

**MINUTES**  
**SUTTONS BAY TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JANUARY 11, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Tom Nixon, Supervisor, called the regular meeting of the Suttons Bay Township Board to order on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at the township offices.

**Roll Call - Quorum Present**

Present: Tom Nixon, Sandy VanHuystee, Dorothy Petroskey, Debbie Slocombe,  
Doug Periard

Absent and excused: None

Staff Present: Steve Patmore, Marge Johnson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

***Dorothy Petroskey/moved, Sandy VanHuystee/supported, to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim ~~Munick~~ Muennich commented on the dog park.  
Mark Forbes commented on Herman Park and pickle ball courts.  
Bart Ford commented on dog park at Herman Park.  
Joyce Stinson Bahle commented on dog park.  
Jeannie Aldrich commented on dog park.  
Tricia Davies commented on dog park.  
Emma Holman commented on dog park and pickle ball courts  
Susan Barstrom commented on dog park.  
Kathy Dinkel commented om dog park and pickle ball.  
Liz Mahaney commented on dog park.  
Public comment was closed.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**REPORTS**

- Treasurer - Report received.
- Planning & Zoning - Steve Patmore submitted his Report.
- Park Supervisor - Bill Drozdalski submitted his Report.
- Parks & Rec Committee - Pete Ostrowski submitted his Report.
- Fire Authority - Dorothy Petroskey - approved Minutes and paid bills.

**OLD BUSINESS**

## 1. Approval of the Minutes

December 7, 2022 Minutes

***Dorothy Petroskey/moved, Debbie Slocombe/supported, to approve the December 7, 2022 Minutes as corrected (Gary Devol), motion carried.***

December 14, 2022

***Debbie Slocombe/moved, Sandy VanHuystee/approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$21,603.28, motion carried.***

## 3. Decision on Location of Dog Park at Herman Park

Tom Nixon - Regardless of where the dog park is located, option 1 by the Pickle ball courts, site by the west of the soccer fields, by the east side, the parking lot; or option 2 out by the orchards in the south part of the development area, the dog park is not going to be attached to the park. The dog park committee is commended for raising monies to fund the dog park. We will have the dog park. The natural habitat draws a number of people, when you consider the orchard, the impact of dogs barking in that area could be significant.

***Debbie Slocombe/moved, to put the dog park out by the orchard. Motion failed for lack of second.***

***Sandy VanHuystee/moved, Dorothy Petroskey/supported, to place the dog park in option 1, by the pickle ball courts.***

***Discussion -***

Debbie Slocombe - Referring to option 2, we do have 100 acres of wetlands back there basically undeveloped. The orchards are defunct, not kept up, have places for habitat. People can still walk thru the wetlands, see the fowl, fauna, flora. Adding the dog park in option 1 limits the views of the rest of the park. With the new parking lot you can drive in and have a view of the open fields, orchards, pond, but it breaks up the semetry of everything that we have there, everything is by the parking lot. Park & Rec's concern it is impeding on what is already being irrigated by the athletic field out there. The LSC put more money into irrigation for that area. Dog park is going to be about 20-30 feet in sprayed area for the soccer fields.

Doug Periard - I have talked to people about the dog park, some who donated money. I was told by one person he would go somewhere else with his dog because the area would be congested. It takes away from opportunities for tranquility. There is support for the other option, and I can see the merit of it.

Tom Nixon - We are trying to balance activity and tranquility. We feel we have reached the point of saturation. Some people may choose to go elsewhere and walk their dog. We are not a county park, we are a township park, and if that's the case, I can understand that. My preference would be to keep much of the park that tranquil in a tranquil mode. Many people walk their dogs in the afternoon and make a circle around the park, around the pond to get away from the activity. The dog park on Division Street in Traverse City is separated by the pickle ball courts, and they are on top of each other.

Bill Drozdalski - In Herman Park there would be a 20 foot separation of the pickle ball courts and the dog park. Regarding the soccer field, there is 50 feet all the way around for all the people that watch the soccer club, have a couple of families that come. At 50 feet it is basically wasted space, could shrink the soccer field by 10 feet and make it longer.

Dorothy Petroskey - As a parent of a soccer player, when we were younger, on both sides all the way down were people. It does draw a lot of family members.

Debbie Slocombe - People of all ages will be able to play on the soccer fields. The first thing you will see when driving in is fencing, would rather see more park. From aesthetic point of view it isn't going to flow.

Dorothy Petroskey - I support the dog park. I don't know if I want to see more fences when driving into the park. With the dog park next to the pickle ballcourts, see no reason to not have a solid fence between them, so dogs won't see distractions from the pickle ball courts. Maybe we need a conceptual drawing showing what it would look like pulling into the park. I think we are at capacity at Herman Park by the time the dog park and everything else is added.

Tom Nixon - The Memorial Garden draws your eye when entering the park. The parking lot will end where the pickle ball courts are. The dog park can be set back somewhere in that area. A third as much grass will continue regardless of where the dog park is positioned, whether it is moved near the pond or pickle ball courts.

Bill Drozdalski - The parking lot will go to where the pickle ball courts start, and the grassy area may be used for overflow parking if you decide to use it. There are high fences for pickle ball. The dog park is going to have a five (5) foot high fence, so you can still see the orchards and the pond. There is a separation, plus pickle ball courts have a wind screen to block out visual. There would be 250 feet of dog park. Putting the dog park near the orchards would infringe on the maintenance area in the future.

Roll call vote for option 1 for the dog park - Yes: 3. No: 2. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Approve Leland Board of Education Resolution for Collection of Summer Taxes  
***Dorothy Petroskey/moved, Sandy VanHuystee/supported, to adopt a Resolution for collection of Leland Board of Education summer taxes, motion carried.***

2. Approve Dates the Township Office is Closed for National/State Holidays  
***Tom Nixon/moved, Sandy VanHuystee/supported, to approve the dates the Township Office is Closed for National/State Holidays, motion carried.***

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim ~~Munick~~ Muennich- Disagrees with decision on placement of dog park.

Bill Drozalski -Decisions on grants applied for will be made the end of the month.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Dorothy Petroskey - Appreciate everybody's comments.

Tom Nixon - Let me know if you have comments on the budget that are working on. Ice Rink is ready to go. MTA Conference to be held at the Grand Traverse Resort in April.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes by Marge Johnson, Recording Secretary  
Sandy Van Huystee, Clerk

**Minutes Approved as-amended on February 8, 2023**