

**Thomas Township
Regular Park Commission Meeting Minutes**

8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

April 27, 2026

6:30 pm

1. The regular commission meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by John Corriveau.

2. PRESENT: Branch, Aimar, Alworden, Hoffman,
ABSENT: Blower, Rusch, Sova

ALSO PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director, John Corriveau; Secretary, Chris Cousins; Thomas Township Supervisor, Dave Sommers

3. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

4. Motion made by Aimer, seconded by Hoffman, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda
THOMAS TOWNSHIP REGULAR PARK COMMISSION MEETING
April 27th 2026
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 March 16th, 2026 minutes
6. Approval of April 2026 Expenditures
7. Public Comment
8. Public Hearing
 - a. None
9. New Business
 - a. Property purchase Miller Road next to Fire Station One.
 - b. Purchase of NRDA equipment for Parks.
 - c. Nature Center update.
10. Old Business
 - a. None

11. Reports

- A. Parks Report: Attached
- B. Nature Center and Preserve Report:
- C. Sports Committee Report: None
- D. Concert Committee Report: None
- E. Finance Committee Report: None
- F. Commissioners:

12. Other Business

13. 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.

5. Motion made by Alworden, seconded by Hoffman, to approve March 16, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion made by Aimer, seconded by Alworden, to approve April 2026 expenditures as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment: None

8. Public Hearing: None

9. New Business:

- a. **Property purchase Miller Road next to Fire Station One:** In January, the family of Jacquelyn Jaenicke approached the Township with an opportunity to purchase the properties located at 505 and 515 N. Miller Road before listing them on the open market this spring. This acquisition would be an extension of the Township's recent purchase of the nearby Geiersbach property. As the Township proceeds with plans to develop rustic trails within the existing wooded area, these additional parcels will improve the site's overall functionality and accessibility. Specifically, they provide an entry point to the trail system and parking. In addition to improving public access, the property includes an existing garage structure that can be repurposed immediately for storing park maintenance vehicles and equipment. The site also includes a house built in 1924. The family has asked that the Township consider reselling the structure to someone interested in relocating it, which could help reduce part of the purchase cost.

Dave and Diedre met with the Jaenicke family to discuss the purchase price. The sellers have set a minimum acceptable price of \$185,000, which aligns with the Township's 2026/27 budget allocation of \$190,000 for this purpose. The combined assessed value of the parcels is \$173,200, and the asking price matches the market value of properties sold within the Township.

This is a unique opportunity to secure the Township's long-term success by acquiring critical nearby land before it becomes unavailable or too expensive. The purchase will be contingent on a satisfactory environmental study and a clear title search.

- b. **Purchase of NRDA equipment for Parks:** When the Board voted to opted out of the Cooperative Agreement with the NRDA Trustees, the Trustees offered the Township the option to purchase the equipment less depreciation or returning the equipment to the NRDA Trustees. The original cost of the equipment was \$94,317.29. Their position is that the equipment was acquired specifically for maintaining the preserve, and since the Township is no longer obligated under the agreement, the equipment should be returned.

The Trustees have offered the Township the opportunity to purchase the equipment at a depreciated value, reflecting three years of use, for a total of \$80,444.85. At the time we discussed exiting the Cooperative Agreement, we advised the Board that the Township could maintain the field using existing Parks and DPW equipment, and that remains accurate. The Township does not *need* this equipment to continue maintenance operations. That said, the opportunity to acquire this equipment at a significantly reduced cost presents substantial operational advantages that were not previously anticipated.

Purchasing this equipment would:

- Expand our capabilities beyond the Nature Center to all Township parks
- Improve efficiency in land preparation and maintenance activities
- Support ongoing and future projects, including the new disc golf course and the recently acquired parkland off Shields Drive
- Allow for more proactive land management practices, such as rotating plantings using the seeder.
- Enhance our ability to prepare and maintain grounds with specialized equipment like the disk and cultivator

While not essential, this equipment would strengthen our ability to maintain and improve the Township's Park system in a more efficient and versatile manner.

- c. **Nature Center update:** The Advisory Committee is looking at some options for the field. The Manager suggested we do not do anything major this year. With all the flooding we believe the newly planted section that was done in September will not survive so once the field dries up, we can better evaluate that. We will be adding more trails in the field, wild flower seed and possible sections for Sunflowers. We have not

posted Kailey's position yet as we are reevaluating what we want to do with the building.
We have been staffing programs with our parks staff.

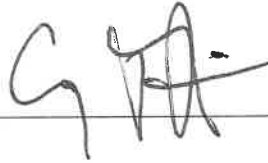
10. Old Business: none

11. Reports:

a. Receive and file the Parks and Recreation Report.

12. Other Business: none

13. Adjournment: Motion made by Hoffman, seconded by Aimar to adjourn the meeting at
7:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.



Craig Aimar, Secretary

5-18-26

Dated

The next regular Park Commission Meeting will be Monday, May 18, 2026 at the Public Safety Administration Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw MI 48609.