

**FINAL
CHARTERTOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, March 28, 2022

2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Petsch called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL: Present: William Petsch, Chairperson
Johnny Walker, Vice Chairperson
Barbara Garbutt, Secretary
Krystal Schwartz
Ron Krueger

Absent: Bob Berkheiser(excused)
Kathryn Duff (excused)

Also Present: Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks & Recreation
Allison Kennedy, Asst. to Parks & Recreation Director
George Weber, Township Trustee

Chairperson Petsch welcomed Ron Krueger to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Garbutt, seconded by Schwartz, to approve the February 28, 2022, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Petsch opened Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Chairperson Petsch closed Public Comments.

ITEM 1: CW3 PAVILION USE

Chris Haney, CW3 Soccer put in a request to Emily England to reserve one of the pavilions at Dodge Park on June 4, 2022 from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. This will be for their end of the year celebration event. Soccer games will be held between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm and a cook out between 11:00 am and 1:30 pm. They would like to have a couple of inflatable bounce houses on the field.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Schwartz, to approve the request of CW3 Soccer to reserve a pavilion at Dodge Park on June 4, 2022 for their end of the season celebration event.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 2: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT**CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney**

- Annual spring clean-up will be held on April 3, 2022 from 2-4 pm.
- Opening day will be on April 9, 2022.
- The sprinkler system will be turned on April 11-15, 2022. The leak in the sprinkler system has been repaired.

Interlakes Girls Softball – Tim Bailey

- Clean-up day will be held on April 9, 2022.
- Opening day will be on April 25, 2022.
- The road teams had a draft a week ago Sunday. There are 300 girls in the program this year. There are a couple of high school teams this year.
- They are working on a fence safety project. In July 2022, they will install an 8' fence 40' from the end of the dugouts toward the outfields along the baselines. This will protect spectators on each side of the field. Fencing will be installed on all 7 fields.

Motor City Mountain Bike Association – Mike Kearney

- The trails are in great shape after the winter season.
- To date, there are no formal trail days planned.
- Clean-up day will be on April 3, 2022. There will be 8-12 kids from the Youth Mountain Bike Team that will clean up the trails.

Commerce Little League – Paul Kammer

- Registration is now closed. There are approximately 515 players registered.
- Work day will be on April 2, 2022. They will repair some fencing, outfield barriers and hang the screens back up.
- Practice will begin after March 28, 2022.
- Field clean-up day will be on April 9, 2022.
- Opening day will be April 18, 2022
- Games will begin April 18th and run through June 17, 2022.
- Opening day ceremony will be on April 23, 2022.
- They will host, for the 27th year, the Commerce Classic Tournament on June 24-26, 2022. They hope to have 64-70 Little League Teams from all over Michigan.
- They are hoping to host an Intermediate Level Little League Tournament (age of players: 13) on July 6-10, 2022.
- They are hoping to host a Little League State Tournament (age of players: 8) on July 28-31, 2022 for 7-8 teams.

Commerce Little League – Paul Kammer (continued)

- This summer they will discuss with Emily England the possibility of installing some type of directional signs at the entrance of Maple Glen Park indicating where the fields are located.
- In the past, the Township graded the parking lot 2 times per year. They are requesting an additional 2 gradings this year.

Windmill Farms (Horse Farm) – Carrie Hancock

- Offering Scout badge programs on Sundays.
- Dates for horse show events are up in the air.
- Summer camp - 10% discount will be given to Commerce Township residents.
- They will participate in Concert in the Parks.
- They will offer pony rides this Sunday, April 3, 2022 from 11:00 am -1:30 pm at the Byers Homestead Easter Bunny event.
- It has been difficult for her to schedule events not knowing what the future will be for them because the Township has put out an RFP for a concessionaire agreement for horse farm.

Friends of Byers –Karen Schantz

- They will have pictures with the Easter Bunny this Sunday, April 3, 2022.
- Posted on Facebook: Windmill Farms will be attending our Pictures with Easter Bunny next Sunday, April 3rd from 11am to 1:30 on the Historical Grounds of Byers Homestead.
- Spring clean-up will be on May 14, 2022 by Boy Scout Troop 308.
- Posted on Facebook to see if anyone is interested in a Gardening Club at Byers.
- There will be no Oakland County's Weekend and Weekday Alternative for Misdemeanants (WWAM) program this year.
- Huron Valley Council for the Arts (HVCA) is at the barn every Sunday. As of this date, they have 10 vendors. She will try to assist HVCA by bringing in vendors that she has worked with in the past. The food vendors are in place. HVCA decided not to participate in Milford Memories this year. They will participate in the Byer's Homestead Vintage Market event in August 2022.
- Chairperson Petsch asked for an update on erosion and water level of the Huron River at Byers Homestead. Karen said the river is not as high as last year but it is still higher than normal. Erosion coming from the Huron River to the farmhouse still needs to be addressed. Emily England made note of that.

There were no representatives present for the following leagues, although reports were submitted.

Lakes Athletics Association – Jerry Stoddard

- Registration is now closed.
- There are 290 players registered.
- Opening day is April 30, 2022.

Lakes Athletics Association – Jerry Stoddard (continued)

- Saturday April 9, 2022 is Field Clean-Up; Banner Hanging; Park Opening.
- Next scheduled Board meet is April 13, 2022. The LAA Manager's Meeting will be April 6, 2022.
- Installation work completed of new backstop fencing on F2 & F5 with taller fence and overhang to limit ball flight into parking lots, cars, crowd. (Safety Improvement measure). To be funded and paid by LAA.

They are requesting from the Township:

- Port-o-John I Restrooms - Needs b/w F1 and F2; F5; 1 more if possible by F6/F7. We would like the same vendor Byer's Homestead is using for both our own purchase and Township supplied.
- Flagpoles (Township support flagpole implementation/electrical). We will have representation at the February meeting. We would love to have installation for the 2022 Spring Season; Ribbon Cutting I Dedication Ceremony either Opening Day April 30, 2022 or Championship Weekend in mid-June, 2022.
- Parking Lot Construction - Township to provide updates; especially schedule, so we can advise scheduled teams around any planned construction. We have water run-off and field flooding issues on F6 due to parking lot grade/slope; please advise contractors to be cognizant of drainage and direct away from fields when completing new parking lot.

Lakes Area Hawks – Pete Lesner

- Coaching positions have been filled.
- There are still cheer spots open as well as Jr. Freshman.
- All other teams are filled and have wait list only.
- No major repairs to the field or building at this time.
- Field maintenance has been secured and will begin in April, 2022.

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Trustee Weber provided a report in Mr. Berkheiser's absence.

- Ron Krueger was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee.
- Request for Proposal (RFP) - Equestrian Activities for a Concessionaire Agreement for the horse farm located at 2552 Wixom Rd, Commerce Twp., MI. was approved.
- The Planning Commission is 25% of the way through the Township's Master Plan. There will be a Quarterly Township Board of Trustee's meeting with the Planning Commission when the Master Plan is complete. Responsibility for the trailways and paths plan will be moved from the Parks and Recreation Committee to the Township Master Plan.
- Emily England said the Township Board passed a Resolution for Victory Park Improvements to apply for a grant approving asphalt for the roadway and not to install restrooms at this time.

ITEM 4: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Victory Park grant application was submitted to the DNR. As required by the grant application, we had a review done on site by a historian and archeologist. The archeologist recommends a level 1 archeology survey be done on the 25 acre site as well as the Nike Missile site. That recommendation will go before the Township Board for approval. The archeology survey will be done on April 12, 2022. We are going to submit a FOI request to the Army Core to obtain site plans. This is due by October 1, 2022.

ITEM 5: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

- No report – Berkheiser was absent.

Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race

- Both parks look great.
- There was a lot of brush clearing done at Mill Race Park. This made a big improvement to the park.

Garbutt – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- The park looks good except along the roadway. The road is still not finished.

Walker– Maple Glen& Windmill Farm

- Maple Glen Park parking area does need to be graded.
- The park looks good.
- There were dogs running around and some people playing baseball.
- It was brought to their attention that the tops to the dog bag posts are broken and need to be replaced.

Petsch– Bicentennial Park

- Nothing new to report.
- He would like the United States Tennis Association contacted when we have the funds to do so.

Duff– Hickory Glen Park

- No report – Duff was absent.

Ron Krueger – Dodge Park

- The park looks good.
- Leaves have accumulated along the fence line and a tree fell down. Emily England said the Maintenance Department will remove the leaves and take care of the tree.
- Emily said we applied for an AARP grant for pickleball courts in the amount of \$32,000.

ITEM 6: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Krystal Schwartz read the report that was submitted by Kathryn Duff.

- There will be a park walk thru on May 2, 2022 at 5:30 pm.
- The Easter Bunny lunch at the Richardson Center on April 9, 2022 is sold out.
- There are still openings available for the Eastern Market bus trip on May 7, 2022.
- Spring village wide garage sale is scheduled for May 19-21, 2022.
- The village is hosting a 5K Fun Run on May 28, 2022. In addition, there will be a “bubble run” for kids. Registration closes on May 6, 2022.

ITEM 7: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director’s report:

- We are in the process of cleaning all parks. This includes but not limited to: cleaning and dead heading plant areas at Scarlets playground, Richardson, Township hall and the Library.
- Cleaning of roadways continues.

- Dodge Park restrooms will be opening on April 1st. We will be going over all areas of the building to assure everything is working properly and safely. All trash cans have been put out at Dodge Park and Maple Glen Park.
- Sign at Richardson Park has been repaired and repainted.
- All play structures have been inspected. All concerned areas will be addressed.
- We are cleaning up trails throughout the Township. This includes any fallen branches, trash, leaves and any safety concern.
- As time permits, we will be attending to down trees along paths from the storm last July. We have cleared some already. We are cutting to splitting lengths, setting them out in areas that are safe to the public and traffic and putting a free wood sign out for residents. This has worked out well.
- Volleyball courts will need sand added to bring up to grade at Bicentennial and Richardson. This should be completed by mid-April along with the nets.
- Maple Glen well has been disinfected. We will start preparing the building for use. Water samples will be taken soon and delivered to Oakland County for testing.
- Fence posts and rails at Byers should be completed sometime in April.

ITEM 8: PARK EVENT UPDATE

Emily England reported on the following:

- Summer concerts at the Richardson Community Center will be July 8, 15, 22, 29 and August 5, 2022. We have yet to secure a band for July 8, 2022. There is a list of bands, food trucks and activities.
- M-5K will be on October 8, 2022.
- Christmas tree lighting at the Richardson Community Center will be on December 3, 2022.

We would like to apply for the Oakland County POP Grant Application for a glow show during the Christmas tree lighting event. Other POP grants we can apply for are Community Hikes, Movie Nights and Expedition Adventure.

Oakland County will supply the materials, staff, tables, chairs and game pieces that are needed for games, crafts and activities for special event packages as noted under the POP Grant for Expedition Adventure.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Krueger, to move forward with the Oakland County Parks 2022 POP Grant Applications. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

A dog walk will be held the same day as the M-5K Race. The artwork that will go on t-shirts for those who sign up for the dog walk came back today.

Christmas Tree Lighting - A live tree will be planted at the Richardson Center. We have secured the stand, photographer and food truck. We are looking for a company to decorate the tree. The Fire Department will have a truck on site for the children to see and it will also be used to put the star on top of the tree. There will be activities for the children.

ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS

Emily England said there are 2 pieces of play equipment at the Richardson Center that are almost 20 years old and need to be replaced. She submitted literature showing different types of play equipment for review. She recommends the purchase of two (2) Swift Twist Spinners.

Chairperson Petsch said Waldenwoods in Howell, Michigan has a large playground. He noticed children were drawn toward the piece of equipment called the Comet Spinner.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Schwartz, to approve the purchase of one (1) Swift Twist Spinner (\$2,421.19) and one (1) Comet Spinner(\$3,650.48) from Snider Recreation (estimate #032522-2 dated 3-25-2022) for the Richardson Center provided spacing requirements can be met. If there is not enough space to place both pieces of equipment mentioned then the purchase shall be for two (2) Swift Twist Spinners.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Emily England said in the past we were approved for a grant to purchase playground equipment. We used the grant money to install play structures at Maple Glen and Bicentennial Parks. We contracted with Gametime for the purchase and installation of the equipment.

Allison Kennedy said if approved for the grant we can get up to \$35,000, depending on the cost of the equipment. We would use this money for additional play equipment to the existing play structure at Bicentennial Park. She said the deadline to submit application is in April 2022. We need to order equipment by May 2022 and have final delivery by September 2022.

Literature of play equipment options were submitted for review. Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Walker, to allocate up to \$50,000 for a playground structure, including installation, for Bicentennial Park.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 11 10: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Walker, supported by Garbutt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Barbara Garbutt, Secretary

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be Monday, April 25, 2022, at 7:00PM immediately following the 6:00pm Park Tours at Hickory Glen and Bicentennial.