various rescue leagues, the Oakland County Pet Adoption Center, and veterinary offices. Ms. Wells pointed out that Oakland County Parks has a full-time staff recreation person to coordinate these many events and activities.

Chairman Mackley recalled that Ms. Wells had stated that there are plans to create a dog park in Addison Oaks. If this is built, he questioned if there would still be the need for a dog park in Oakland Township. Ms. Wells said, “Build it and they will come,” noting that typically dog owners will travel up to 30 minutes to visit a dog park.

Director Milos-Dale asked what it entails to maintain a dog park. Ms. Wells responded that it is important for dog owners to pick up after their dogs. It is also important to keep the fields mown and aerated, and to rotate them periodically (Oakland County Parks divides their dog parks into three sections, and lets one section sit unused). The trash receptacles must be emptied regularly (especially in the summer). Dog parks are busier in the winter than in the summer, so Oakland County Parks makes it a top priority to keep the parking areas clear of snow. Occasionally, additional gravel needs to be added to the parking areas. Finally, she said it would be up to the PRC to decide how they would control the use of the park – whether they would sell fobs through the Township, or have an attendant on site to sell permits. Ms. Wells estimated that it costs Oakland County Parks approximately \$75,000 per year, per dog park, for maintenance, including one part-time staff person, but excluding other administrative costs and snow removal. She said she would be willing to share more detailed information regarding the maintenance costs.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Wells and Ms. Stasiak for sharing information about dog parks. Ms. Wells said she would be pleased to work with a PRC committee to discuss dog parks in greater detail.

(Treasurer Schmidt left the room at this time, approximately 8:30 p.m., and did not participate in the PRC deliberations. He returned at approximately 8:50 p.m., see below.)

Resident Bonnie Mackley noted that the Township owns property at the northeast corner of the intersection of Stoney Creek Road and Lake George Road. There are no immediate neighbors, and she thought this might be a good location for a dog park. However, this property is not considered a Township park.

Director Milos-Dale thought that it would be informative for the PRC Commissioners to visit other area dog parks and to meet with their staff. It would also be good to form a group of people who are knowledgeable about dogs (such as vets, dog day care providers, etc.). These steps will help the PRC to become educated about dog parks. Commissioner Barkham noted that the PRC will be reviewing and updating the Master Plan next year; she suggested including dog park questions in the survey the PRC typically does, as well as including it in the Master Plan. After further discussion, Secretary Rogers offered to work with Director Milos-Dale to set up site visits to dog parks

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED *****

May 8, 2013 - page 6

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Dog Park Site Visits

Director Milos-Dale said she would like to schedule a tour of several municipal dog parks including those in Royal Oak, Birmingham and West Bloomfield for interested Commissioners and staff. These dog parks vary in size and are associated with different types of park development. Ms. Milos-Dale said she would also like to arrange to meet with the parks staff at the time of the visits so that they can discuss challenges and successes. She noted that the Northville dog park requires that users attend a mandatory education session in order to obtain a park pass.

Commissioner Barkham suggested that it might be good to also invite a handful of residents. Secretary Rogers will help develop a list of names. Commissioners Tomboulion, Rogers, Schmidt and Barkham were interested in attending. The Commissioners agreed to try to schedule these visits for the first week of June.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED *****

June 12, 2013 – page 50

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Dog Park Tours

Director Milos-Dale said that she, PRC Commissioners and staff, and one Oakland Township resident visited three dog parks yesterday: the Mark Twain Dog Park in Royal Oak, the Birmingham Dog Park in the Lincoln Hills Golf Course, and the dog park at Karner Park in West Bloomfield. She will compile her notes for the PRC, but said it was very informational to speak with the staff and learn how they run the parks. Some things she learned included that it is recommended that dog parks be divided into three sections (one for larger dogs, one for infirm and/or smaller dogs, and one to “rest”), the parks close one to two mornings a week to allow for maintenance, and the parks charge an annual fee for park users to obtain an electronic fob to access the dog parks

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED *****

July 10, 2013 – page 5-6

DOG PARK SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Acting Chairperson Tomboulion welcomed Terry Van Doren of the Michigan Municipal Risk

Association, and the Township's Risk Control Consultant. She stated that this will be an informational presentation only, and the PRC will not be making any decision this evening regarding whether or not to create a dog park in Oakland Township.

Mr. Van Doren prefaced his presentation by stating that he is currently working with the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority to develop a dog park at Stony Creek Metropark, which abuts Oakland Township to the east. He also referenced the American Kennel Club website, which has an informative article about dog parks.

He explained that, as more and more households have one or multiple dogs, and as residents live on smaller properties, people find that a dog park is a good way for them to exercise their dogs. Mr. Van Doren said there are four areas the PRC needs to consider regarding liability as it relates to a dog park. These concerns apply to both the dog park and the parking area: design, construction, inspection and maintenance, and warning of hazards (which, he explained, is different than posting a "rules" sign).

Design

– When a municipality plans a dog park, they need to consider many factors. One such factor is how many dogs are expected to use the park (this includes considering if there are other dog parks in the area). Another is where the best location would be for a dog park. He noted that, while it may be convenient if it is near housing, nearby homeowners may consider the noise of the dogs to be a nuisance. If the park is near a highly traveled road, it could be a problem if a dog were to get loose. There are also concerns if the dog park is located near a trail system, public utilities, playgrounds and ball fields, and bicycle and **horse** trails. Any design should include ADA provisions, including ADA parking spaces, and ADA appropriate access to the dog park and other attractions (including restrooms, concession areas, etc.). The design should provide access to potable water for both humans and dogs, trash collection receptacles, and other security issues such as self-closing gates, a double fence (preferably 6' tall or higher) that is secured to the ground, lighting, and an emergency call box.

Inspection and Maintenance

– Mr. Van Doren stated that, once a dog park is created, it is also important that both the dog park and the parking area are regularly inspected and maintained. He recommended that a log be created for this purpose. There should be no trip and fall hazards. This includes regular inspections to locate any holes that dogs might dig (which then need to be filled), broken sticks, etc. Dog waste that is not picked up by owners also needs to be removed. Trees need to be inspected and pruned or otherwise maintained as necessary.

Hazard Warning Signs

– Mr. Van Doren clarified that a hazard warning sign is different from a "rules" sign. He suggested that the hazard sign warn that use of the park is at your own risk, that dogs are off leash, and that this area is not supervised. Further, he said the warning sign should be in standard warning colors (such as a white background with red letters). There

should also be signs warning of the potential risk of using attractions such as climbing areas, obstacle courses and water.

Rules Signs

– Mr. Van Doren suggested that signs also be posted to inform of park rules.

Some rules he suggested include the following: no dogs in heat, all dogs must be up to date on vaccinations, no spiked collars, no children under the age of four years and older children must be supervised, and you may not leave your dog unsupervised.

Other Considerations

– Mr. Van Doren then mentioned that there are other items to consider when creating a dog park. These items include how to charge for use of the park (membership, payment, fob, card, etc.), and who would collect the user fees. Another consideration is whether or not volunteers would be utilized; if so, he said they would need proper personal protective equipment. Yet another consideration is whether or not dogs would be allowed to access a body of water if it is not completely contained within the dog park (if it is not completely fenced in, a dog could potentially swim across the body of water and be unconfined).

In summary, Mr. Van Doren said that if these general considerations are followed, Oakland Township should be able to create a fine dog park.

Treasurer Schmidt commented that he was listening to Canadian radio and they had a brief segment about dog ownership. According to the program, dog owners are, on average, healthier than those who don't own a dog. Further, the savings in medical costs from being healthy outweigh the cost of dog ownership.

Acting Chairperson Tomboulion invited comments from those present. Resident John Markel estimated that there are approximately 4,100 dogs in Oakland Township. He said his family has two dogs and a relatively small backyard. They would very much enjoy visiting a dog park.

Resident Richard Michalski inquired as to the additional costs that would be associated with a dog park. He suggested that the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association has a resource board where the PRC could post this question.

Board of Trustees member Maureen Thalmann said she liked Mr. Van Doren's presentation, and commented that many of the issues he discussed (such as maintenance of the parks) are already concerns that the PRC is mindful of.

Director Milos-Dale stated that she received two email correspondences, one in favor of and one opposed to a dog park in Oakland Township

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

APPROVED

August 14, 2013

Page 68 - **CITIZENS**

Maureen Thalman:

Questions Regarding Meeting Packets, Dog Park.

She also asked when the PRC will continue their discussions regarding a proposed dog park.

Page 77 - SECRETARY ROGERS'S REPORT

Dog Park Committee

Secretary Rogers suggested that the PRC appoint members to a committee to start discussion of issues regarding a dog park. MOVED BY ROGERS, SECONDED BY SCHMIDT, to appoint Commissioners Barkham, Rogers and Schmidt to serve on the Dog Park Committee. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHARTER

TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*** **APPROVED**

September 11, 2013 – pages 83-84

REPORT FROM DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Secretary Rogers reported that the Dog Park Committee met. They feel Watershed Ridge Park –specifically the western portion –would be a good location for a dog park as it is an open field, the zoning is VLRD, and there is already a water source.

Commissioner Barkham recalled that the PRC's survey showed an interest in a dog park.

However, it is important to learn more about how people would want to use a dog park so that the PRC knows how big it should be and exactly what they should offer. The PRC would

also need to develop a budget for the project. Secretary Rogers said there are approximately 1,500 licensed dogs in Oakland Township. She continued that, during her election campaign, she spoke with many people who indicated an interest in a dog park, and therefore she does not feel it is necessary to conduct a survey.

Secretary Rogers continued that she estimates it would cost approximately \$50,000 to purchase farm fencing to enclose a 25 acre area (it would be an additional cost for posts and installation). She would like to see the dog park installed as soon as possible. Chairman Mackley reminded the Commissioners that there are other costs to consider, such as the cost to staff and maintain the park. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion recalled that when Commissioners toured other dog parks, they learned that there are additional issues to consider, such as how to ensure the safety of the park users (both dogs and humans), how to monitor the park's use, etc.

Director Milos-Dale said that over the years the PRC has discussed many ideas for this park including installation of a pedestrian trail, developing it in such a way that it is a part of a trail network, installation of a community garden, and installation of an equestrian arena, for example. She suggested that the PRC create a master plan for the entire park so that these various uses can be located in the most suitable places. If the PRC wishes, she will create a request for proposal for a landscape architect/designer.

Resident Robin Buxar said she likes these ideas and would like to see them implemented as soon as possible. However, she said she also feels it is necessary to have a plan. She suggested that the PRC adopt a timeline to help guide the progress of this project.

Director Milos-Dale said the PRC already has a boundary survey and a general topographic survey of the property, so they can create a master plan to see where the Commissioners wish to place each proposed use. The PRC can then have a more detailed topographic map created, on an as-needed basis, for those areas that the PRC wishes to develop.

Ms. Milos-Dale continued that she would like to involve Natural Areas Stewardship Manager Ryan Collitan in the planning process so that any special natural features areas can be identified and their preservation can be incorporated into the plans.

Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion commented that this is a considerable project and she feels it is important to take the time to work with a planner to develop a good and cohesive plan for the park.

Secretary Rogers noted that Ms. Milos-Dale is a landscape architect, and suggested that the PRC take the design work in house instead of hiring a landscape architect. Ms. Milos-Dale said she does not have the resources available to her that a landscape architect firm has, she does not have the time to do this in addition to her other responsibilities, and further that she has been advised that she should not act as both the Parks Director and the PRC's landscape architect.

Commissioner Barkham added that she does not believe the PRC has ever developed a park without first developing a master plan for that park. She feels strongly that it is important to work with a landscape architect and develop a master plan that can be used for years to come.

MOVED BY BARKHAM, SECONDED BY TOMBOULIAN, to direct Parks Director Milos-Dale to find a landscape architect to develop a Master Plan for Watershed Ridge Park.

Discussion on Motion:

Director Milos-

Dale said that she will invite the landscape architect that she recommends to a meeting. This will allow the Commissioners to meet the candidate and consider whether or not they wish to retain them. She will also contact Oakland County to ask who they worked with to design their dog parks.

Resident Bob Yager said he would like to see the PRC return to having two meetings a month, which would help projects such as this to move along more quickly. Resident and Board of Trustees member Maureen Thalmann concurred with Mr. Yager on this matter.

Resident Frank Ferriolo observed that all of the Commissioners seem to be in favor of the dog park, and now they need to find a way to implement it. Ms. Thalmann said she thinks Watershed Ridge Park will be a beautiful place for a dog park.

She thanked Secretary Rogers for all her work on this project.

Vote on Motion:

MOTION CARRIED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED*****

October 9, 2013 – page 95

DOG PARK

Director Milos-Dale stated that she contacted various other municipalities with dog parks to find names of consultants who have experience with designing parks that include dog parks. She also prepared a proposed 10-item project scope of work for such a consultant, which she forwarded to the municipalities. That scope of work includes needs and facilities studies, planning, etc. as it relates to the creation of a dog park, and also includes preparation of an overall concept plan for an entire Township park, which might, for example, also include other uses such as a community garden, active farm fields, trail network, and an existing maintenance building. The consultant would also be responsible for other aspects related to the planning of the park including developing a capital improvement plan to be incorporated into the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Five-Year Action Plan, developing a project implementation schedule, performing site analysis, and creating a site plan and construction documents. Ms. Milos-Dale shared her responses with the Commissioners, which indicate

that many of the municipalities relied on their own staff to design the dog parks. They also shared contact information for other potentially useful dog park-related resources.

Secretary Rogers said she assembled a 12-member task force, which met and developed a rough plan for the dog park. Members of that task force were the following: Ann Marie Rogers, Paisley Condor, Maureen Thalman, Robin Buxar, Beth Markle, Barbara Barber, Lana Mangiapane, Linda Mancour, Libby Dwyer, Frank Ferriolo, Tom Barkham (Sr.), and Tom Barkham (Jr.). Secretary Rogers continued that the task force used an existing topographic map and is recommending that a 25 acre dog park be located in the western corner of Watershed Ridge Park, that there be a nearby community garden, and that there also be an equestrian arena. Mr. Markle offered that he would also be willing to work with the task force.

Chairman Mackley pointed out that, when a plan is developed for Watershed Ridge Park, it is important to also take into consideration other qualities of the park such as the park's natural features and sensitive natural areas. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion added that the PRC has never moved forward with development of a portion of a park without at least a concept plan for the entire park. Secretary Rogers said that many of the municipalities with dog parks designed the dog parks themselves; Treasurer Schmidt felt that hiring a consultant to design a dog park would be a waste of taxpayer monies. Commissioners Peruzzi and Barkham said it is good to have a plan going into a project.

MOVED BY ZALE, SECONDED BY PERUZZI, that Secretary Rogers and the task force she created should go through the 10-item proposed project scope of work for consultant (included in Director Milos-Dale's email correspondence of September 30, 2013), and expand the concept plan for Watershed Ridge Park. The task force should then report back to the PRC.

Discussion on Motion

:

Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion said she does not want to start developing the park without the advice of a professional consultant. Commissioner Barkham reiterated that she feels it is important to have a master plan for the entire park before development begins.

She read the motion from the PRC's September 11, 2013, meeting and reminded the Commissioners that the PRC directed Ms. Milos-Dale to find a landscape architect for Watershed Ridge Park.

Director Milos-Dale said she thinks it is very important to be able to learn what the residents want to see in a dog park (for example, trails, a place to run dogs, a play area, etc.). Mr. Markle suggested that it would be good to conduct an online survey to obtain input from residents in this regard. Director Milos-Dale thought this was an excellent idea.

Mr. Ferriolo said he feels the PRC has historically taken too long during the planning phase, and does not want to see this "foot dragging" continue. He hopes the task force will move the project along.

Vote on Motion

:

AYES: Tomboulion, Rogers, Schmidt, Peruzzi, Zale

NAYS: Mackley, Barkham

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Barkham said she hopes the work of the task force can be incorporated into a park master plan.

(The PRC took a short recess at this time.)

Equestrian Discussions – Oakland Township

[Chapter 20: PARKS AND RECREATION Article II: General Park Regulations](#)

[**Sec. 20-33 Rules and regulations.**](#)

[Ord. No. 38A, art. III(03.02.00), 3-12-2002]

The following rules and regulations shall apply in all parks

[\(27\)](#)

It shall be lawful to ride or lead a horse within any park with the following exceptions:

[a.](#) It shall be unlawful to ride, lead or allow a horse in any park, or portion of a park, where horses and/or horse riding are not permitted and such parks or park areas are specifically designated and posted as such.

[b.](#) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a horse in a careless or reckless manner so as to create a nuisance or to endanger the life, property or persons of others

Township Master Plan - 2005

CHAPTER 12. FUTURE LAND USE PLAN

GOODISON CENTER – Page 159

The Township will need to develop design guidelines for this district that ensure new construction and improvements to existing structures authentically represent the architectural patterns in Goodison. Currently the area lacks connectivity and a synergy between the uses. Extending the historic wooden sidewalks throughout Goodison along Orion and Collins Roads and developing a landscape theme for the area would improve the way the uses relate to one another. Uses should be well connected to the Paint Creek Trail and provide facilities for trail users including bicycle parking, public restrooms and appropriate **equestrian amenities such as hitching posts or paddocks.**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 12, 2009**

**PARK DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Director McLogan reported – Page 59**

An OT citizen, Mr. Tim Sullivan, Oakland Farms, has **requested permission** to use the small field across from the stable's private drive on the east westside of **Marsh View Park (MVP) in order to walk horses in this area.** Discussion followed regarding future policy for horses in MVP. The PRC discussed requesting Mr. Sullivan sign a minimal use agreement with OT; requesting that Mr. Sullivan indemnify OT on his insurance coverage; allowing usage, but not allowing Mr. Sullivan to mow the area. After discussion, the PRC agreed to allow use of this area for the purpose of walking horses as requested, but to not allow Mr. Sullivan to mow the area. The PRC agreed that Director McLogan will draft a letter to Mr. Sullivan giving permission to use the field. The Parks staff or Statewide Management will mow the field, and no use agreement or indemnification is necessary at this time

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 7, 2009**

FOR DISCUSSION: PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR MASTER PLAN

Ms. Piotrowski requested that the Commissioners provide their individual final inputs and comments on the Facilities Need Ranking to her by Friday, October 9th. The PRC discussed the following Facility Need Ranking items: Horse Trails. Discussion followed regarding use of Charles Ilsley Park for **Horse Trails, and the parking lot issues to accommodate horse trailers** at Charles Ilsley Park.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED
August 10, 2011**

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT: Boardwalks at Cranberry Lake Park

Parks and Trails Planner Milos-Dale, Commissioner Mammen and neighboring property owner and avid mountain bike rider George Ingram met at Cranberry Lake Park with Commissioner Mammen's son Steffen to discuss Steffen's proposed Eagle Scout project. Steffen is proposing to work with Ms. Milos-Dale to design, coordinate construction of, and install boardwalk in five locations (approximately 240 linear feet) at the north end of Cranberry Lake Park. The boardwalks will be installed in areas where they will bridge wet and mucky soils, providing park users with better access to the trails, especially in the wet seasons. The Commissioners reviewed a map indicating the areas proposed to have boardwalk installed. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion questioned if there are additional areas where it would be good to install boardwalk. Ms. Milos-Dale responded that there are, but these are the wettest/highest priority areas.

The Commissioners reviewed Steffen's plans. He and his volunteers will construct the 8 to 10 foot sections off site, and then transport them to Cranberry Lake Park. There will be a community work day on Saturday, October 29th starting at 10 a.m., with a rain date for Sunday October 30th, to install the boardwalk sections. Volunteers associated with the Rochester Bike Shop will help with the project. Steffen estimates the cost of materials will be approximately \$3,200.

Ms. Milos-Dale said that she visited the site with Maintenance Technicians Tom Hoard and Roger Smith and they discussed how to accommodate emergency and maintenance vehicles. Vice-Chairperson Tomboulion suggested that the boardwalk be designed to accommodate equestrian use. Parks and Trails Planner Milos-Dale noted that Steffen consulted with one of the engineers in his father's firm to develop the design for the boardwalk. She will check with Commissioner Mammen to make sure verify **how the design will accommodate horses**. MOVED BY WHITMAN, SECONDED BY BARKHAM, to approve the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$3,500 for materials to construct boardwalk sections for Cranberry Lake Park as proposed by Steffen Mammen.

MOTION CARRIED

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

***APPROVED ***

August 24, 2011

COMMISSIONER MAMMEN'S REPORT

Eagle Scout Project – Boardwalk at Cranberry Lake Park

Commissioner Mammen stated that his son will be coordinating the construction and installation of boardwalks in five locations at the north end of Cranberry Lake Park. He reviewed the minutes of the last PRC meeting and noted that there was a question raised regarding whether or not the boardwalks will be able to accommodate equestrian use. Commissioner Mammen said that the **boardwalks are not appropriate for horses**. He explained that the boards are 5/4" pressure treated wood, and horse hooves will damage them. However, the design of the boardwalks is such that horses can walk around the boardwalks (i.e., the boardwalks will not impede equestrian use). It was suggested that we may wish to put up signs directing that horses may not use the boardwalks.

Commissioner Mammen also stated that the design of the boardwalk will allow sections to be lifted and moved or repaired/replaced as necessary.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED *****

May 9, 2012

PARKS AND TRAILS PLANNER'S REPORT

Parks and Trails Planner Milos-Dale was not present this evening. However, she submitted a written report, dated May 8, 2012, for the PRC's review. The report addresses the Elliott property, Lost Lake Nature Park, the MDNR public input open house for Bald Mountain Recreation Area, the Addison Oaks connector trail, and the **recent equestrian stakeholder meeting** regarding the Addison Oaks County Park. A copy of this **report** is attached as a part of these minutes

What does this report say?

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

*****APPROVED *****

June 13, 2012

PARKS AND TRAILS PLANNER'S REPORT

Cranberry Lake Park - Addison Oaks Connector

Parks and Trails Planner Milos-Dale reported that the Oakland County Parks and Recreation project is moving forward to install a trail along the north side of Romeo Road to connect Oakland County's Addison Oaks Park with the entrance to Oakland Township's Cranberry Lake Park. She stated the Cranberry Lake Farm northern vehicular entrance will be relocated approximately 75 feet to the west, and the park trail entrance will be moved even further west of the vehicular entrance. PEA prepared the drawings for the relocated trail, and **made some design modifications to accommodate equestrian use**. The Township has received an Oakland County Water Resources Commission permit to cross the Krohn drain.

Commissioner Mammen noted that a bridge will need to be constructed to cross the Krohn drain at the north side of Cranberry Lake Park, and he suggested that this could be an Eagle Scout project. He also recalled that the Commissioners had discussed creating some sort of "visual divide" to distinguish the park property from the neighboring residential property to the east, and said that another potential Eagle Scout project would be to construct a split rail fence in this location.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION*****APPROVED *******June 27, 2012****Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park Encroachments**

Dumping of horse manure, mowing, vehicle tracks- Assistant Stewardship Project Manager Erin Lavender sent out a letter on behalf of Director McLogan on June 12th to a neighbor of Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park advising him of the encroachments and requesting that he discontinue these activities. The Commissioners reviewed that letter, which they received in their packets. Park staff will be revisiting the park land adjacent to the homeowners' parcel in the near future to confirm compliance with this request.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION*****APPROVED *******August 22, 2012****PARK DIRECTOR'S REPORTS****Horses in Marsh View Park**

Director McLogan reported that Maintenance Technician Cliff Selent recently saw two young girls on horseback in Marsh View Park for the second time. This time they were attempting to ride on the archery range, and last time they were on athletic field A. He again informed the girls that horses may not use this area. Director McLogan said she contacted the two nearby equestrian facilities, but they did not know who the girls were. The Commissioners discussed that there is no good place for horses at the south of Marsh View Park, and there are currently no trails at the north of the park.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Final Minutes
December 12, 2012

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
Barb Barber reported on several items:

- A researched Metamora Hunt program may be a better trail program for local equestrians, although the history of the hunt was very interesting for education purposes.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
*****APPROVED*****
February 13, 2013

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Treasurer Schmidt recalled that he and Director Milos-Dale recently attended a master planning meeting about Bald Mountain Recreation Area. At that meeting, there was an “interest board,” and participants indicated a very strong interest in **equestrian trails**. He said he feels there are not enough equestrian trails, and inquired about such trails at Addison Oaks and elsewhere. Ms. Folland said that this would be a good topic to raise at the master planning public meeting for Addison Oaks, and added that Addison Oaks is “horse-friendly.” However, Oakland County Parks and Recreation does not have any control over equestrian trails elsewhere, such as within the state parks

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
*****APPROVED *****
February 27, 2013

SECRETARY ROGERS' REPORTS

Dog/Equestrian Park

Secretary Rogers read a memo she prepared dated February 27th proposing that the PRC consider creating a dog park as well as an **equestrian park** in Oakland Township. She said that when she was campaigning over the summer, many residents were

interested in these parks. She would like residents and their pets to be able to enjoy these facilities within Oakland Township. There were nine residents present this evening in support of such parks

Equestrian Park

Secretary Rogers proposed that an equestrian park also be located at Watershed Ridge Park. Commissioner Barkham noted that Cranberry Lake Park already has equestrian trails, and that it connects to the equestrian trails within Addison Oaks, to the north. Further, she said there are some open fields at Cranberry Lake Park that are not being used, and she believes some of them have sandy soil that might be suitable for equestrian use. Ms. Dwyer said she would welcome an equestrian park. However, she felt Cranberry Lake Park might be a better location than Watershed Ridge Park as the latter does not provide connectivity to other trails. She said she trailers her horse to the equestrian park at Elba Recreation Area in Genesee County. That facility has an equestrian campground, an outdoor arena, and offers approximately 25 miles of trails that connect to the Holloway Reservoir. She offered to visit the Elba Recreation Area with Secretary Rogers. Ms. Dwyer noted that the park has experienced erosion problems.

Director Milos-Dale said Oakland Township's best equestrian trail connector possibilities are at the northern part of the Township

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Bald Mountain Recreation Area

Libby Dwyer of 1234 Lake George Road asked the PRC to pay attention to the potential connectivity between Oakland Township's parks system, Bald Mountain Recreation Area and Addison Oaks. Director Milos-Dale stated that the PRC is sensitive to this and has been working towards this goal. She further noted that Oakland County's Planner, Donna Folland, was present at the PRC's last meeting, and they discussed connectivity with Addison Oaks, particularly with regard to **equestrian trails**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
June 11, 2013**

TREASURER LANGLOIS' REPORT

Treasurer Langlois reported that she, along with several other Township representatives attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for Oakland County in Addison Township across from Cranberry Lake Park with resident equestrians on hand

CHARTER
TOWNSHIP OF OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
*****APPROVED**

September 11, 2013

(See entry in Dog Park above for brief mention of equestrian uses at Watershed)

Robert Yager
Editor – Oakland Township Sentinel, LLC
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