



Agenda
THOMAS TOWNSHIP REGULAR PARK COMMISSION MEETING
December 18, 2023
6:30 pm
Public Safety Building
8215 Shields Drive
Saginaw, MI 48609

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of November 27, 2023 minutes
6. Approval of December 2023 Expenditures
7. Public Comment

It is requested that you state your name and address for the record.

8. New Business
 - a. None
9. Old Business
 - a. Winter Wonderland report
10. Reports
 - A. Parks Report: Attached
 - B. Nature Center and Preserve Report: Attached
 - C. Sports Committee Report: None
 - D. Concert Committee Report: None
 - E. Finance Committee Report: None
 - F. Commissioners:
11. Other Business
12. Adjournment

Thomas Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to any individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this public meeting. Persons interested in such services need to contact the Thomas Township Manager's offices at 249 N. Miller Road, Saginaw, Michigan 48609, by phone at 989-781-0150, or by fax at 989-781-0290 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. In the case that advanced notice for accommodations is not possible, every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the disabled.



**THOMAS TOWNSHIP
REGULAR PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609
November 27, 2023
6:30pm**

1. The regular commission meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman, Scott Branch.
2. PRESENT: Rusch, Branch, Alworden, Sova
ABSENT: Aimar, Blower, Hoffman

ALSO PRESENT: John Corriveau (Thomas Township Parks & Recreation Director),
Sue Prevost (Secretary), Lynda Thayer (Nature Center & Preserve Coordinator).

3. Pledge of Allegiance recited.
4. Motion made by Rusch, seconded by Alworden, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP REGULAR PARK COMMISSION MEETING
8215 Shields Drive. Saginaw, MI 48609
November 27, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.
AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of October 23rd, 2023 minutes
6. Approval of November 2023 Expenditures
7. Public Comment
It is requested that you state your name and address for the record.
8. New Business
 - a. 2024 Park Commission Meeting Dates
9. Old Business
 - a. None
10. Reports
 - a. Parks Report: Attached

- b. Nature Center and Preserve Report: Attached
 - c. Sports Committee Report: None
 - d. Concert Committee Report: None
 - e. Finance Committee Report: None
 - f. Commissioners: None
11. Other Business
12. Adjournment

5. Motion made by Sova, seconded by Rusch, to approve October 23, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Sova, seconded by Alworden, to approve November 2023 Expenditures as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment: None

8. Public Hearing: None

9. New Business:

- a. Approval of 2024 Park Commission Meeting Dates
Motion made by Rusch, seconded by Sova, to approve 2024 Park Commission meeting dates as presented.
Roll call vote required.
Ayes: Rusch, Branch, Alworden, Sova
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Aimar, Blower, Hoffman
Motion carried unanimously.

10. Old Business: None

11. Reports:

- a. Parks Report: Presented by Park Director John Corriveau.

ROETHKE PARK:

Craig Sopak, Paul's son has taken over the train mechanic position from his father. Craig grew up working on the train with his dad and is a skilled metal fabricator, mechanic, welder and blacksmith. Craig has already rebuilt the two trucks for the new trains third car and we will have it together and running for spring. His next project is to re wire the old trains electrical system and inspect the two drive trucks under the engine per hours driven requirement. Craig is very passionate about the train, just like his dad, and I look forward to working with him and making our trains the best they can be.

ROBERTS PARK

We are preparing for Winter Wonderland and sites will soon be decorated as the event is approaching fast! Santa will be there with Buddy the Elf, Laurie Middlebrook will be playing Christmas songs each night, food trucks, bon fires, smores and of course fireworks each night.

SPORTS AND PROGRAMS

Registration has ended for Basketball Clinic and Boys Basketball; numbers are just a little less than last year. Archery has sold out and has a waiting list. Programs begin in January.

EVENTS

Winter Wonderland will be held on December 8th and 9th at Roberts Park. Corriveau stated that more volunteers are needed.

- b. Nature Center & Preserve Report: Presented by Nature Center Coordinator Lynda Thayer. Thayer reported that visitor numbers are increasing. Corriveau added that the newly built stairs to the right side of building are finished and more trees will need to be removed in the future.

NATURE PRESERVE UPDATE: The Dow work in the northern six acres of the preserve continues. The bank management work is done, but the soil that will go on the north end of the preserve hasn't been moved because of the standing water along the perimeter of the field. The trail access is limited when the crew is working. We will be meeting with Cindy Todd from Spicer to go over our DNR 2021 Trust Fund Grant work to get things prepared to go out to bid. This work will be done in the spring if all goes as planned.

NATURE CENTER UPDATE: The nature center's new hours are Tuesdays from 3-7 pm, Wednesday-Friday 12-4 pm. I will attempt to be open the first or second Saturday of every month for more opportunities for visitors to come in. We are also offering programs: Tuesdays from 5-7 pm will be FUN (Families United in Nature), Wednesdays from 12-2 pm for senior citizen activities, and Thursdays from 1-2, we will host a pre-school activity group. We had three FUN nights in November. We had 36 people come for STEM night, 33 visitors participated in National Pickle Day, and only 5 came for Recycling. The recycling night was the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, which could explain the lower attendance. The senior citizen days have not been well attended. My next step is to reach out to multiple agencies that work with senior citizens to get the word out. We had three Little Acorns pre-school activity days. We had seven participants for our intro day, thirteen participants that learned about acorns and seeds, and three for recycling. In December, we will continue with these activities and assess their success and we will have a family day on December 2 from 10 am-2 pm. We are hosting the Thomas Township Business Association event on December 13 from 5:30-7:30. I hope to encourage local businesses, non-profits, and other organizations to use the nature center for meetings and events. I met with an artist that might be a great fit to complete the proposed habitat area and add some fun nature features to the building. More to come on that, hopefully.

NATURAL RESOURCES DAMAGE ASSESSMENT (NRDA) UPDATE: We are working with US Fish and Wildlife and the DNR to have additional support in the preserve area next spring and summer. We will continue to use the original NRDA funds to develop the nature preserve. The pond concept is still under discussion, but has been Nature Center & Preserve placed on the

back burner for now. We need to focus on getting our planting areas established. We can look at the concept again when we are further along.

SAGINAW COUNTY ARPA FUNDS UPDATE: We are wrapping up our ARPA funds work. We have approximately \$58,000 left of the \$300,000. A projector, screen, and television monitor have been ordered. The stairs to the future kayak launch area finishing work on the sign will be ARPA expenses.

12. Other Business: None

13. Adjournment: Motion made by Alworden, seconded by Rusch to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Craig Aimar, Secretary

Dated

The next regular Park Commission Meeting will be Monday, December 18, 2023 at the Public Safety Administration Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw MI 48609.

PARK COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

- **MEETING DATE:** December 18th, 2023
- **SUBMITTED BY:** John Corriveau Parks & Recreation Director
- **AGENDA TOPIC:** 2023 Winter Wonderland Review
- **EXPLANATION OF TOPIC:**

We held the 2023 Winter Wonderland on December 8th and 9th and it was a great event. We had good weather, a little wind Saturday morning but minimal damage to displays. I think the event flowed very well, three firepits, movie, Santa and hay wagons all were well done. We only had two hay wagons the first night which created long lines so we added a third tractor and we kept up and the wait was only 10-13 minutes.

- **ATTACHMENT:** Break out spreadsheet of revenue and expenses.
- **POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION:** None
- **SUGGESTED/REQUESTED MOTION:** None

	Company Name	Last	Phone #	Date	2022	2023	Sponsorship Level	No. of Tickets
1	Garber Chevrolet	Wengowski		paid	\$5,000	\$6,000	Main	45
2	The State Bank	Schaffter	810-714-3983	paid	\$500	\$1,500	Craft Tent	15
3	Bierlein	Stradler	989-496-0066	paid	\$0	\$1,000.00	Fireworks	10
4	Apple Mountain	Stradler	989-496-0066	paid	\$0	\$1,000.00	Fireworks	10
5	Fullerton Tool	Curry	989-239-6007	paid	\$1,000	\$1,000	Band Sponsor	10
6	Meijers	Cowles	ext 302	received	\$3,000	\$1,000 gift cards		10
7	Strobel Automotive	Strobel	989-781-4307	paid	\$500	\$500	Hay Wagon	5
8	Totten Tires	McKim	989-781-4190	paid	\$0	\$500	Hay Wagon	5
9	Mid Valley Insurance	Kolbe	989-781-3070	confirmed	\$500	\$500	Hay Wagon	5
10	My Member Insurance	Robinson	989-781-2662	paid	\$0	\$250	General	5
11	Frankenmuth Cr Union	Riefel	989-497-1600	paid	\$0	\$250	General	5
12	Wolgast	Sursely	989-790-9120	paid	\$0	\$250.00	General	5
13	Thomas Twp Kiwanis	Witt		raffle	\$1,000 + raffle	Raffle Only		5
14	SV Pay It Forward	Henderson		confirmed	volunteers	volunteers		5
15	Schomaker Farms	Schomaker		Confirmed	Tractor/Trailer	Tractor/Trailer	Hay Wagon	5

1	Huntington Bank	Henderson	989-482-8999	call 2024	\$0			
2	Culvers		989-642-8001	call 2024	\$0			
3	Saginaw Control	Baldouf	989-799-6871	call 2024	\$0			
4	Jacks Market		989-781-0064	call 2024	\$0			
5	Tractor Supply		(989)781-3568	call 2024	\$0			
6	Consumers Energy	Mitchell		call 2024	\$0			
7	Edward Jones			call 2024	\$0			

Expenses

Sponsor Money

Ticket Sales

Tents/chairs enclosures	\$ 2,600	\$ 6,000	Friday	\$ 3,175.00
Face painting	\$ 400	\$ 1,500	cc	\$ 210.00
Banners	\$ 725	\$ 1,000	Saturday	\$ 3,435.00
Fireworks	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,000	cc	\$ 430.00
Band	\$ 900	\$ 1,000	Raffle	\$ 1,000.00
Brochures	\$ 250	\$ 1,000		
Straw	\$ 100	\$ 500		
Cords	\$ 975	\$ 500		
Heaters	\$ 1,000	\$ 500		
Propane	\$ 200	\$ 250		
Payroll (Sue, James, Henry)	\$ 504	\$ 250		

\$ 11,654	\$ 13,750	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 10,346.00	Profit
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PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT DECEMBER 2023

ROETHKE PARK:

Roethke Park is pretty quiet these days. We had Mikes Wrecker haul the original train over to Craig Sopak's shop, so he can begin working on the drive shafts on both drive trucks. It has been 15 years since we have had them off to inspect them. Craig is also going to redo a lot of the wiring and lighting to update it to match the new trains lights. Our goal is for both trains to have identical systems to make it easier for drivers.

ROBERTS PARK

We are cleaning up Winter Wonderland and will be preparing the park for winter now that all our events are over.

COMMUNITY PARK

None

DAY PARK

None

SPORTS AND PROGRAMS

Boys Basketball draft was Saturday December 9th at the middle school. The Basketball Clinic, Boys Basketball and Archery will all begin the first week of January.

NATURE CENTER PRESERVE

Report from Lynda Thayer

EVENTS

None