

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

Monday, October 28, 2024
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Walker called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL: Present: Johnny Walker, Chairperson
William Petsch, Vice Chairperson
Krystal Schwartz, Secretary
Bob Berkheiser
Ron Krueger
Laura Waterworth

Also Present: Denise Vecellio
Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks & Recreation
Allison Kennedy, Asst. to Parks & Recreation Director
Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director

Director England noted an addition to the agenda. Under Approval of Minutes, she added the minutes for the August 12, 2024 Special Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Berkheiser, seconded by Petsch, to approve the August 12, 2024, Parks and Recreation Committee Special Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Petsch, seconded by Schwartz, to approve the September 23, 2024, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Walker opened to Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Chairperson Walker closed to Public Comments.

ITEM 1: EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Nikola Dahlgren was present, along with Mr. Dahlgren, to present his Eagle Scout Project.

Nik Dahlgren –

- I'm a Boy Scout from Troop 308 and I'm here today because I'm interested in making trail signs for Wise Woods Park.
- I plan to make a series of 6 trail signs at several junctions of the trails in the park.
- They will show a label of where you are, where the reader would be. It will show the map of the park and compass rows.
- It will have a label showing that it's my Eagle Scout Service Project from Troop 308. It will also have a label that says Commerce Township Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Berkheiser – Do you have a drawing?

Nik distributed drawings and the Committee reviewed and discussed the details.

Director England – Could you add on coordinates so that if somebody had an emergency and needed to call, they would know their location?

Nik Dahlgren – I can do that.

Mr. Krueger – Those are all of the trails?

Nik Dahlgren – It's a huge park. The reason I'm doing this is because it's a huge park. If you ever walk in there, everything looks the same. It's incredibly disorienting and it's very easy to get lost in there. I'm a cross country runner and I've experienced it myself running in there, and I know several friends who have gotten lost in there. That's why I think it would be helpful.

Mr. Berkheiser – What kind of coordinates are you looking for? Standard GPS coordinates?

Director England – Yes, and I will send an example. It's like what's on our pathway that runs Hickory Glen Park. I'll send you a picture of that.

Nik Dahlgren – Okay, I can probably do that.

Ms. Waterworth – Will these markers be numbered?

Director England – Yes, then you can say you're here by Sign #1 and they would have the GPS coordinates for each sign.

Mr. Berkheiser – Our entrance would be considered near the parking lot. There's a kiosk there.

Nik Dahlgren – Sure, I can put a full map there.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are you planning on doing the distance between the points?

Nik Dahlgren – I wasn't planning on doing distance.

Mr. Berkheiser – Just waypoints.

Nik Dahlgren – Yes. I could make a map for the kiosk at the front to show where each sign is and the coordinates of each.

Ms. Waterworth – What kind of sign is it?

Nik Dahlgren – It's going to be aluminum. I'm getting it from a website called signs.com.

Mr. Berkheiser – Do you have a rough idea of the cost of the project?

Nik Dahlgren – Between the cost of the signs, concrete and sign posts, it's looking like around \$264, which I'm going to fundraise for by doing a bottle drive.

Director England – What's your timeline?

Nik Dahlgren – It's not totally planned out yet. Right now, I'm just thinking I'll do fundraising after Thanksgiving because that's when people have lots of bottles around to pick up.

Mr. Berkheiser – So you're looking at springtime?

Nik Dahlgren – Yes, probably as I don't think I would want to do this in the winter.

Mr. Berkheiser – Yes, it would be a little tough to get your posts down.

Nik Dahlgren – Right, so for now I will focus on making the signs and ensuring I can get the stuff for it, then probably in the spring it will be put in there.

Chairperson Walker – How are you going to put the posts in?

Nik Dahlgren – Each post will go about 2' in the ground, so it has to go on a post that's about 6' long, with 2' in the ground. We're going to use mixed concrete to stabilize it.

Mr. Berkheiser – Wooden posts?

Nik Dahlgren – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – 4x4 posts?

Mr. Dahlgren – 4"x4"x6'.

Chairperson Walker – Will it be wet or dry concrete?

Nik Dahlgren – It's going to be the mix you get in a bag.

Mr. Berkheiser – Quikcrete.

Nik Dahlgren – Yes.

Chairperson Walker – How will you get water back there?

Nik Dahlgren – Bring it in jugs in a wagon.

Discussion continued noting that water may not be needed as the ground is wet enough if you dig far enough down. He could pour dry concrete into the hole and it will eventually harden, or there is self-hardening concrete in a bag. Discussion also took place regarding the frost level in Michigan which is at 42". The posts would need to be at that depth. Nik noted the depth and stated he could change it; therefore, 8-foot posts were recommended.

Mike Kearney, MCMBA – For posts where we went down 48", we used 8-foot posts. We used concrete and we did mix it because we were concerned about vandalism as posts were being pulled out and knocked over. We used water from the creek. For the rest, we don't use concrete. We drill a hole in the bottom of the post and put a 1.5-foot piece of conduit, and then we backfill. It is incredibly hard to pull out and if people don't run into it with an ATV, then it stays pretty solid. It's like a "T" at the bottom. It's way cheaper than concrete and you don't have to haul concrete.

Chairperson Walker – You're probably going to want to get a leader to help you dig those holes because you're not going to want to do them by hand.

Mike Kearney – All of the 30+ posts at Hickory Glen we did by hand. It really only takes 10-15 minutes with a post hole digger. The soil there is very soft.

Mr. Berkheiser – You could rent a post hole digger.

Chairperson Walker – Looks good to me.

Director England – If everybody is good and there are no other questions, we need a motion to approve his project.

MOTION by Waterworth, seconded by Krueger, to approve the Eagle Scout Project, as presented by Nikola Dahlgren, for Trail Signs at Wise Woods Park.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director England – I'll be in touch with you so you can get your paperwork signed.

Chairperson Walker – Congratulations. Have fun.

Nik Dahlgren – Thank you.

Mr. Berkheiser – Make sure you log everything in and take good notes.

Nik Dahlgren – Yes. And I can send you an email with the examples.

Director England – Yes, that would be great.

Mr. Dahlgren – Could I ask, I know you guys have your own logo and things.

Director England – Yes, I can send that to you.

ITEM 2: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT**Silo Ranch – Dawn Ray**

Ms. Ray shared the following with the Committee.

- We got some trail riding horses in.
- We have reached out to the Girl Scouts. We are now ready to go ahead with them. They have a couple booked starting in the spring.

Mr. Berkheiser – What have you done with the Girl Scouts?

Ms. Ray – We made contact with the Girl Scouts of America. We got approved with them. We got our background checks done, and then did the bookwork for all of their different horse badges.

Mr. Berkheiser – Have you thought about doing the Boy Scouts? They have a couple merit badges.

Ms. Ray – That's our next one.

Mr. Berkheiser – I'm sure Nik would be able to help you do that.

Director England – You have a new trainer in.

Ms. Ray – Yes, we actually have 3 trainers now and they have a lot of new lessons coming in.

Director England – How did the community garden end up?

Ms. Ray – Laura saw it. A lot of people just let it go.

Director England – Do you have a timeline, like if they don't maintain it within so many days?

Ms. Ray – Yes, we had rules in there. Some just got in and planted stuff and then never showed back up.

Discussion continued regarding the community garden, weeding, tilling, controlled burns, use of the plots, additional rules, responsibilities, and whether or not the garden would continue next year. Ms. Waterworth noted that others would like to have known that certain plots were not going to be used as they would have expanded and taken them over. Chairperson Walker might speak with Dawn for next year because Fox Run ran out of garden space and they have a waiting list of 15 people. Ms. Waterworth and Ms. Ray continued discussion regarding community garden meeting dates.

Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz

Mr. Schantz shared the following with the Committee.

- We just had our Boo-Bash a week ago Saturday.
 - We had over 400 attendees.
 - It went really smooth.

- We had a little diversion with our plan because of the incident at the bridge, but Larry was very communicative through the whole process and everything went well.
- We are planning for our Christmas event.
- We're curious when the farmhouse is going to get done.

Ms. Schantz – We have 5 weeks.

Mr. Schantz – I saw that they have probably 90% of it done. It would be nice to know a completion date so we can work on our event too.

Director England – We can check on that for you.

Mr. Schantz – They have most of the lighting and the duplex junction boxes wired up, but there's a couple they have to do yet. They're gaining on it. I was also going to mention, what is the status on these two nuisance trees next to the barn?

Director England – We have no plans to remove any trees this year. As of right now, that's something we can look at possibly doing next year.

Mr. Schantz – Okay. ITC came in and trimmed the trees, but that's still growing into the service wiring going back to the meter in the back.

Director England – You said by the barn, right?

Mr. Schantz – Yes. And, I don't know if this might be a Boy Scout project that we could get Troop 308 on, but we have a dogwood growing right up next to the barn on the west side, and we plan on restoring that side of the barn next year. We will have to relocate it because we can't work on the barn with the dogwood right next to it. If we relocate it, we will have to coordinate with the Township on where they would like it to be transplanted to. We hate to just cut it down.

Mr. Berkheiser – How big is the tree?

Mr. Schantz – It's about 10' tall.

Mr. Krueger – It's about a 3-inch caliper.

Mr. Schantz – That would be next year.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is it a good tree?

Mr. Krueger – It's a good tree. There's a lot of flower buds on it.

Lakes Area Hawks – Andy Graham

Mr. Graham shared the following with the Committee.

- We're winding down.

- Our freshman team made it to the Super Bowl so they'll be playing this Saturday down in John Glenn High School. So we will have one more week of practice out there with those boys.
- The cheerleaders did great at their competition.
- After this week, we will winterize the building and it will be quiet out there until we start weightlifting in the winter with the older kids coming in.
- Mark, I don't know if you know, but in the north end zone, a big limb fell and it's pushed on the side of the path. You'll see that it took out part of the fence.

Mr. Schoder – The guy was there today and he didn't say anything. I wonder if he moved it.

Mr. Graham – I've got to fix that one top run.

Motor City Mountain Bike Association (MCMBA) – Mike Kearney

Mr. Kearney shared the following with the Committee.

- Not a whole lot to add today.
- Things are still in good shape out there.

CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney

Mr. Haney shared the following with the Committee.

- The last weekend at Dodge is this weekend. We have two games on Saturday and none on Sunday. We are wrapping the season up.
- We will continue blowing leaves off to help the grass in the spring.
- The motorcycle issue seems to be fading slightly, although I need to send you a new file because now he's taunting people. He did a wheelie the whole length of the park. It's on video.
- I don't know what Oakland County has been able to do.

Director England – I can check with them for an update.

Mr. Haney – Before long, motorcycles won't be the issue; it will be snowmobiles.

No representatives were present at the meeting for the following leagues:

- *Lakes Athletics Association*
- *Commerce Little League*
- *Interlakes Girls Softball*

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- We've been spending a lot of time going through the budget and getting things approved.
- Although I was not at the last meeting, the minutes reflect that the Victory Park fencing contract was approved. As you've seen today, that project is moving along and hopefully it will be done before the end of the year.
- In case this comes up for you, just so you know, the Township gets involved with communities that want weed control for their lake. That gets done locally, but we have some lakes that are split between different Townships. So, we usually do an intergovernmental agreement, which I think we did with White Lake Township for Cooley Lake to have that treated. It's an SAD so it goes over multiple years.

- The Parks Department had put in a request on the new park benches. That all got approved.
- The last item came up under other matters. It's more just to make you aware in case someone asks. You may know, the Walled Lake School District has another millage out there on the ballot. Some will say this is just renewing the old millage. Well, it's not in that by law, each of the millages decrease under the Headlee Amendment. So, that millage had decreased from 18 mills to 16.75 or something. They want 18 so it's a new millage for more money and it increases the amount currently paid in taxes.

Director England – In addition, we received an anonymous donation of \$50,000 toward building of the fence for the dog park.

ITEM 4: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director England discussed the following:

- Everything is on the written report.
- I do want to give you an update regarding People's Express.
 - We had our meeting with all of the People's Express communities and Oakland County on Thursday last week. We meet quarterly to make sure everybody is happy and everything is going good.
 - This last quarter was the first quarter that we welcomed Novi into our group. It was anticipated that Novi would receive about 3,200 rides per month, and they have exceeded that. They have been receiving about 7,800 rides per month, which has put a lot of pressure on People's Express.
 - So, right now, the wait time is longer than 72 hours.
 - They are hoping to have that alleviated by getting more vehicles. They are still hiring more drivers and they have a new software system that will take effect on November 2nd. That will help with scheduling, because right now they are still doing it manually.
 - The existing communities expressed our frustrations. We need to be able to communicate these issues with our residents. There is a plan to get that information out to us.
 - The County and People's Express promise that they are working on the issues.
 - I will keep you updated.

Mr. Berkheiser – When you say we got Novi into the group, who invited them?

Director England – It's out of our hands at this point because it's a County contract.

Mr. Berkheiser – What I'm saying is, if they can't support that amount, priority should be given to the existing communities.

Director England – That was expressed at this meeting.

Mr. Berkheiser – If Novi exceeds their 3,200 they planned on, then Novi folks wait.

Director England – Novi agreed and the County Commissioner relayed that. Our residents shouldn't have to wait because they couldn't keep up with the new member of

a contract. So, I think we're moving forward. This was a bump in the road. It's growth, but we all need to work quicker on resolving that, and they also need to communicate with us, the communities, as we are the frontline to our residents. We can let them know that they need to call earlier than 3 days in advance.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Did we have a good turnout for the Trail-or-Treat Halloween weekend?

Director England – We did, we had about 1,000 kids come through. It was a great turnout. I think it was bigger than last year. We re-routed the trail. We still had a little bit of congestion, but unfortunately, I don't think you can do much about that. It was great and we lucked out with good weather again.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Ron and I were there. Thanks for everything. We needed a cart to haul everything out there.

Open discussions continued regarding the Trail-or-Treat event.

ITEM 5: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- All the bridges have been cleaned already and we're sealing them. There is a little bit of repair work on the rails.
- The concrete pad at Long Park for the grill is in. We will put the grill in this week.
- The riding blower that we got approved by the Board is working out great. It saves manpower and time, and everybody loves it.
- November 7th – winterizing of the buildings and sprinkler systems.
- Painting at the Township is almost complete.
- On the Airline Trail, we put up some caution signs on the bridge to slow down.
- Clearing at Scarlet's will begin in November.

ITEM 6: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

- You saw it tonight.

Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race

- Nothing to report.

Director England – We kind of went over it. You are aware that a natural aquifer was hit during soil boring to make the walking bridge ADA accessible. That turned into a much bigger thing. Thankfully, we had a good crew who took action and got it taken care of. The ground has been restored. It is still roped off to make sure that the well is going to hold and there won't be any more issues. We will let you guys know as soon as that piece of the park can be opened back up. They should be starting the river cleanup by the end of this week. I will keep you updated.

Mr. Berkheiser – What is the status of the bridge itself? Has that been put on hold?

Director England – No, we're still moving forward. We just have to use a different kind of pylon and Jason is getting the information on that. That's a tough project. We received a grant from the State, which is actually Federal money, that is going to extend the

pathway down S. Commerce Road, do the crosswalk and extend it through Byers, and make that bridge ADA accessible. Great project, but a tough project.

Vecellio – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- Nothing for Snowy Ridge.
- Long looks really good.
- The phragmites were sprayed. Thank you.
- There was a guy out there today scrubbing bird droppings from the covered bridge. That looks really good and that's a lot of work.
- I sent a couple pictures this afternoon to Emily.

Mr. Schoder and Ms. Vecellio discussed a rusty lock to be removed.

Walker – Maple Glen

- I was there at the beginning of October for my niece's softball game. It is wild when there's games there.
- There's so many people and they just park everywhere, and you have to worry about someone blasting your car with a softball.

Director England – The big maple tree next to the restroom facility; that has been a topic of discussion for years. It needs to come down. I had the arborist from the County out to look at it. I said I'm not cutting a tree down of that size unless it needs to come down. He agrees that it does need to come down. He explained that it's not an "if" but a "when". That limb is going to come down and it's a big tree. We looked at different options of cutting limbs to ease up some of the weight pressure, but the way he explained it, it's actually three trees. Even if you tried to distribute the weight differently, you're not really solving the issue.

Obviously that is going to be a big impact over there, so we will communicate with the league before it happens. Hopefully we can try to plant more trees because we need shade over there. It's never easy to cut a tree down.

Mr. Krueger – Will they leave enough of a stump so they can do a grinding and create a figure?

Discussion continued.

Petsch – Bicentennial Park

- I've been getting a lot of positive feedback from Bicentennial.
- People I know in that area, they're really happy about having the extra pickleball courts.
- I'm very pleased with the way that came out.

Director England – It's beautiful.

Krueger – Dodge Park

- It has been great.
- I actually used the playground a couple times for the grandkids.
- It's still unusual that you see so many cars in the parking lot and no one is parking in handicap except me. I know we talked about that before.

- I walked around the park quite a bit and things look really good there.
- I am somewhat concerned about the finish on the wood benches around the playground, by the fence.

Director England – Scarlet’s Smile put those in, so I’ll check the information on them. We will be moving outhouses over there when the restrooms get shut down.

Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park

- I actually did go to park today, the north side of it.
- The trail looks nice.
- Whoever performed the national anthem a couple weeks ago; she almost brought me to tears.
- I will be going to the park more now that it’s cold.

ITEM 7: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Ms. Waterworth discussed the following with the Committee:

- I know they just had their Halloween decoration contest.
- I did not see anything on their calendar. I’ll reach out and let you know.

Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Waterworth discussed Village of Wolverine’s event, Breakfast with Santa, which will take place on December 15th at the Richardson Center.

ITEM 8: COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Discussion took place regarding potential nominations for next month.

ITEM 9: DOG PARK RULES

Director England discussed the following with the Committee.

- This is on here for discussion. Obviously we need to establish rules
- As of right now, we have nothing on the gate so they don’t have to pay to get in. That’s something we can look at in the future if we feel it is necessary.
- When I was out touring dog parks, there were only two communities that actually had that; Novi and West Bloomfield. West Bloomfield is resident-only, whereas Novi will allow others in, but they pay higher rates.
- We don’t want to overdo the rules, but we definitely need to have rules.

Director England read from the Oakland County Parks’ sign of dog park rules.

- *As a reminder, the park rules are to help keep visitors and their dogs safe in dog parks.*
- *All dogs must be licensed and up-to-date on vaccinations.* I think we definitely want to enforce that.
- *No human or animal food is allowed inside the dog runs.*
- *Water bowls are not allowed in the dog runs. Why?*

Vice Chairperson Petsch – There’s a staging area where they usually have water for the dogs.

Director England – Yes, and we are going to have that. Okay.

- *Toys or balls are not allowed in the dog park.* Is that typical?

Ms. Waterworth – No.

The Committee collectively agreed and discussion took place regarding the somewhat strict Oakland County Parks' rules.

Director England –

- *Dogs exhibiting any signs of illness should be kept at home and away from other dogs.*
- *Please pick up dog waste and dispose of in waste receptacle.*

In Milford, they have a small dog area and a large dog area. Their rules are:

- *Keep dogs on leash until inside enclosure.*
- *Maximum of two (2) dogs per adult*
- *Dogs must have a current license.*
- *Dogs under four months not permitted.*
- *Dogs must be accompanied by an adult (age 18 or older) at all times, even in enclosure. Children must be supervised by an adult.*
- *Owners are responsible for pets at all times.*
- *Use at your own risk. Those creating problems will be asked to leave.*
- *Dogs must be visible and under voice command.*
- *No food allowed in dog park.*
- *Dogs in heat may not enter.*
- *Please clean up pet waste.*

Ms. Waterworth – Can you define vaccines for Oakland County?

Mr. Berkheiser – To get your dog tag, that requires your ...

Ms. Waterworth – No, some boarding places now require ...

Director England – Bordetella.

Ms. Waterworth – No, they require you to have a flu shot unless you sign a waiver.

Director England – I think it's just vaccinations required to get the dog license.

Discussion continued regarding dog vaccinations, rules of other dog parks, enforcement of rules, and preparing a recommended list.

Ms. Waterworth – Is this going to be resident-only?

Director England – There's no way to police that, so no. Oakland County Parks has a sign about contacting the police when there is an issue, and I would like to include similar language. If there's an issue, don't call us – call the police, and it gives that phone number. I'll work with the Sheriff on that also.

The other piece for you to consider is that West Bloomfield actually shuts down. Every Wednesday, they close down to do maintenance. I think that is good if maintenance thinks they can handle having a set schedule.

Mr. Schoder – Wednesday would be great.

Mr. Berkheiser – There are some people who think their dog is under control, but they might need a muzzle. They could still run around, but maybe they need a muzzle.

Mr. Krueger – Now is this park going to be attended?

Vice Chairperson Petsch – No.

Director England – None of the others are either.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are we considering ... They have to register somewhere, right?

Director England – No, if it's not going to be attended.

Mr. Berkheiser – I think they should register somewhere. They have to prove their dog has been vaccinated with the appropriate dog tag which shows a date.

Director England – That would require a fob to enter.

Mr. Berkheiser – A key fob, yes, others have that and an 8-foot fence.

Ms. Waterworth – You just said it's not ...

Director England – It's not right now, but that's something that we have talked about.

Ms. Waterworth – Oh, in the future.

Director England – I don't disagree because that holds the owner accountable. They don't get the fob unless their dog has been vaccinated. In my opinion, residents should get the fob free for the first one. If they lose it, they'd have to pay to replace it. Non-residents would have to pay for their fob.

Ms. Vecellio – Does it run out at the end of the year?

Director England – Yes, we could deactivate them all so they would have to renew them.

Chairperson Walker – How long are dog licenses for?

Discussion continued that some licenses range from 3 to 5 years.

Ms. Waterworth – So basically, if you pay Commerce Township taxes, you can get a key fob.

Director England – Correct, and if you lose that, you have to pay for the replacement.

Ms. Waterworth – I would say we go like Milford because I don't see them having a problem, but I do know some areas started doing the key fob because they were having problems.

Director England – Sure, and it's the proof of the vaccination.

Mr. Berkheiser – The dog park will draw people from Highland, White Lake, Waterford, and all over.

Ms. Vecellio – How do you get in if you're not a resident?

Director England – You can pay to buy a fob and prove your dog is licensed.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – You were saying that West Bloomfield charges?

Director England – Yes, they do, and I don't know their fees.

Discussion continued regarding key fob systems and fees charged to use the dog park. Novi charges also.

Chairperson Walker – The bonus with the key fob is that if something does happen, the person can't just grab the dog and run. They have fobbed in there so eventually you will find out who was there.

Director England – And with the fob, we can identify the type of dog. We have the ability to enter in their dog's information so if the police were to get a call, we could potentially trace it back and deactivate.

Mr. Berkheiser – In that it's somewhat open, are we looking at putting cameras in there?

Director England – I think we always look at that, but it's not something I had. You could do it at the entrance.

Mr. Berkheiser – One for vandalism, and two, for addressing issues.

Discussions continued with Mr. Haney regarding security cameras, fob systems, fencing and gates, issues with people not picking up dog waste, rotating paddocks, ease of access, and costs for the fob system.

ITEM 10: LONG PARK SIGN PHOTO CONTEST

Director England – So, the Committee supports this idea.

The Committee collectively agreed.

Director England – And Denise, you'll work with me.

Ms. Vecellio – Yes.

Director England – Denise and I will go over the details and keep you updated.

Ms. Waterworth – Is there a sign that has the story of Robert H. Long and Mr. Berry who they named the lake after? Do they have pictures of them with the story?

Ms. Vecellio – I think there's pictures of animals and that's what's attached, but ...

Director England – No.

Ms. Waterworth – There's no pictures of them?

Mr. Berkheiser – You can go online and find them.

Director England – Denise and I will work on that. I think the Board would have to approve of any pictures.

ITEM 11: LONG PARK DESCRIPTIVE SIGN

Director England – This is the quote. I just need a motion to move forward and work with this company.

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Vecellio, to approve moving forward on the Long Park Descriptive Sign. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 12: PARK IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

Director England –

- They're anticipating that Victory Park will be done this year.
- They were supposed to mobilize for the Kayak Launch today. They're thinking that will take more than a week. The Kayak Launch itself we will purchase this year, but it is something that will have to be removed every year; so we will wait to install it until spring. The company is holding it for us.
- Bicentennial Park is done.

Mr. Berkheiser – What is the parking plan for the Kayak park? I went over there and there were 3 or 4 trucks over there for scuba divers. That's fine, but they were all parking in the area that we originally thought would be handicap parking.

Director England – Those will be identified as ADA parking.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is it planned to have all of that as ADA?

Director England – No, there will still be some other parking, and there is the parking lot across the street. It has boulders in front of it right now. You can't enter.

Mr. Krueger – You can go in, but you can only go so far. The parking blocks cut it in half. Is that part of the park?

Director England – It's part of the property. It's not part of this improvement, but it could always be used for overflow if we need to. There will be identified handicap spots.

Mr. Berkheiser – As we monitor that, we might want to put up a sign indicating overflow parking across the street and see how much it gets used.

ITEM 13: PARK EVENT UPDATES

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- You had the update on our Trail-or-Treat. It was a great success.
- The Christmas Tree Lighting event is December 7th from 4:30-7:30pm.

Discussion continued regarding the Trail-or-Treat event.

Ms. Kennedy – Next month, we will have a list of 2025 event dates.

ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS

- Mr. Berkheiser discussed treatment of the river at Byers. Director England spoke with EGLE about the concerns with vegetation growth and she has a contact at EGLE to address the issue with.
- Director England noted they just received an update on Berry Lake. The water levels are extremely low right now because the wastewater treatment plant has been lowering the levels all summer as they had a pipe they needed to clean out. This happens about every 10 years. Now they're in the process of bringing up the water levels. It's a much larger project that will be contracted out to control the vegetation.

Discussion continued regarding aquatic management. Ms. Schantz expressed her concerns about the river. Director England hopes that when she contacts the correct department at EGLE, they will share in the concerns.

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2024, at 6:00PM at the Township Hall. (No park visits before meetings from November to March)

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Schwartz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Krystal Schwartz, Secretary