

**FINAL
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, July 27, 2009

2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Petsch called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm at the Township Offices.

ROLL CALL: Present: William Petsch - Chairperson
Tim Wichert – Vice Chairperson
Michelle Holmes – Secretary
Robert Long
Dave Schultz
Peter Pace, absent-excused
Dick Zemmin

Also Present: Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks and Recreation

COMMUNICATIONS:

Received and filed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Zemmin, supported by Wichert, to approve the June 22, 2009, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes, with the following corrections:

Page 1 Approval of minutes Motion, correct spelling of “grammatical”
Page 2 Under public comments Bob Meyer 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence.
Add Community Football League after “Chargers”
Page 3 Spell out OLSM – Orchard Lake St. Marys
In Motion – add “of rental fees” after “waiver” add “of rental fees”
After applicable, add “cleaning fees charged”

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Barbara Garbutt
Commerce Twp, MI

Ms. Garbutt asked the Committee’s permission to put up some blue-bird houses in Dodge IV Park. The Committee had no problem with Ms. Garbutt’s request and expressed their appreciation.

Public Comments *Continued*.....

Ms. Garbutt requested brushing/spraying of the phragmitis be done at the bike paths on Commerce, South Commerce, and Carroll Lake Roads.

Ms. Garbutt expressed her wishes that the Committee continue to discuss disk golf, as it is very popular.

ITEM 1: RESOLUTION; APPLICATON FOR THE ACQUISITION OF RAILWAY

MOTION by Holmes, supported by Schultz, to approve the Resolution as written, the submission of the grant application for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant monies for the acquisition of 5.43 miles of railway right of way in Commerce Township and the cities of Walled Lake and Wixom known as the Michigan Airline Railway.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 2: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Frank Vigliarolo, President of Lakes Athletics

- Thanked the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Township for their participation with sports and allowing use of the fields.
- Over 750 children have signed up this year.
- Looking to join forces with a few leagues next season.
- Will be purchasing dugout tops for the fields and new top dressings.
- They are near the end of the tournament season. They are very excited about one team attending a Zone Tournament.

The Committee members and Mr. Vigliarolo had a lengthy conversation regarding donations vs fees charged for the park and for attendance at games at parks within Commerce Township. Because the people that reside in Commerce Township own the parks, an entrance fee cannot be charged.

Mr. Vigliarolo assured the Committee that when they advertise games or tournaments, when cars are parked, it is made known that a donation is welcomed. It is not stated anywhere that there is a mandatory charge. Mr. Petsch confirmed with Mr. Vigliarolo that if a donation is not made by a spectator, you can not force a payment when entering a Township park and you cannot turn a car away for not making a donation.

Softball – Interlakes Girls, Ms. Dana Maybier

An email was received from Ms. Maybier and reviewed by the Committee.

- Tryouts for the travel softball team will be held August 8-9, 2009 for girls 12 years of age and under for the 2009/2010 season.
- The travel team will play in 6 tournaments throughout the spring and summer months.
- Fundraisers to offset the cost are currently being worked on.
- A flyer promoting the First Annual Joseph Shorkey Memorial Softball Tournament was received and entered into the minutes. The Tournament will be held September 12, 2009. Contact DMShorkey@aol.com for more information....

Baseball - Commerce Little League, Mike Snyder

Mr. Snyder was unable to attend tonight's meeting and emailed Emily updates. This was shared with the Committee members and information is as follows:

- Our league had a successful regular season, and a successful travel season as well. We were fortunate to host the 10U Little League District 4 Tournament, which was won by our own Commerce team. That 10U team traveled to Cheboygan over the weekend to play in the Little League 10U State Championship Tournament, and performed well up there. They went 2-1, but did not advance to the championship round. Our 12U team also won their District 4 tournament, which was played in Birmingham. This team is also playing in the Little League 12U State Championship Tournament, and will look to advance to the championship round this afternoon. Our young travel teams (8U and 9U) also did very well, and it looks like they will be the next crop of good young ball players to represent Commerce in Little League District and State tournaments.
- We are once again having a fall baseball season. Registration is underway, and will continue into late August. The season will start after Labor Day, and will run for 8 weeks. The link for our registration site is found on our web site at www.eteamz.com/cllb
- We hope to break ground on our concession stand in the next month or two (2). We believe we have all approvals we need to move forward, and are awaiting the building department's final review and approval so we can obtain our permit.
- Our annual general meeting will occur in August. Notice of the meeting will be sent to all our CLL families, and will be posted on our web site.

Soccer - CW3
Todd Mattson

- Tryouts were held in June 2009.
- Numbers are about same this season as they were last season.
- Games for older teams will start August 22, 2009 at Dodge Park.
- A sketch of proposed plans on the property at Maple Glen Park were passed out to Committee members.
- Maple Glen Park has a very low swampy area as well as a retention area.
- They are trying to be conservative by planning four small soccer fields.
- Committee is waiting on an RFP for a concept design for Maple Glen Park and will share the information with Mr. Mattson when it is received.
- A timeframe of a project is hard to project without feedback from the Committee.
- CW3 would like a long-term lease in order to qualify for grant monies to build the proposed soccer fields with the Township for field space. Mr. Petsch explained that a Field Management Policy is a committed agreement but any lease arrangement is handled within a League Partnership Contract. The Committee is more than willing to work with CW3 as they will be making improvements to the park that will benefit all of Commerce Township.

Friends of Byers

Cindy Sawyer was not present.

The Committee members had an on site visit to Byers before this meeting. Several maintenance issues need to be attended to at Byers. This is discussed in detail at the end of the meeting.

ITEM 3: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Emily England reported on the following:

- The newsletter is being reformatted and will now go out every 4 months.
- The center is going great. Daily attendance numbers continue to go up!
- Nancy Sparks, Clerk Administrator, is retiring. August 5, 2009, will be her last working day. The Township is working on getting a replacement.
- Very pleased that six people signed up for a trip today. Trips that had been set up in the past have had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

ITEM 4: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Robert Long reported on the following:

- Regularly scheduled Quarterly Discussion meeting will be held on July 28.
- Budget meetings have been scheduled.
- Rate study for sewer and water – viewed presentation on how to save money.
- Approval for a Charitable gaming license – Texas holdum.
- Approved a banner for the Fire Department over Union Lake Road
- Tax Abatement Policy was discussed.
- Logo on Library vehicles – will utilize Township logo and put “Library” in block letters below the Township logo.
- Approved sale of 17.5 million plan expansion and drainage
- Applebee’s was granted an entertainment license.

ITEM 5: MAINTENANCE REPORT

Emily England reported on the following:

- Moved furniture out of the Byers Barn to make room for the Friends of Byers. There was furniture not belonging to the Township or the Friends of Byers in the Barn that Township personnel had to move.
- The Committee requested an inventory of furniture.
- A desk from the old Township Hall was moved into the Richardson Center.
- Removed wood chips from the entrance of Dodge Park so that grass seed could be planted.
- Put a gate up in the old Dodge Park.
- Trimming trees throughout the parks.
- Cutting grass.
- Organizing furniture at the old Township Hall.
- Ms. Holmes noted that the paths are very wet at Long Park. Identified several issues that need attention.

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Wichert, to make a formal recommendation to have groundhog, and/or other small critters removed/relocated from the farmhouse in Byers in an attempt to stop the foundation damage at the farmhouse.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Maintenance that needs to be completed at Byers:

- Broken windows
- Clean up of vandalism
- Trees
- Brushing
- Take down the Willow tree that is close to the road
- Erosion at the bridge
- Request Pat O'Donnell look at the barns roof and determine if it needs to be replaced

ITEM 6: HICKORY GLEN

Mr. Petsch stated that Hickory Glen Park needs to be brushed so you can see the entrance from Glengary Road. This would be the area at the entrance towards the Police Department.

Mr. Vigliarolo explained that the best time to brush is in the spring. The regular season is now over and there are not many parent volunteers. Spring clean up is usually done the 1st weekend in April. They clean up at Hickory Glen, Long Lake, Long Field, and Lakes.

Mr. Petsch and Mr. Vigliarolo will meet on site to discuss brushing and spring clean up.

Mr. Vigliarolo discussed the need of police patrol in the parks to aid with vandalism. Oakland County Sheriffs Department has been called many times requesting patrol inside the park. The league spent approximately \$150,000.00 on improvements to the fields in the last 5 years. Vandalism cost the league approximately \$1,000.00 this year. The more visible the park is, the better things will get however, the parks are very dark and Mr. Vigliarolo would like to see at least a few street-lights in the park.

ITEM 7: FIELD MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Committee members reviewed the Field Management Policy and made several changes. The topics of charging fees to attend tournaments, parking fees, and fee schedules for fields was discussed in detail.

Emily will make the changes and present to the Committee at the next scheduled meeting in August.

ITEM 8: UPDATE ON BYERS PRESERVATION REPORT

Emily talked to Ron Campbell from Oakland County. He apologized for the delay and will have the report completed by August 15, 2009.

ITEM 9: ARTICLE III LAND CONTROL (ORDINANCE 36) REVIEW

The Committee discussed Article III Land Control. They recommended changes to the Ordinance. Emily took notes.

Article 3, Land Control, will be placed on the agenda for next month to review requested changes.

ITEM 10: REVENUE & EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Committee reviewed the Revenue & Expenditure Report.

The Committee requested a breakdown of the \$125,000.00 that was spent out of the budget. Emily will report back at the next meeting.

ITEM 11: PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

Review and discussion of the budget took place.

ITEM 12: AGENDA REQUEST

Dodge Park soccer fields

ITEM 13: OTHER MATTERS

Brief discussion on the status of Dodge Park.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Holmes, supported by Zemmin, to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY