



**Parks Commission Agenda**

Wednesday, July 1, 2025, at 5 PM

Saugatuck Township Hall

3461 Blue Star Hwy

Saugatuck, MI 49453

**1) Call to Order**

**2) Roll Call**

**3) Public Comments:**

The Commission requests that speakers respect the three-minute time limit for individual comments and the five-minute time limit for an individual speaking on behalf of a group. This is not a question-and-answer session, it is an opportunity to voice your thoughts with the Township Parks Commission. Public comments using video equipment should be approved by the Clerk at least two days prior to the meeting.

**4) Approval of Agenda**

**5) Consent Agenda**

- a) June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes approval

**6) New Business:**

**7) Old Business:**

- a) Volunteer sponsors bike trail signs. Blue Star Barns and Ihle auto - Jim
- b) Land fill testing by Waste Management and planning commission recycling request - Ken
- c) Update – Riverside property acquisition - Daniel
- d) Dog Park driveway construction, meeting with contractor - Daniel
- e) Sundown Park – Viridis proposal - All
- f) Land acquisition plan - Jane
- g) River Bluff sign frames - Jim

**8) Reports:**

- a) Chairman report
- b) Manger report
- c) Commissioners reports

**9) Public Comments**

Previous Rules apply.

**10) Next meeting:** August 6th at 5pm at the township hall.

**11) Adjourn**

Saugatuck Township Parks Commission  
Wednesday, June 4, 2025 – **DRAFT MINUTES**  
Saugatuck Township Hall  
3461 Blue Star Hwy  
Saugatuck, MI 49453

1. Call to Order – Jim Searing called the meeting to order at 5:00pm
2. Roll Call
  - a. Present: Jim Searing, Dana Burd, Ken Butler, Elliot Sturm, Jame Dickie
  - b. Township Manager Daniel DeFranco also present.
3. Public Comments
  - a. none.
4. Approval of Agenda
  - a. ***Ken moved to approve the agenda, Jane seconded. As amended item 6c. Approved by all.***
5. Consent Agenda – ***Ken moved to approve the consent agenda, Jane seconded. Approved by all.***
  - a. May 7th, 2025 Meeting Minutes
6. New Business
  - a. July Meeting Date – Following discussion, ***Ken moved to approve a July 1<sup>st</sup> 5pm meeting date, Jane seconded – approved by all.***
  - b. Saugatuck Wild connection to Tails and Trails – Daniel reported on conversations with Chris Clark and Jon Vanderbeek on ways to connect the two parks. Suggested we need a designee to meet with Saugatuck City on ideas and plans on how to connect the spaces. Road crossings would involve the Allegan County Road Commission. Ken Butler volunteered to coordinate.
  - c. Frames for River Bluff signs – Daniel reported that township is still seeking a contractor to build frames for signs made for River Bluff. Quote received to go with tree-style sign and Jim presented options with other wood materials. Jim and Ken are working on options. Daniel will get quote.
7. Old Business
  - a. Budget – Budget was presented to the Township Board, appropriations planned for Sundown Park from Township funds, Township Board had no objections to what is proposed.
  - b. Sundown Park – Board discussed the name “Sundown” as having poor historical and racial context, and as not being relevant to the actual use of the park. Jane recommended renaming the park when construction work is done. Board discussed ideas for renaming and fundraising for construction. “Sunset” Park is what is on the current wayfinding sign. Board requested Daniel reach out to neighboring property

owners including the Douglas Lakeshore Association and the Lake Michigan Shore Association for suggestions and community engagement.

Then Board discussed the bids previously received for the park project. Daniel worked with the architect on scope reductions and received updated architect estimates if the project were to re-bid. Board discussed fundraising options through state program, local programs, and donation sponsorships.

***Dana motioned to rebid the project as proposed by Viridis with reduced scope and to include advertisement to local contractors, Ken seconded – approved by all.***

- c. Contribution to ODC, more specifics needed – Daniel updated the board on policy for donations and scope request from ODC.
- d. Volunteer Summer intern – Jim updated board intern can start in June/July.
- e. Landfill testing and Adjacent property concrete recycling – Jim updated board that Waste Management and Daniel are discussing testing of vents on existing decommissioning site. Discussion was had on the proposed concrete recycling facility before the Planning Commission and Township Board. Property is adjacent to landfill property and across from dog park and needs to request support from adjacent properties for setback changes. **Dana left meeting at 5:40pm.**
- f. Riverside Property Acquisition
- g. Dog Park driveway
- h. Land acquisition / Property north of Tails and Trails

8. Reports

- a. Chairman –
- b. Manager –
- c. Commissioner's

9. Public Comments

- a.

10. Next Meeting: July 1, 2025 at 5:00 pm at Township Hall

11. Adjourn – Jim Searing adjourned the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

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7 E . Ken brought up the sandmining proposal next to the dog park and the discussion that ensued that it was determined that the commission is in favor of the township enforcing all setback requirements. Ken will provide more information in the future.

F It was reported that Daniel had a positive meeting with members of the Land Conservancy Board and that he will be attending the June 11 meeting with the grant funding request.

G Jim informed the commission that the dog park construction meeting will be held in August with construction to be completed by the end of October.

H Jim will attempt to speak with the owner of the parcel north of the dog park for potential purchase. Jane has a conservation committee with Glenna Deyoung and Chris Clark and is investigating trustee opportunities with the ODC and the Land Conservancy. Ken will attempt to assist Daniel in seeing if WM is still conducting testing at the landfill site.

I Chairman's report :Jim said the tree at the township office was not doing well and that had been a litter issue at River Bluff Park  
No further reports were made.

Public Comment Marcia Perry commented that the commission was interesting and doing a fine Job

10. The next meeting will be July 3 ,2025 at 5 pm.

11 Meeting was adjourned.