

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

Monday, April 26, 2021

2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

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

ROLL CALL: **Present:** William Petsch, Chairperson
Rachel Kast, Vice Chairperson
Barbara Garbutt
Linda Champagne
Johnny Walker

Absent: Sarah Henderson, Secretary (excused)
Bob Berkheiser (excused)

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Garbutt, seconded by Champagne, to approve the March 22, 2021, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

AYES: Garbutt, Champagne, Kast, Walker, Petsch

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Berkheiser, Henderson **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.

Aaron Kasenow, Commerce Township – I wanted to talk about issues at the Wise Woods Park, unlawful vehicle use there, vandalism, spray painting, trees being cut down. It's been going on for quite a while. I've been here ten years, and for about five years I've been riding my mountain bike back there. Me and my son go back there because there's not a lot of traffic, but he almost got ran over by a kid on a 4-wheeler. He just missed him by a few inches.

I don't want to cause confrontation out there, but I've talked to a few people. I've talked to Larry Gray.

Chairperson Petsch – Feel free to call Oakland County Sheriffs.

Mr. Kasenow – I have, and I talked to David Scott and sent him an email a couple years ago. He told me to call Oakland County Sheriffs. I don't know if they came out.

Chairperson Petsch – We are aware of the situation, and the encroachment on Township property. I believe our attorneys are sending out letters to let all the neighbors know that it isn't their land. It belongs to the Township and they have no right to it.

Vice Chairperson Kast – Which park are you having a problem with?

Mr. Kasenow – It's the whole park.

Vice Chairperson Kast – Is it kids on little dirt bikes or kids on bigger ones?

Mr. Kasenow – Adults and kids.

Vice Chairperson Kast – I think it's people that aren't just in the neighborhood. I see them cross over from Mount Royal to the Library and then into the park itself.

Mr. Kasenow – If you go there any spring or summer night, and wait 15 minutes, they'll come by. They're really doing damage. I see the park as really being something nice, like the south side park in Walled Lake. It could be a really nice bike park someday.

Chairperson Petsch – Right, we're working on that.

Mr. Kasenow – Okay, and one suggestion. I saw where they put the 4x4's (bollards) and they kind of stagger them.

I read that there would be a disc golf course planned for Hickory Glen. Is there any information on that at all?

Chairperson Petsch – Not at this time, no, but it's all in the works, working with Village of Wolverine Lake and trying to figure that out.

Mr. Kasenow – Disc Craft is the second largest company.

Ms. Champagne – They're over in Wixom.

Discussions continued. Ms. England and Chairperson Petsch provided suggestions to Mr. Kasenow on what actions to take next time he witnesses unlawful activities in the park. He would follow up accordingly. Ms. England also provided the email address where she and Allison Kennedy can be reached regarding these issues: parks@commercetwp.com.

Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.

ITEM 1: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Interlakes Girls Softball – Tim Bailey

Mr. Bailey shared the following with the Committee:

- I don't have a lot to report.
- We started the season and opened the park up tonight for games.
- We've been practicing for about 6 weeks now.
- Everything looks really good out at the park.

Chairperson Petsch – How is your team count, good?

Mr. Bailey – It's good, yes. We're up about 3 teams this year. And the other thing is that we have all of the COVID-19 restrictions in place, in the concessions, and on the field.

Motor City Mountain Biking Association (MCMBA) – Mike Kearney

Mr. Kearney gave a review of the report that was included in the Committee's packet:

- It was good seeing all of you out at Hickory Glen.
- Update Summary:
 1. Trails remain in excellent shape.
 2. Two-track trails remain wide and clear.
 3. Drainage/sustainability improvements made last year are functioning great.
- The Orange Krush Cycling Club - Junior Race Team collected refuse from the trail and attacked a small area of invasive species for a couple hours yesterday, on Sunday, April 25th. They came out with a handful of 55-gallon bags full of stuff; a lot of metal and glass, a car battery, a toilet, et cetera. That was great progress and we had about 30 people out there.
- A Trail Day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 16th, pending no conflict with any of the ball sports. We don't need a lot of space, but we need to make sure there are no tournaments that day.
- Questions/ Actions Requested:
 1. Approval to meet with EGLE for Part 301, 303 Wetlands Permitting for Hickory Glen mountain bike trail connector, the bridge crossing.
 - According to the Pre-Application Meeting Request Part 301 (Inland Lakes and Streams), Part 303 (Wetlands Protection): "If the applicant is not the property owner, a letter from the landowner authorizing the EGLE to meet with the applicant and/or agent and enter the property described on this form for the purposes of the pre-application meeting."
 - We are still awaiting feedback from Jay on this; its been 6-8 months since the initial request. No action can be taken on this connector until this hurdle is cleared.
 - The Township can initiate that contact, setup the meeting and pay for it, or provide an affidavit to us so that we can initiate.
 2. Wise Woods: What is the plan for trails on this property?
 - Will the existing trails remain multi-use for cycling?
 - Will the MCMBA be allowed to design and build mountain biking trails on this property, including adding maps and signage?
 - We'd like to start having discussions on a second partnership with the Township for this park. That is a multi-year process for us to plan, design, fund and work with the Township.

Chairperson Petsch – We are working on development of the north side.

Vice Chairperson Kast – The parking lot.

Mr. Kearney – Yes, with the parking lot going in and more infrastructure, the hope is that you will have less vandalism and dirt bikes because there will be people there actually

taking care of it. Once the parking lot goes in, there will be more users there. We might start opening up discussions as to what our role will be.

Chairperson Petsch – Okay, get your plan together, give it to Emily and we'll get it on the agenda.

Mr. Kearney – Sounds good.

Lakes Area Hawks – Pete Lesner

Mr. Lesner shared the following with the Committee:

- We had a modified season last year. It was only a 6-game season for obvious reasons.
- This season, we're hoping for a lot better turnout. We probably only had 80 kids total last year rather than the normal 120. We already have 96 signed up right now.
- We only have 15 cheerleaders. That's kind of a problem, but every year it seems like cheer is going down because they have all that other competitive stuff.
- We have a fund going right now to repaint the building. A big part of our beautification plan is to repaint the building and the shed. It will be \$12,000 to do everything. We're working on that and hopefully that gets done this year, or next. We might do one building this year and one next year.
- Our camp is scheduled for July 30th to August 1st this year. That's all set and we have our guest speakers. The new coach at Walled Lake Northern will be there, along with a trainer and head coach for multiple schools.
- Everything is moving forward. The lawn care has started.
- We've got new helmets.

Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz

Ms. Schantz shared the following with the Committee:

- We had our Easter event on March 28th.
 - We took 75 photos.
 - We had 131 people.
 - We spaced out the visits by 10 minutes and cleaned in between each group.
 - Everybody seemed to have a good time, except for the cold weather.
- We held our first official kickoff meeting since last October. That was on April 22nd, and we voted on officers. We were two months behind. Dean is President, I am Treasurer, and Mike is Secretary. Ellen will participate also as a backup secretary when Mike is on vacation. She helps us out a lot.
- We planned our 2021 events.
- The next event would be the Ugly Duckling:
 - This is scheduled for August 15th from 10am-6pm.
 - We always hold this event on a Sunday, and we back up to Milford Memories. We moved it last year which did not work out well.
 - Being an outdoor event, we didn't know if the attorney would want to be involved with that.

Ms. England – Always. We will take it month-by-month at this point and see what the restrictions are. We're doing the same with our concerts. As we get closer, we will start looking at what we have to do.

Ms. Schantz – Is it okay if we start? It usually takes me 7 months to get it off the ground.

Ms. England – I would start, under the restrictions that you have now, and just remember that those are expected to be enforced. As the attorney explained to me, over at Scarlet's playground, even though it's outside, for a gathering there, they have to wear masks and maintain a 6' distance, along with limiting the number of people on the grounds. So plan as the rules are stated today, and then adjust as they change.

Ms. Schantz – Okay.

- Our next event would be Boo-Bash on Saturday, October 23rd from 6-8pm.
- Pictures with Santa would be Sunday, December 12th, from 11am-5pm.
- Our wish list for 2021:
 - The barn project, the east wall, got kicked back last year. That is the overhead door side.
 - I submitted my bid.
 - I usually get my barn wood from the mill owned by Iverson's Lumber up north. They ship it down and deliver it to us. But, as everyone in the construction industry knows, lumber has doubled, and it's more than double on barn siding.
 - We don't know what we're going to do. We have enough money in the bank to do it, but do we want to break the bank?
 - We're going to go ahead with the back wall. They already did the lean-to about 15 years ago. He resided it, but the guy who did it used pine, not cedar. It's all rotted. We're going to re-side that within the next couple of months.
 - We need to get through Kayla's project and through our cleanup.
 - We're going to rehab the Scout luggage cart. An Eagle Scout re-habbed it years ago but it's looking shabby. We're going to also chain it off again because kids get up there and jump on it and they've broken the chains.
 - At the same time, we thought it would be important to protect the front lawn equipment. We're going to chain off the tractor piece and put signs on it, "For your own safety, do not climb on or go beyond the barriers". We will make this as easy as possible for the mowers.

Ms. England – Talk with Mark when you go to install.

Ms. Schantz –

- We're going to rehab some of the duck barn where there's a trip hazard. We're going to extend the path. The concrete heaved toward the back of the barn, and the water sits in the low-lying area causing rot on the barn.
- We're going to put in more river rock. We have a landscape artist who is retired from the State of Michigan. He lives in West Bloomfield. I met him a couple weeks ago. He's going to help with the garden rehab, and do it more historically. He has given us ideas of including more river rock around the farmhouse and it will make it easier so maintenance doesn't have to mow over rocks.
- We have spring cleanup coming up with Bob's Scout group on May 2nd. We plan on cleaning the siding of the farmhouse that day.

- May 16th is garden planting day.
- Kayla was supposed to complete her project, but she's running behind. I will switch my days with her, and we will have somebody from Byers there with her as they are operating power tools.
- Our fall cleanup date is undetermined.

Windmill Farms (Horse Farm) – Carrie Hancock

Ms. Hancock shared the following with the Committee:

- Our middle school equestrian team practices are well underway.
- We are the host barn for all of Walled Lake, St. Patrick's and West Bloomfield middle school teams.
- We have 24 kids signed up right now, and registration is still open for Walled Lake, so it looks like we're going to have a couple more kids come in.
- It has been challenging to accommodate any of these sports with the COVID requirements, but we're making it work.
- We are continuing to get busier with lessons as the weather improves.
- We've been doing a lot of upgrades to the arenas and improving the equipment that it takes to maintain them.
- We are on track with the farm improvement list.
- We've got some additional issues with some trees growing around the farm, and I talked to Emily. She needs to take a look and see which ones we can cut down, which ones the Township needs to take care of, and how close they are to the wires so we don't have any problems in removing them.
- The first two weeks of May, we have a crew coming in with some trailers. We're going to work on getting the front cleaned up and the parking lot area so we can expand that.
- We've got some drawings in place of how I'd like to change the front fence line, from the parking lot where the public comes in, and the gating system.
- We also need to establish an improved viewing area for our new outdoor riding ring.
- It would be nice at some point too to have the Committee come out to the farm, maybe in June, by the time we get some things underway and it's on track toward looking like it needs to be.
- I had a chance to briefly meet with John and bring him up to speed. He represents Windmill Farm to the group. He and his family have been long-time supporters and I look forward to working with him. There's a lot to learn about the facility.
- Looking forward to getting our projects going.

Lakes Athletics – Josh Springer

A report was submitted in the packet:

- *Opening Day is this Saturday, April 24th and the park will be full of people. We will be crossing over with several leagues this year which will bring increased exposure to Hickory Glen Park.*
- *The grading was completed and the outhouse is in place.*
- *The concession stand has been opened and the county has approved the license renewal for 2021.*
- *Baseball is happening every night and almost all day on Saturdays.*

- *Championship Day, Saturday, June 12th*
- *Tournament Dates:*
 - *June 26th weekend*
 - *July 24th weekend*
 - *August 7th weekend*
- *Needs from the Township:*
 - *Richardson Center – Hosting meetings in person at the Richardson Center would be fantastic.*
 - *Backstop Windscreens – In 2020, the Township suspended our acquisition of sponsored windscreens in replacement for some Commerce focused windscreens. Where do we stand with that?*
 - *Dog Owner & Garbage Cans – We are seeing increases in the number of times that garbage cans are dragged from the road onto the baseball diamonds. These are used by dog owners to block exits so their dogs can run. They then leave the cans (sometimes filled with trash) on the field.*

CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney

A report was submitted via email, and Ms. England read the following into the record:

- *Spring season well underway (multiple matches every weekend; a few weeknight matches occasionally)*
- *Parking currently is an issue; anticipate it being only slightly better post construction (The attached photos would be forwarded to the Committee).*
- *The sewer line construction has been handled very well as far as affecting the soccer fields.*

Ms. England – I know Rachel said they are actually parking out along S. Commerce Road, so we have started a conversation about having to expand parking at Dodge.

Commerce Little League

No report.

ITEM 2: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. England discussed the following:

- I submitted a report in the packet.
- I think the biggest thing we have on the Senior Center side is trying to reopen, and we're doing that gradually and safely.
- We will be having our first in-person event for the seniors. It will be an outdoor event, a Cinco De Mayo luncheon. We're going to have a taco truck come in. They will be able to do a pickup and go if they're not comfortable staying, but we will have seating outside if they choose to say.
- Beginning next month, we are going to bring back bingo. We can only have 25 people in the room. We have it set up in a way that we can safely have 25 people in the room while they social distance. Obviously, if they're from the same household, they can sit at the same table. If not, they'll be at a separate table.
- For those people, we will be bringing back the hot lunch.
- The Board did approve the pathways for Dodge Park on the north side, and they did approve for us to go out to get bids on the Wise Road parking.

- As far as the sidewalks, we're just waiting on CDBG to give us final approval on the reprogramming, which was approved by the Board.

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

See above comments by Ms. England.

ITEM 4: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

No report in Mr. Berkheiser's absence.

Champagne – Hickory Glen Park

- We did the tour of Hickory Glen.
- It looks like the parking is moving along.
- It looks wonderful over there.
- Josh and his crew always do a great job.
- I don't know if Emily wants to add anything more to that.

Discussions took place regarding issues with dog owners letting their dogs run in the park without leashes, and not removing trash bags after picking up after their dogs.

Garbutt – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- Long Park is still in disarray. There are trees down and other issues from the road construction, but it's looking better.
- When the road opens, I think it'll be full again.
- The sledding hill is nicely mowed.

Walker – Maple Glen & Windmill Farms

- I did an impromptu tour today. There were a lot of people there and they were just parking everywhere, but everything looked really good.
- As Carrie said, I met with her today for a few minutes. We worked on a few things at the barn. I think we're going to make a huge effort on that coming up soon.

Kast – Dodge Park

- Dodge Park is good.
- Like Chris said, there's lot's of construction happening everywhere.
- Last weekend when I was there, it was a little weird how they had the barricades setup, just north of the bridge where they've been moving some of the equipment. It wasn't actually blocking where they were working. It was more just pushed aside in the mud.
- Because Bob is not here, I actually have noticed in the past couple weeks, people are walking from the Library across the power line right-of-way and back into Wise Woods. I also noticed, coincidentally, that there's a bunch of trash there, behind the graveyard. If we could figure out a way to get a trash can somewhere near there, it would be good.

Ms. England – We're working on getting signs to put up in the cemetery, as far as keeping people out of there and allowing the Sheriff to then ticket if they are in there. I

do worry about putting a garbage can back there because it might encourage people to go that way.

Vice Chairperson Kast – The trash isn't in the graveyard. It's behind on the trail in the park.

Ms. England – Mark, is that something you can look at?

Mr. Schoder – Yes.

Ms. England – Since we're talking about Dodge, the restrooms are on schedule to open by the end of this weekend. It passed inspection. There are going to be some loose ends and landscaping issues, but we will be able to open it for public use.

Petsch - Bicentennial Park

- Nothing to report.
- I just drive by and see it in use.

Henderson - Byers and Mill Race

No report in Ms. Henderson's absence.

ITEM 5: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Ms. Champagne discussed the following with the Committee:

- June 5th, Golf & Dinner Outing at Baypointe Golf Club: \$85 for golf and dinner, and the proceeds go to the Tiki Night festivities and fireworks in the Village. Dinner is \$40 at the new Zerbo's Dining Room. You can sign up for either, or both.
- Sunday, June 13th, Veteran's Park Dedication at 11am: Bricks are still for sale at \$100 for a 4x8. A large 8x8 brick is \$225. If you have a veteran or somebody in the services that you'd like to purchase a brick for. Benches are \$2000.
- I am posting my resignation as I'm moving out of the Township. I know that Supervisor Gray and Administrator Gillam are talking about a replacement for me, but I'm available through the May meeting if you need me.

Chairperson Petsch – Well, I hope to see you in May, but if not, thank you for all your service, Linda. It's been really great since we've had you on the board representing the Village.

Ms. Champagne – It's been really fun.

ITEM 6: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- The Byers duck barn was damaged by vandalism. Shingles and three roof vents were damaged. We can hold off on replacing those. They used a big stump to get up on the roof. We're going to cut that down to the ground.
- Bicentennial:
 - The park is getting used by lacrosse, bigtime. Saturday, they were packed. I think they want a porta-pottie. That's up to Parks and Rec.
 - Bill, you need to give me paint for the pavilion.

- Scarlet's Smile:
 - The playground is really getting used. Chad was through there and he said they were parked on Commerce Road. They were packed.
 - We make sure that it's covered and cleaned every day.
- Trash cans – We are at our limit. I put more at Maple. We will have to up it if we want to order more.

Chairperson Petsch discussed the Walled Lake Community Education Lacrosse Program playing at Bicentennial.

Ms. Schantz discussed the vandalism issues at Byers, having Metro address issues with the porta-pottie, and inquired about Maintenance rebuilding a shed.

Mr. Schoder also discussed having DTE remove a low hanging cable.

ITEM 7: STARR FAMILY SPLASH PAD

Carol and Bob Starr provided handouts of the splash pad concept plan.

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- We have Carol and Bob here, and Angie from Vortex, the splash pad company.
- This is to go at Scarlet's Smile in the area that the Clark family had originally talked about putting in a splash pad.
- This is the way that the Starr's would like to honor their daughter.
- They met with Vortex to have the concept designed.
- They have had two meetings internally with us at Commerce Township.
- We have met with the engineer and we're trying to work out all the details about long-term commitment.
- Obviously this will have to go to the Township Board for final approval.
- They are here to give you some background on the why and how they want to see this get done.
- I feel that they definitely have 100% support from us administratively.
- They're here to seek a recommendation so that they can go to the Township Board and move forward.

Ms. Starr – I'm a resident of Commerce Township and a retired school teacher from Walled Lake Schools. I know Barb Garbutt very well. We are here requesting the Scarlet's area that was designated as a water splash park originally, in memory of our daughter, Jessica Starr, who passed away two years ago. We want to memorialize her in the area that she grew up in. We thought it would be a great way to remember her. Her children have requested that we do a splash park.

We have several municipalities who are looking at us to bring it to their community, including Novi, which is where her children live, or Wixom where she lived for a while, but we came to Commerce first. She graduated from Walled Lake Central and she went K-12 in Walled Lake Schools, and she lived a lot of her life in this community.

That's what we're proposing. We have Angie from Vortex here who designed a beautiful park. Jessica was a weather meteorologist at Fox 2. She tragically passed away after having Lasik surgery that went awry. We want to remember her in a fun, happy, beautiful park. We go to Scarlet's and we see children laughing and happy. Her children

have also gone there, they see it and they think it will be a wonderful way to remember their mother.

Ms. England – We asked a lot of hard questions in our meeting. We were very pleased with the answers that we got. What we originally thought a splash would be for the Township, with the other company that Scarlet was going to go through, was going to be a very large, long-term expense for the Township. This system seems to be a pretty easy, maintenance-free system.

At the time of the meeting, we did think we would be able to hook up to city water, but then we found out the actual cost to use city water, so we are going to look at other options and I will work with you on options to present to the Board.

I think this will be a great project. They understand that it is government and it's not going to happen tomorrow. They have to raise money and get things in place, including parking. They're here looking for your blessing on their project so that we can keep the ball rolling forward.

Chairperson Petsch – I'm sorry for your loss. I really enjoyed seeing your daughter in the morning when I got up and had coffee and got ready for work. She was a beautiful lady.

Ms. Starr – Thank you.

Vice Chairperson Kast – I graduated from Walled Lake Central in 2001 with her, and I am so sorry for your loss also. I think this is a great project.

Chairperson Petsch – I think so too.

MOTION by Kast, supported by Garbutt, to move forward with the Starr Splash Pad project research. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. England – The May Township Board looks like it will be rather large. Considering restrictions on gatherings, we are looking at taking this to their June meeting.

Ms. Champagne inquired about the size of the splash park and the potential to make it larger. Ms. England explained that the existing space is limited, however, it actually accommodates a lot of kids. Angie from Vortex stated that up to 233 kids could play in the splash park at a time, and it is ADA universal compliant.

ITEM 8: REGINA MUSIC BOX - LOCATION FOR DISPLAY

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- I got another price, and it is still \$8,000 to \$10,000 to have a cabinet made for the music box.
- Allison and I talked earlier and she had some other ideas versus building a case.
- When I mentioned plexiglass, people don't like the look of plexiglass.
- We do have a museum fund, and there is money in the fund.

Discussion took place regarding potential alternatives. The Committee members requested that Ms. England forward the specs via email so they can look into lower cost options.

Ms. Schantz suggested contacting Henderson Glass, and/or Glass & Mirror Craft in Wixom. Both specialize in shower walls.

ITEM 9: DE-HUMIDIFIER AT BYERS HOUSE

Ms. England – I will let Karen talk on this, because this is something that Byers has requested for the farmhouse. Dean sent a couple of dehumidifiers he found at Home Depot.

Ms. Schantz discussed the following with the Committee:

- The pricing is all over the place, but we researched dehumidifiers; a good one big enough to remove the moisture from the farmhouse.
- The farmhouse needs a dehumidifier in the summer, and a humidifier in the winter. The issues are showing in the walls and in the carpet.
- We are happy to help Maintenance with filling and/or emptying a humidifier and a dehumidifier.

Chairperson Petsch – Do you want to pay for the humidifier or the dehumidifier?

Ms. Schantz – Either or, take your pick.

Chairperson Petsch – A lot of dehumidifiers, you can run a hose into a drain so you don't have to bother with it.

Discussions continued regarding a water source for the humidifier, emptying the dehumidifier or running a hose, and changing of filters and condensers.

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Champagne, to spend up to \$300 on a dehumidifier for the Byers Farmhouse, and Friends of Byers will buy the humidifier.

Discussion –

Schantz – Do you want us to write you a check for the humidifier?

England – It would be easier if you just bought it.

Walker – If we're purchasing the dehumidifier, are we also having Mark install it?

Petsch – Mark's just going to drop it off.

Schoder – I'll get one with a hose for the drain.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 10: HORSE FARM UPDATE

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- Carrie gave her update and timeline regarding pickup of the front area.
- This is going back to the goals and objectives that we set for Carrie, as well as for the Township, setting priorities and working with the budget that we had.
- Originally, we talked about purchasing fence posts and having Carrie get her volunteer organization together to set those posts. If the Township purchases 200 posts, we drop them off and they set a date. We'll keep moving forward there until we can get all of the broken posts fixed. Since that conversation, we

identified that the majority of the posts are broken. They're still stable, but broken. We did seek pricing on replacing all of the perimeter fencing. That came in at a pretty high dollar. We're working on a limited budget and have some other priorities we want to see fixed. Therefore, I think we're back to the original idea of the Township purchasing fence posts and letting the volunteers fix the posts to make that perimeter fencing secure for the horses. I'll continue to work with Carrie on the date she needs those posts.

- The other piece on the Township is to relocate the well bladder from the house to the barn. That will require electrical, a building and heating the room. I'm not positive if we have to put in a new well yet or not. We're waiting to hear back from well companies. There's a lot of moving parts which Jay is working on getting. He was meeting with well drillers, electricians and builders to get quotes so we can put that package together. That job will also include relocating and replacing all of the water hydrants, up to five.
- The other piece is the electrical and the roof. The roof over the observation room has been leaking. Obviously, the roof is leaking on the electrical so we need to get that roof sealed and we're working on getting pricing for that.
- Once the roof is complete, then we will work on getting that electrical fixed. Then, Carrie can follow through on redoing that observation room to make it ADA accessible and open so that she can be successful in her programming.

Mr. Walker – We're working to get the garbage out in front of the property and the mobile home done.

Ms. England – We will set up a walk-through for the Committee to visit the farm.

ITEM 11: PARK USE POLICY

Ms. England – Allison has been working on this. She took our conversation from last month, she visited other communities to see what they are doing, she looked through ordinances and put this together as a draft for you of the do's and don'ts. Hopefully you had a chance to read it and have some comments.

Ms. Kennedy – I think this is still missing a few pieces. We wanted to include field use, but that did not make it into this draft. Additionally, a separate policy for pavilion rentals. We get several phone calls a day just to reserve any pavilion within the park. Of course, the pavilion at Dodge is the most popular, but we do get requests at all of the parks to use pavilions for private events, birthday parties, graduation parties, memorial services, etc. because people are looking for anything that is outside. Going forward, I think that it will continue as the parks continue to grow.

Ms. England – Even though that piece may be separate from this policy, that doesn't necessarily get approved with the policy, because we obviously need our Maintenance department to grow, and we have to do a lot of education when it comes to that piece. We can't just start renting out pavilions or reserving them after we've been telling people they are first come, first served. I think it will be a year of education in moving over to the new system.

Ms. Champagne – It was a lot of work. Thanks, Allison.

Ms. Kennedy – Is there anything that you think is missing that you would like to see added? Is there anything in here that you would like removed or adjusted? A lot of these are kind of based on current Township ordinances, and if it's not a current ordinance, then it's something that is followed by surrounding communities and Oakland County Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Champagne – Is there going to be a cleanup fee, or a deposit?

Ms. Kennedy – For pavilion rentals, they would have a security deposit, similar to the Richardson Center. If they do not clean up after events, they will not get their security deposit back.

Ms. Champagne – Because it's on weekends and we don't have anybody out there, are they going to be allowed to take pictures with a date stamp?

Ms. England – This will not take effect until we grow our Maintenance department. The goal is to have 7-day coverage by Maintenance, and Mark is working very hard on that. Once we get the full-time and part-time positions filled, then we'll have somebody responsible for going out to check these sites. They will have a set time for the pavilion use, and a staff person will be there at the conclusion to make sure it's cleaned up.

Chairperson Petsch – Allison did a great job. I thought we should have been doing this a long time ago. We're finally going in the right direction. I think the field use will be tied in with all of it, with a pavilion, or an area that they will require. At Bicentennial, we've got a pavilion there. We will paint it and get it in shape. We have the ball field there and the volleyball courts.

Ms. England – We ask that you review the policy over the next month. Allison wants to go out and measure pavilions and count picnic tables so we have all of those details. Next month, we can go through this piece by piece.

Ms. Kennedy – If you can come with some recommendations, as far as do we want to do rentals only on the weekends, or during the week too. Is it something we do every day? Do you only want to have rentals in the peak season, Memorial to Labor Day? Do you want to expand that?

Discussion continued regarding having reservations and rentals occur seasonally during prime time.

Ms. Kennedy – What are your thoughts on the pavilion at Scarlet's Smile? That is a high-demand park. Do you charge the same amount for those, or charge extra? Different communities treat them differently. A couple of our pavilions do have electricity, and they charge extra to have access.

Mr. Walker – Do we have to turn the electricity on?

Ms. Kennedy – There's a way that you can lockbox it.

Mr. Walker – I would definitely charge more for Scarlet's Smile.

Vice Chairperson Kast – I would also be concerned about renting that out on the weekends because it's the only covered space, and there are families who are there because they have kids with special needs and I think they should get priority over parents wanting to throw a birthday party.

Discussion continued regarding the challenges with this transformation to pavilion rentals. Ms. England noted that there is another pad at Dodge and Mrs. Clark has a donor who could donate another pavilion.

Chairperson Petsch – Everybody should review this and come back at our next meeting with your ideas for Allison.

Ms. England – I don't disagree with Rachel. I think that's going to be a tough one to rent out. You have grant funds over there, and if you charge rent, that sends the wrong message.

Chairperson Petsch – We should look at building something down the road that would be for rental use.

Ms. England – Yes, we can give them another option.

ITEM 12: CONCRETE PADS FOR BLEACHERS

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- I will ask for Mark's help on this, but this goes back to the request we had from Lakes Athletics.
- They got a grant to get bleachers.
- We discussed maintenance issues with bleachers in the past, and that it would be nice to have them on a concrete pad to make them more ADA accessible. In addition, you won't have the grass growing up and you won't have to put chemicals in the ground to kill the grass.
- I asked Mark to go over and he did meet with Josh to get the right sizes and quantities. This is just for Hickory Glen at this time, although I think we should be consistent for Maple Glen.
- The price he came up with was \$576.68 per pad. How many total do they need, Mark?

Mr. Schoder – Ten.

Ms. England – And how many can you do in one truck?

Mr. Schoder – Three.

Ms. England – He is suggesting you do three pads at a time so you just bring in one truck, let them sit and monitor them to prevent vandalism.

Ms. Champagne – It seems like a pretty fair price.

Ms. England – That is with the Maintenance staff doing a lot of the work. Our new Maintenance person has a lot of background history in concrete, so it works out well for us.

MOTION by Kast, supported by Garbutt, to approve the cost of the Concrete Pads for the Bleachers, not to exceed \$676.68 per pad, for a total quantity of 10 pads at Hickory Glen Park.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 13: PARK EVENTS

Ms. England – This is just a running agenda item, however, we do have a specific goal for tonight to lock down the Oktoberfest date.

The Committee held discussion regarding the options of September 11th or October 9th. The M-5K is scheduled for October 9th and there had been discussion of tying the events together. The Committee decided upon October 9th for Oktoberfest.

Ms. Kennedy – My other request is that we designate a cause that the funds from the M-5K will go to. Previously, the 2019 M-5K stated that funds were for future Parks & Recreation events. There was discussion of multiple things; trail ways, dog park, picnic tables, and making more of the parks ADA accessible.

The Committee discussed options for where to designate funds from the M-5K event. The focus was upon ADA compliance on the trail ways, and connectivity to improve ADA accessibility. Improving and creating new trailheads was discussed. The consensus was that funds will go toward “trail way improvements, maintenance and further development” in accordance with the trail way master plan.

ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS

Chairperson Petsch – Does anybody want anything on the agenda? Besides the splash pad?

Ms. England – That will go to Township Board in June.

Chairperson Petsch – The Horse Farm updates will be back. The Parks Use Policy will be back.

Russ Lefevre, 2032 Kratage Ct, Commerce Township – I'm really concerned about what you guys call Wise Woods. In the last five years, that property has really gone downhill. There's numerous things going on. People are just out there destroying the property. My property backs right up to the park. I probably put in 11 miles in the park today. I'm out there every day. I walk every trail, on both sides of Wise and both sides of the lake. I know the park better than anybody, and it's being terrorized by kids, motorcycles, 4-wheelers and cars.

Chairperson Petsch – I'm sorry, were you here earlier in the meeting when this gentleman spoke?

Mr. Lefevre – No.

Chairperson Petsch – All right, well we went through this once already today. We understand that there's a problem.

Mr. Petsch provided the same suggestions to Mr. Lefevre, which had been given to Mr. Kasenow during Public Comments at the beginning of the meeting, and he advised on what actions to take next time unlawful activities are witnessed in the park. He asked Mr. Lefevre to email Ms. England and Ms. Kennedy at parks@commercetwp.com regarding these issues.

Discussion continued regarding addressing and preventing issues at the Wise Woods and Victory Park. The Committee discouraged residents from confronting offenders. Instead, they should report any incidents they see.

Mr. Lefevre also discussed issues with a training session that the Fire Department had held in the park earlier this year.

Chairperson Petsch thanked Mr. Lefevre for his help with addressing issues at the park.

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be Monday, May 17, 2021, at 7:00PM, with a park tour at Maple Glen at 6:00PM.

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Kast, supported by Champagne, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Sarah Henderson, Secretary