

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

*Monday, February 27, 2006*

2840 Fisher Avenue

Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

**CALL TO ORDER:** Tim Wichert, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Tim Wichert, Chairperson  
William Petsch, Vice Chairperson (Arrived at 7:04 p.m.)  
Michelle Holmes, Secretary  
Barbara Garbutt  
Joel Sharpe

Absent: Mary Ston  
Robert Long

Also Present: Emily Dubey, Director of Senior Parks and Recreation  
Kelly Knight, Deputy Supervisor  
D.J. Coffey, Intern  
Thomas Zoner, Township Supervisor

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

A letter to Ms. St. Louis from Thomas Zoner, Commerce Township Supervisor, requesting the Friends of Byers forego the amount of \$8,000.00 raised for the Byers Farmhouse.

A letter to Ms. Connie Guest, a Planning Director, from Sally Petrella and David Mifsud, Friends of the Rouge, stating they received funding from the Great Lakes National Program Office to create a baseline map of habitat within the Rouge River Watershed and invite the Township to take advantage of the maps and the database they create.

**Discussion:**

Tom Zoner, Township Supervisor, is present and comments that Mary St. Louis called and was upset about the letter. He also comments on the integrity of Friends of Byers. Their dues required haven't been paid in a couple of years. We don't consider the Friends of Byers are in existence; we continue to have full control of the park.

**MOTION** by Petsch, supported by Sharpe to direct Thomas Zoner, Township Supervisor to take appropriate action in obtaining the monies raised by the Friends of Byers.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Petsch, supported by Sharpe, to approve the January 23, 2006 Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes as written.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**ITEMS 1-7: WAIVER OF USE FEES**

**MOTION** by Petsch, supported by Sharpe, to approve the **WAIVER OF USE FEES** for **ITEM 1 - Lake Area Dodgers, March 11, 2006; ITEM 2 -Commerce Little League, March 19, 2006; ITEM 3 - Walled Lake Northern High School, April 7, 2006; ITEM 4- Wolverine Lake Parks and Recreation, April 9, 2006; ITEM 5 - Commerce Co-Op Preschool, April 22, 2006 and ITEM 7 -Wolverine Lake Parks & Recreations, December 10, 2006.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES** - Sharpe, Garbutt, William Petsch, Wichert

**NAYS:** - Holmes

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Discussion:**

Tom Zoner comments on all Waivers. He presents a revenue chart of the use at the Richardson Center. He informs the Board that the Township needs a sufficient amount of revenue to continue to operate the Center. The chart represents the loss of income by allowing Waivers on operative days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The waivers on the Agenda are on the days the Township could obtain rental fees for the building. The waivers are set and approved so far in advance it disallows the Township to accept groups who could pay for the rental. He suggests that the Board consider Waivers for the slower months. Doors are open Monday through Thursday for those who request a waiver of the fees. The revenue generated by rentals is critical to maintaining the facility. He encourages the Board to consider the need to increase the rate charges for the Richardson Center and advertise more to generate revenue. He requests the Board do nothing regarding the waivers on tonight's Agenda and look at the Waiver Policy change to be presented.

Bill Petsch questions nonprofit community groups that request waivers to hold meetings in the Richardson Center. Up until now we have always had the le-way to say yes to all waivers. Looking at some of the waiver items on the Agenda tonight, fundraisers, non- profit organizations and the like have always been approved. Entertainment events pose a different venue and not as important as fundraisers or a charitable group.

Emily Dubey mentions the Waiver Policy Change. She comments that Walled Lake Central Football Team who had the fees waived for the use of the facility last month cancelled their event at the last minute causing a complete loss for a possible renter.

Cindy Mason of 1495 Vanstone was present to request the use the Richardson Center. Her daughter is a senior at Walled Lake Northern and is interested in using the Center for their Senior All Night Party. She is in favor of renting the facility if the waiver is not accepted.

Michelle Holmes comments to have a qualifying purpose on the new Waiver Policy.

**ITEM 6: WAIVER OF USE FEES – LOLLIPOP CO-OP PRESCHOOL, 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AUCTION – NOVEMBER 3, 2006**

No Action Taken

**ITEM 8: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT**

John Robertson is present and comments on the League.

**ITEM 9: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Emily Dubey comments of the free tax service and free luncheon. The Senior Center is working on the Visioning Session together.

D.J. Coffey comments on the priority of the Visioning Session.

**ITEM 10: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT**

Tom Zoner is present and comments on the Road Commission Report. He was present at the Traffic Association Meeting when they had a unanimous vote to approve the Martin Road Extension, yet it still needs approval of the Executive Committee. At this point there has been no opposition. It is not an extension of M-5; it is called a connector road. The DDA will create a round-about at M-5 and Martin Road and Pontiac Trail. It will be a big plus for the Township Library, giving the residents an alternative entrance to the Library. Until we get final approval by M-Dot, 2007 early 2008 we should see road accesses via round-about. The DDA has taken a very aggressive approach to approving those roads. Improvements are pending on Welch Road and Pontiac Trail. The Martin Road extension will change the classification of external roads. The round-about are designed to slow down traffic. There had been two deaths from the dead-ending of M-5. The new round-about won't completely eliminate accidents, but deter them.

**ITEM 11: COMMERCE LITTLE LEAGUE – MEMORIAL TREES**

Laura Husak, of 1948 Twin Sun Circle is present and comments on Ron Ventimiglia's sudden death and their plans of planting trees in his memory.

The Board approves that in memory of Ron Ventimiglia, trees will be planted at the Coliseum Field and a Memorial Plaque/Stone placed on one of the trees when planted. Donations were asked of the CLLB Community to be used towards the purchase of the trees and the memorial stone.

**ITEM 12: PITCH HIT AND RUN PROGRAM**

D.J. Coffey comments that the Pitch Hit and Run program is nationally sponsored by the Pepsi Company. He will host the spring event for all children of different age-groups, encouraging competition in this local event. There is no charge to the participant and/or the Township. He suggests organizing volunteers to clean the field before and after the event. He requests permission to use the parks March 1<sup>st</sup> to Mid-May.

**ITEM 13: HICKORY GLEN & MAPLE GLEN PLAYSAPES**

Emily Dubey and D.J Coffey present maps for the Playscape locations and request the Boards recommendation.

The Board discusses the best possible location for the Playscape considering a protective area and also plans for additional parking.

**ITEM 14: PARKS AND RECREATION OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**

Barbara Garbutt needs to take the nominees back to the Committee as soon as possible.

Tim Wichert asks if there are currently any nominees. States the next meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Tom Zoner suggests that nominees be e-mailed to Barbara Garbutt.

**ITEM 15: OUTHOUSES FOR ALL PARKS**

**MOTION** by Petsch, supported by Garbutt, to approve the Bidding Contract of John' Sanitation Inc. as the provider of outhouses for the all the Township Parks.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM 16: ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOR BYERS**

Emily Dubey suggests that the Parks & Recreation Department organize the Byers Ice Cream Social.

**MOTION** by Garbutt, supported by Petsch, to appoint the Parks and Recreation Department to organize the Byers Ice Cream Social.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM 17: BYERS PROPERTY UPDATE**

William Petsch comments at the last Parks & Recreation Meeting there were two requests to remove items from the Byers Property. A Motion was carried in that meeting that no items be removed because of black mold issues. Yet, someone came and removed windows. He suggests we announce to parties involved with Byers, that the windows were stolen and ask if they can publish a request for the windows to be returned with no questions asked.

Barbara Garbutt suggests using the Spinal Column to publish photos of the stolen windows and a request for their return.

Kelly Knight reported to the Oakland Press about the stolen windows and that a police report was filed.

**ITEM 18: WAIVER POLICY CHANGE**

William Petsch suggests the Parks & Recreation Committee draft additional revisions on the Waiver Form.

**ITEM 19: UPDATE ON SUB-COMMITTEE TASKS**

- **Visioning Session for Dodge Park Master Plan:** *Robert J. Long, Mary Ston, Kelly Knight*
- **Parks and Recreation Policy and Procedures:** *Tim Wichert, Michelle Holmes, DJ Coffey*
- **Grants:** *Michelle Holmes, Emily Dubey, DJ Coffey*
- **Capital Improvement 2005; Signage, Landscape, Benches:** *William Petsch, Barbara Garbutt*
- **Community Related Projects:** *Tim Wichert, Joel Sharpe*

**ITEM 20: OTHER MATTERS**

Barbara Garbutt comments on the Mill Race Park. She drives by there two to three times a day and notices that people are parking right up to the sign. We need a split-rail fence to prevent people from parking so close.

**MOTION** by Garbutt supported by Holmes to construct a fence at the Mill Race Park.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM 21: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Garbutt, supported by Holmes, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

  
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Michelle Holmes, Secretary

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**