

ALLENDALE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

April 23rd, 2026 @ 7:00 a.m.

Auditorium at Allendale Township Hall

1. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:05am

Present: Schuitema, Hoekstra, Shepard, Haveman & Zuniga

Absent: None

Staff and Guests Present: Jared Schuitema, Earl DeVormer, Jill Tollman, Brad Gibbons, Paul Morren Sr, Bob Chapin, Jeremy Borgman, Hadaas Brower, Jody Hansen, Corey Sobeck, Adam Elenbaas, Jordan Smith, Michael Wilterdink, Marty LaHaie

2. Received for Information: Park design packet
3. Public comment – none
4. Approval of the September 18th, 2025, Parks & Recreation Minutes: Motion by Schuitema, second by Hoekstra, passed 5-0
5. Approval of the Agenda – Motion by Schuitema, second by Haveman. Approved 5-0
6. New Business: Skate Park & Ninja Course

Schuitema presented the drawings from the Engineer for the Skate Park and other changes happening to the Allendale park. The panel discussed the area where field #1 is currently located and talked about a parking lot between the new equipment and field #5.

The group all agreed to bring phase #1 to the Township Board.

The group also discussed the ADA equipment for the playground in phase #2. Zuniga asked for more information on the ADA seesaw so we can have a conversation about why this was selected over the swing.

The group also discussed the design of the shelter near the band shell. Zuniga had delivered information to the group by email before from the DDA where they were asking about having tiered seating for the band shell. Haveman will contact the Engineer and see what can be done to incorporate a slope so people sitting in the shelter can see over the lawn chairs. The group discussed that maybe it could be just the grass that is sloped up to the shelter.

Haveman presented the group with tentative pricing for the shelter samples in the packet. The group did not make a decision on the shelter design. Members made comments about the look and design. More decisions will be made when the Engineer reviews the possible incline for seating.

7. Old Business: None
8. Public Comments:

Brad Gibbons with little league, commented that he feels the decision of removing a baseball field to make renovations to add a skate park and a ninja course was irresponsible. Mr. Gibson asked why the commission would tear out something that is currently needed and being used.

Corey Sobeck of Water View Ln in Allendale liked the idea of the skate park and ninja course however he was not in favor of removing a field to achieve this addition.

Jeremy Borgman of Tallpine Ln in Allendale did not like the removal of field #1. He suggested if field #1 was to be removed for this that he would like to see fields #2 & 3 removed and replaced with three new fields. This way it keeps the field counts the same.

Hadaas Brower of 84th Ave in Allendale, a little league board member stated that she was not in favor of removing field #1. She also commented that the existing fields are not maintained by the township.

Jordan Smith of Allendale commented that he feels there was a lack of transparency in the township. He also stated that the park doesn't have space for a skate park.

Marty LaHaie of Cameron Ave in Allendale, also a little league board member, stated the existing field conditions were poor. He commented that he was a medal-winner skater in years past and that he liked the idea of a skate park and ninja course however he wants it moved into an existing open area, not field #1.

Paul Morren of Matterhorn Ct in Allendale, was against removing field #1 for the skate park.

9. Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Hoekstra commented that being a lifelong resident of Allendale and being in charge of the adult softball for so many years, she understands the public comments.

Other members had no comments.

10. Adjourn: 8:40 am

Next meeting TBD at 7:00 a.m.