

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP PARK COMMITTEE

April 12, 2021 at 7PM – Via ZOOM

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chairperson Barb Stahlmann, Park Committee Member Vanessa Barvels, Park Manager Kelley Shantz, Town Board Supervisors (Liaison) Bonnie Haines, and Sheila-Marie Untiedt, Township Clerk Barbara Riehle, and Deputy Clerk Jenni Maes.

1. **AGENDA** – Approval of the amended agenda as written. M/S/P Shantz/Barvels (3 ayes)
2. **AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA** – Agenda amended to include:
 - Status of Volleyball and Basketball nets at Otto Berg.
 - Need to remove bushes near Town Hall building.
 - Need to install porta-potty at Arcola Heights for the summer.
3. **MINUTES** – Approval of the minutes from December 14. M/S/P Shantz/Barvels (3 ayes)
4. **PARK & TRAIL CONCERNS**

Otto Berg Park

Deputy Clerk Jenni Maes reported that Mantyla turned the water on April 7 and reported no need for seasonal repair. The baseball teams have started, and the Pavilion is being rented.

Resident Rod Hunter has installed the volleyball nets but not the basketball nets. There is some confusion as to where the nets are and who generally installs them. Park Manager Kelley Shantz will check with Former Committee Member Mike Ranalla in case he can share insight.

The foundation plantings around Town Hall are old and in need of replacement. It was suggested that this might be a good project for an Eagle Scout. Discussions began regarding replacement plantings. Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt volunteered to contact Valley Green for planting advice/suggestions. Supervisor Bonnie Haines will call Gopher One if necessary, when the time comes. Clerk Barbara Riehle suggested putting an article in the upcoming newsletter. The Park Committee will continue to ponder possibilities and revisit the issue in an upcoming meeting.

Arcola Heights Park

With the warm weather this park has seen some recent activity, however the porta-potty has yet to be installed. Generally, that is done each year on April 1. Park Manager Kelley Shantz contacted Air Fresh during the meeting, and they will install on April 19.

Park Manager Kelley Shantz also plans to install signage to deter bad behavior as discussed at the last meeting. Previous discussions about possibly closing or moving this park require further discussions with the attorney regarding covenants, etc. Clerk Barbara Riehle will follow up.

Last fall, Valley Green did some major brush-hogging and suggested that ongoing maintenance/mowing early in the spring and a couple more times over the season would be easier and more effective. Park Manager Kelley Shantz will reach out to STS.

Little Carnelian Park

Park Committee member Vanessa Barvels toured this park last week and said it looks good except for some minor washout from recent rains, and dirt and slight damage to the sign at the bottom of the hill. Vanessa believes all that is necessary is some wiping/cleaning of the sign and volunteered to take care of it.

Otchipwe Prairie Trail – No reportCurtiss Hills Trail

Recent maintenance done to the trail was unsatisfactory as reported at the December meeting. Specifically, a specimen tree was over trimmed. Miller has been contacted and will have discussions with homeowners going forward before trimming obviously decorative trees unnecessarily.

Quarry Avenue Trail – No report

5. **OLD BUSINESS** – A tree, a bench and a picnic table will be installed at Otto Berg in honor of retirees Rod Hunter, Kathy Schmoeckle and Mike Ranalla. The Park Committee will tour the park to discuss placement.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**

This years' picnic has been tentatively scheduled for August 22 from Noon until 3 PM. Deputy Clerk Jenni Maes will contact Deputy Clerk Kathy Nelson to reserve Otto Berg. She will also contact the Fire and Sheriff's Departments to request demonstrations, as

well as Brent Peterson from the Washington County Historical Society. Supervisor Bonnie Haines will contact Mark Olien to request a return engagement for musical entertainment. Barb Stahlmann suggested based on previous requests from residents, that a handout be offered with maps of area parks and trails.

The Town Board authorized No Trespassing signs to be installed at 97th Street to deter people from cutting through private property to access Fairy Falls park which is still closed at the request of the National Park Service due to COVID.

The Park Manager position is open and to date no applicants are awaiting interview. The Park Committee has been asked to spread the word and consider options such as job sharing, etc. to fill the position by May or June deadline before Park Manager Kelley Shantz steps down. Park Manager Kelley Shantz suggested posting on Indeed. Committee member Barb Stahlmann suggested posting on NextDoor. As the Township has no account on NextDoor, Barb volunteered to post it herself as an individual.

All other committees continue to have openings. We welcomed Dan Loveridge and Katie Driver to the Planning Commission.

Spring cleanup day is Saturday, April 24 9AM-12PM. Park Committee members were asked to volunteer. Park Manager Kelley Shantz will contact Maroney's prior to the event to firm up needs regarding signage and volunteer needs. He will also contact MN Mosquito Control regarding tire disposal, although the flyer does not mention that tires will be accepted at this event.

Arbor Day is April 30. Clerk Barbara Riehle reported no donations have been received to plant trees and it was decided that there is not enough time left to plan an observance.

7. **TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPORT** – Supervisor Bonnie Haines reported

8. **PARK MANAGER REPORT** – Park Manager Kelly Shantz reported

9. **NEXT MEETING** – May 10, 2021 may be a joint meeting with the Town Board

May 4, 6:30 PM a park tour meeting will be held beginning with Arcola Heights and moving to Little Carnelian

10. **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned 8:28 PM M/S/P Stahlmann/Shantz (3 ayes)

Submitted by: Deputy Clerk, Jenni Maes