

Mark Halkola, Supervisor  
Christa Gardner, Clerk  
Dominique DiVito, Treasurer  
Don Wareham, Trustee  
Aaron Janke, Trustee



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Osceola Township 5-Year Rec Plan Public Hearing Minutes  
February 22, 2023, 5:30 PM

A Public Hearing for the Osceola Township 5-Year Rec Plan was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on February 22, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Osceola Township office Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Aaron Janke, and Don Wareham. Absent was Dominique DiVito.

Rachael Pressley from the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region gave a brief history of the Rec Plan and offered introductory remarks.

The Public Hearing comment period was then opened.

Jim Spence from Lower Point Mills Road was glad for this process and in turn learned more about the township. He previously sent in written comments. Some specific suggestions to edits in the plan include: page 10 to include Onigaming Yacht Club, as they have been putting channel buoys in the water for the last 20 years. On page 16 requested it state 'expressed interest in partnering with the township'. Questioned on pages 27 and 28 Capital Improvement Plan why it doesn't mention Sandy Bottom at all, and requests its inclusion. Questioned the Tamarack City Park allotment of \$500,000 for an ice rink and warming shack, wondering if that included a land purchase. Wonders if the board has considered projects at Sandy Bottom. He also mentioned that the Onigaming Yacht Club has a capital fund and would be willing to partner financially with the township to get some projects at Sandy Bottom done. Mentioned that in previous rec plans it talked about creating a walking/biking path from Dollar Bay to Sandy Bottom. Emphasized how it would be safer for the people due to high traffic on the road. He suggested the possibility of taking some room from the shoulder to create the path.

Gregg Spence was interested and asked questions about a proposed campground area across from Sandy Bottom.

Deb Kinzie is a member of the Onigaming Yacht Club and mentioned that the water is filling up with milfoil, which is an invasive weed. She offered that Torch Lake Township might be a good resource, as they have treated their bay for it in the past. Also suggested making a two-way boat ramp a higher priority, as there is so much boating traffic coming in and out of the water.

Theresa Spence lives across from the boat launch. She reiterated that it is used constantly all summer long. Wondered if it has ever been considered to charge people using the launch as a source of revenue. Mentioned that Chassell Township has a donation 'pipe' by theirs. Also suggested looking into grants through the Keweenaw Historical Park for the dredge to assist with current reclamation efforts.

Mike Irish, a sailor, and fisherman, spends a lot of time in Dollar Bay. He noted that the fish population is beginning to diminish due to the milfoil in the area. Mentioned that there is a lot of usage by fishermen in that area as well.

Hugh Hosafros from Dollar Bay would like to see a roof put over the ice rink to help the amount of snow, and give some amount of shelter. Wondered about the stamp mill in Tamarack City if the Keweenaw Historical Park would have an interest in it. Also mentioned that currently people have been using the ballpark as a dog park and thought a doggy bag station there would be helpful.

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Mark Halkola, township supervisor, emphasized that this plan is a “living document” and can be continually changed and updated over the next five years as needed.

The Board offered comments, answered questions, and gave suggestions on other improvements.

Significant to note was a lot of discussion and ideas pertaining to Sandy Bottom.

Mr. Halkola called for any additional comments. With no additional comments to be made, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:25 PM.

ke place on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:15 PM in the Osceola Township Board Room.