

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

Monday, June 28, 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
Sarah Henderson, Secretary
Barbara Garbutt
Bob Berkheiser
Johnny Walker

Absent: Linda Champagne (excused)

Also Present: Allison Kennedy, Asst. to Parks & Recreation Director
Larry Gray, Township Supervisor

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Garbutt, seconded by Henderson. to approve the May 17, 2021, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Petsch welcomed Supervisor Larry Gray to the meeting.

Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.

Debbie Taylor, 1493 Mariner Drive, Walled Lake – I'm not sure if I'm on the agenda.

Mr. Berkheiser – You're not on the agenda.

Ms. Taylor – I'm a photographer. I go to Robert H. Long Park. I recently contacted Ms. Edward, the DNR, as well as Lieutenant Reyes because of all the issues taking place at the park. It is stemming from the signs not listing many items that are going on so they cannot be enforced. I'm here to bring to your attention the issues of vandalism and the killing of birds. They're breaking their nests off the bridge and underneath the pavilion. The trash that has been going on. I was part of a cleanup and I've been doing it on a regular basis now. We've had issues with people coming with their dogs; some are on leashes, some are not. When I talked to the gentleman from the DNR, he stated several of the signs that need to be listed in order for enforcement to be able to help. We've had people going out of there with tubs of snakes, turtles, turtle eggs, bird eggs. We want to keep this park the beautiful sanctuary that it is and allow a lot of people to enjoy it. There's a lot of fishing hooks in around the bridge area, as well as other areas. We've

got pictures of birds that have injuries, and it's not just from the hooks. It's from people feeding bread, pizza, cheese, salami and then leaving the trash behind.

It's just a start of what I'm here to present. As a photographer, there's some really great photographers that ...

Chairperson Petsch – Okay, we're not here for a presentation. We're just looking for public comments and the issues that you're bringing up here, but if you'd like to discuss something like this, call Emily and get on the agenda for something of that nature and then we can continue with that.

Ms. Taylor – I was told that she would not be here tonight, but that I was on the agenda for this topic.

Mr. Berkheiser – So we're not doing an extensive discussion on that topic. There's one area of it that has to do with the issue of fishing, or Long Park Ordinances. We're looking at the ordinances for Long Park, but we're not here to discuss the wide ranging issues that we have, to be honest with you, in all of our parks, such as leaving trash, vandalism, etc. I understand what you're saying and I don't understand why people do that. We have it in almost all of our parks.

Ms. Taylor – Yes, sir. I realize that and that's why I'm here. I have been there on a daily basis.

Discussions continued regarding issues in the parks. Mr. Berkheiser explained that residents witnessing incidents should not confront offenders, but they should call the authorities. Chairperson Petsch asked that Ms. Taylor put together a document outlining the issues so that they can be addressed through the ordinances. We can put that on our agenda to review.

Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.

ITEM 1: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Interlakes Girls Softball – Tim Bailey

- We had a very successful tournament at the beginning of June.
- This week is our last week of our regular season. We have championship games on Wednesday.
- It has been a good season and we're looking forward to planning for the next season in September.
- I would like to ask that we keep the item that we talked about moving forward, as far as updates to the bathrooms.

Mr. Berkheiser – Have you done any work toward that?

Mr. Bailey – I have not.

Mr. Berkheiser – Would you have a group of folks that would be able to work?

Ms. Kennedy – As far as checking into the epoxy and all that?

Mr. Berkheiser – Right.

Mr. Bailey – I can get some bids.

Mr. Berkheiser – We need to know what you're looking for, rough costs, and if you're splitting it, or if you're looking for the Township to do it.

Mr. Bailey – The epoxy floor is the easy part. The other part is the plumbing and updating the fixtures. That's what I've asked you guys to consider.

Mr. Berkheiser – We're having plumbing issues in our parks, but you guys close it. You open it for baseball season, and then close it every night? It's only open when games are playing?

Mr. Bailey – Yes, so we don't have any issues with vandalism.

Motor City Mountain Bike Association – Mike Kearney

Mr. Kearney shared the following with the Committee:

- Emily, Jay and I met about a month ago. We talked about the permitting situation for the bridge. They were going to follow-up on Township requirements at the Attorney-Engineer meeting. Jay was able to reach out to the EGLE contact and get their feedback. We expect that will be forwarded onto the permit areas for inspection, Part 301 and Part 303, for inland streams and wetlands. They also brought up Part 31 which is a 100-year floodplain, so there could be additional requirements. We will go back and request that letter from the Township saying that we can talk with EGLE, then set up an onsite meeting with the right people so they can tell us if we need a permit or not.
- Wise Woods, we've talked before about the proposal for that. We're working on it, but we've been busy with Spring Trail Days and chapter events. We'll bring something back to you. I think we have some good ideas for the south side, and on the north side would be another project.
- The season has started back up with a reduction in COVID requirements. Things are back in full swing so some teams and schools are out practicing at Hickory Glen regularly. I think Huron Valley was out there on Sunday. It's not a race venue this year like it was last year.

Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz

Ms. Schantz shared the following with the Committee:

- Our quotes came in on our siding repair for the front door, or the east wall, at \$2667.84. I will get copies to Emily. That's also redoing the back wall lean-to area. We are lucky that the company I work for, Doors of Pontiac, will let us use their scissor lift so we don't have to rent one.
- We had six artists on the grounds and they posted on Facebook on our Byers page. They are part of the Michigan Watercolor Association. They go to historical sites all over the State of Michigan and they paint historical sites. I invited them to our Ugly Duckling event.
- The Ugly Duckling event is going strong. It's scheduled for Sunday, August 15th, from 10am to 6pm.

- I purchased a wrought iron bistro table and two chairs years ago. They were stolen. I've been looking to replace them, and I finally found a set. I want your opinion as to where they should be placed and about bolting them to the ground.

Discussion took place regarding the size of the table and chairs, possibly placing them on the patio by the farmhouse, bolting them to the concrete, not having to move them to cut grass, and working with Allison and Emily on the details.

Ms. Schantz also inquired about removing COVID signs from the barn. Supervisor Gray confirmed that they could be removed.

Windmill Farms (Horse Farm) – Carrie Hancock

- We finished up with our middle school equestrian team meet. It was a successful meet and the kids did well.
- We're getting ready to start our high school teams. Practice starts in July.
- There will be two more horse shows on the Huron Valley equestrian school grounds, one in July and one in August. The recent show was rained out.
- I was happy to have Ron Campbell come out from Oakland County to do an assessment on the barn. I'm sure Emily will have more information on the results.
- We have many ongoing maintenance projects.
- There was a question last time about offering Scout badges from us. Anybody interested in that can contact me. I know the badges are self-directed through a merit badge counselor. An individual can sign up for lessons and let us know what they want to cover, or a troop can do a badge program. I can customize a program.

Mr. Berkheiser – There are merit badge counselors, and Mr. Walker works with a troop also. I think he would be willing to be one for the horsemanship merit badge. Most troops, if you don't have someone that is doing something with horses, would not have somebody to be able to do the merit badge. My hope was that you had a program. You can look it up online and find the requirements for a merit badge. You can increase what you do for the community and make it more public. You can set up a table and advertise at the Concerts in the Park. Those are on Friday nights, starting July 9th, and they run for six Fridays. Reach out to Allison and Emily on that. I'm trying to expand your services.

Ms. Hancock – I am as well.

Mr. Walker – I can bring the equestrian badge information to you sometime this week.

Ms. Hancock – I do have all of that. It's my understanding that it's directed by a merit badge counselor.

Mr. Berkheiser – You can be a merit badge counselor. Fill out the paperwork.

Ms. Hancock – I'm game for all of that. I just need the stamp.

Mr. Walker – I'll bring it all this week.

Chairperson Petsch noted that reports had been submitted in the packet from Commerce Little League and Lakes Athletics.

ITEM 2: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following:

- At the Senior Center, we are going to be resuming all activities starting Tuesday, July 6th. That includes cards, bingo, and regular lunches indoors.
- Coming this month we have Walton Woods, which is a local senior living facility, providing lunch for the seniors, as well as the Senior Compass Group.
- Rentals have resumed for community group use as of June 7th. For those of you that would normally have meetings at the community center, just reach us out and let us know your upcoming meeting dates.
- Last month for People's Express, we had 270 riders for Commerce Township, and 47 for the Village.
- We were providing drive-through frozen meals for seniors through COVID. That will be ending on Wednesday of this week.
- Parks and Recreation continues to work on league agreements and making those specific to each group.
- Anti-graffiti paint was put up at Mill Race and we have not had any other issues to this point. We'll also say that is due to the help of Lieutenant Reyes and the Sheriffs patrolling more in the parks.
- Concerts are starting next Friday, July 9th, and will be every Friday through August 13th. We will have food trucks and face painters. We did not have bounce houses because we didn't know with COVID rules how that would go, but we'll have other activities for the kids.
- We continue to look into and tour splash pads in the area to gather more information as far as what we want to do for Commerce Township moving forward before a final decision is made.
- We are working to try to reallocate some of our CDBG to designate funds we already have toward pathway improvements at the Richardson Center.
- As Bob alluded to, we're working with the public to try to educate on what are appropriate items to be flushed in the new restrooms at Dodge Park. We've had a plumber there three or four days last week because we continue to get blockages. Water and sewage has come up through the drains in the bathrooms.
- The Maintenance Department was working on getting additional signs placed at Wise Road regarding non-motorized vehicles. We hope that will cut down on some of the traffic that we've had in there over the last few months.

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- At our June 8th Township Board meeting, we appointed Krystal Schwartz. I would like to officially thank Rachel for her time. I think she has been a breath of fresh air for us and a lot of hard work. I keep telling her she needs to move back to Commerce Township. Krystal will take over Rachel's term.
- We purchased our first set of benches. We bought 10. Some are accounted for as memorial donations.

- We gave our Supervisor permission to move forward with getting a couple of part-time ordinance officers. I envision that would potentially also cover things at the parks.
- The bleacher pads; that's a project we've been working on at Hickory Glen. Those were approved and our Maintenance Department will pour those pads. After those are done, I think there's a plan for more at other parks.
- We had a discussion on the historical marker project that the Byers folks are working on, just to keep the Board in the loop.
- I want to remind everyone that we have our quarterly discussion session July 27th. Those who can attend, there is an expectation for us to be there. It is a meeting with Parks. This is our opportunity to present to the Board what we want, what we're working on, and get an idea of what they want so we're in good communication.
- Some of us know, we have cameras up in different areas. Supervisor Gray has identified several folks that are doing graffiti. The Sheriffs sat at Mill Race while the anti-graffiti paint cured. I believe we caught someone there. We also caught someone in the DDA. The cameras are much better than they used to be.
- Obviously we have music in the park. We hope our Parks folks and Township Board members will attend.

ITEM 4: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Garbutt – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- Snowy Ridge is not being used. It looks very good.
- Long Park is still a beautiful place.
- We're getting a lot of lily pads, but the phragmites have disappeared.
- There are still some things to be done in the parking lot.
- I think we've discussed the other things along the pathway and on the bridge.

Mr. Berkheiser – For our minutes, I would say we need to start thinking about resurfacing the rails along the bridge. They're rough and splintered. I think this was the first time in three years we were able to get back to the end of the trail. The viewing or fishing pad that's out there, you'd have to go through about 6 feet of water to get out there. Ask Mark to look at it and maybe put gravel out there. The other pad was actually better than it has been in years.

Barb, my question to you, it seems like a huge amount of lily pads. At some point, I see that overgrowing the lake. I know it's a nature park, but on the other side it looks like there won't be any water. How do we control that?

Ms. Garbutt – I'm going to research that. Mark should also take a look under the pavilion where the concrete is really split.

Mr. Berkheiser – Yes, it's cracked and looks like some patching needs to be done. The pavilion looks like it's in good shape. I know people have taken birdhouses down, but there's not as much bird droppings on everything.

Ms. Garbutt – People have knocked down some of the swallow nests, and that shouldn't happen.

Chairperson Petsch – I noticed that the concrete was poured in sections. Three quarters of it is in good shape. In the future, we could just replace sections.

Mr. Berkheiser – And one of our maintenance guys has experience in concrete work, so he can come up with something over there.

Kast – Dodge Park

- The park is super busy. There's always a ton of kids there.
- I get a lot of questions about the other side where they're working on the sewers, by the bridge. I assume that will all be cleaned up when they're done.

Mr. Berkheiser – At some point.

Ms. Kennedy – I know Emily was going to talk to the engineer about what would happen when that was all done.

Mr. Berkheiser – I think it's the sewer line that runs along Newton and cuts into the area where our pumphouse is, near Byers.

Chairperson Petsch – I bet there's some water moving through the creek there today.

Vice Chairperson Kast – Someone asked me if we are going to put soap dispensers in the bathrooms at Dodge?

Ms. Kennedy – I guess I didn't realize there aren't any there.

Henderson – Byers and Mill Race

- The support we got from the police and the Township was fantastic on drying the anti-graffiti paint.
- I still have a concern. Where the pathway gets overrun with water; if we do something, it would ultimately end up needing maintenance. Are we then taking on liability or responsibility? If you do the loop around Mill Race you will sink 3" down.

Discussion continued regarding the location of water-related issues, using woodchips in those areas, and previous help from WWAM for projects like this. Mr. Berkheiser and Ms. Schantz discussed WWAM scheduling. Last she heard, they were not doing any 2021 projects, but she would check again.

Walker – Maple Glen & Windmill Farm

- I was at Maple Glen over the weekend. It's still extremely busy there.
- Everything looked really good. They're taking good care of it.
- I'm at the barn four days a week right now. Everything is looking good there. We got a lot of the garbage cleaned up. The parking lot is clean.

Petsch – Bicentennial Park

- It's busy like all of our parks, and it's in good shape.
- I'm working with Maintenance and we'll get the gazebo painted over there, the pavilion and our storage area.

- We've got soccer going on over there.
- We're still working on what we're going to do with the tennis courts. We'll get with Emily.
- I'd still like to get that one ball field straightened out.

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

- We are having the same issues as other parks.
- There are some signs up over there now regarding non-motorized vehicles.

Ms. Kennedy reported that they have not heard from the residents in that area lately.

Champagne – Hickory Glen Park

- No report.

ITEM 5: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

- No report.

ITEM 6: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. Kennedy reviewed the report submitted by Mark Schoder:

- Long Park –
 - The big bridge had graffiti. Some was offensive, and that has been covered.
 - We are working on the bridge and we'll complete bridge repairs and beautification shortly.
 - Two observation decks needed repairs. These were completed last week.
 - The trails do need crushed stone, as well as the bridge ends.
 - The pavilion slab needed cleaning due to bird droppings.
- Maple Glen –
 - Noticed dead trees; working to remove those. None of them are oaks.
 - Fence lines have been cleaned up, overhanging trees and brush.
 - Cutting, trimming and chipping.
- Hickory Glen – Starting bleacher pad platforms and hope to have those completed within the next two weeks, weather permitting.
- Bicentennial – I know they were working on painting the pavilion.
- Mill Race –
 - Front hill has been trimmed and cleared.
 - Graffiti-free for some time. Thank you to Wendy and her staff for the added patrols.
- Byers –
 - Dehumidifier has been installed.
 - Large tree stump was cut to the ground and sprayed to eliminate carpenter ants.
 - Duck barn roof will be repaired before snowfall.
- Dodge South – The park is busy between people using the playground and the soccer leagues. The maintenance department is working to keep it clean and ready.
- Other – Continuing daily, weekly and monthly assignments.

Mr. Berkheiser – The trail that runs through and toward the Benstein cemetery; I want to comment that if you haven't been over there, you should go. Kudos to Mark and his group. The Board purchased a nice fence to block that off and Maintenance did a really nice job putting it up. They are waiting on the last two sections that are curved so they can connect them all up.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes, it's a really nice barrier between that and the restaurant.

ITEM 7: BYER'S HOUSE/BARN

Chairperson Petsch – In your packet, you can see that we've got some quotes.

Ms. Kennedy – I think this is updated pricing from a few years ago. It's good until August 1st.

Mr. Berkheiser – We've been talking for years about what needed to be done at the old farmhouse. We were finally able to work with the folks doing work on the firehouse. They looked through the farmhouse and we got a bid. It's \$141,900 to do the structural repairs, somewhat leveling floors, putting in a new electric circuit and running some electrical lines in there. The goal was to make the house usable for what the Friends of Byers (FOB) want to do, and of course safe, with the potential for bringing school kids through. The Fire Marshal has gone through and looked at it. I don't know the numbers. He's working on a final piece to this, but it should more than cover what we want to do there. FOB can hold events in there and it will meet the code.

We'd like to see a recommendation to the Township Board if this is something you still want to move forward with.

Chairperson Petsch – Are there two quotes here?

Mr. Berkheiser – One is old and one is new.

Ms. Kennedy – Right, the Dailey Company is the updated one.

Chairperson Petsch – Who is Dailey?

Mr. Berkheiser – That is the architect/contractor that's building our firehouse.

Chairperson Petsch – Okay, and their quote is \$141,900. They quoted \$58,800 to shore up the structure. Then I looked at this one from Grunwell. How does it happen to be exactly the same?

Mr. Walker – They're the subcontractor for Dailey.

Chairperson Petsch – Oh, okay. So this is the only real quote we have?

Mr. Berkheiser – That's all we have. We had a lot of trouble getting folks to even respond.

Chairperson Petsch – In my opinion, the first thing we want to do is shore up that house. To spend \$141,000 on that, I'm not sure I'm willing to do that. However, I am willing to

make a recommendation that we get the core of it done to get the building secured and safe, which is \$58,800.

Mr. Berkheiser – Understand that it's not just that. There's \$30,000 in contingency.

Chairperson Petsch – And we've got \$27,200 in a superintendent.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's what you're paying to get it done. You don't get the choice to say I don't want to pay this. You take the bid. You could drop the electrical out, but that means you can't use the current electric because it's not safe. The hope is that we're not paying the \$30,000 in contingency, but that contingency allows for issues with getting whatever they need, if the cost of the wood is different.

Chairperson Petsch – I know. I've got some comments on that.

Mr. Walker – They exclude the permit. There's no engineering design drawings included.

Mr. Berkheiser – The engineering design drawings were done by our engineer, so it's already done.

Mr. Walker – Do we know that there's no asbestos, lead paint or hazardous materials?

Mr. Berkheiser – I think we do.

Chairperson Petsch – We had all those studies done.

Mr. Walker – There are a lot of exclusions and it looks like they could cost a lot.

Discussions continued regarding terms of the bid and contract, details of the upgrade plans for safety purposes, lighting, wiring, and working with the Fire Marshal on potential capacity for the farmhouse.

MOTION by Berkheiser, supported by Garbutt, to recommend to the Commerce Township Board of Trustees to move forward with the repair of the Byers Homestead as quoted by The Dailey Company, not to exceed \$141,900.

Discussion –

Petsch – We have \$60,000 of work to shore up the house, and half of that is in a contingency. After this was submitted, who had discussion with them on the line items and exactly what we're talking about here?

Berkheiser – We had a sub-group of me, Emily, Larry, plus Plante Moran Cresa, our owner's rep. We went through the building. As far as electric is concerned, we wanted to make sure it was safe. They went into the basement, they went to the roof, they looked at everything and this is what they came up with. They're the engineers and architects, the construction company, and this was the bid they gave us. We can't get anyone else to bid on it. To be honest, I don't think it's out of line.

Kast – The \$10,000 in the contingency is for the materials, and that's because prices are so wild right now.

Petsch – I understand. I'm just looking at \$20,000 for unforeseen work. If you looked at it and you bid it, what's unforeseen. Where does it get nailed down?

Berkheiser – That's contingency on anything; that's an old building. Even when they're building new, we had contingency for the firehouse.

Walker – Is this a not to exceed?

Berkheiser – It would be not to exceed, and hopefully it's less.

Garbutt – If we had done it years ago, it would have been a lot cheaper.

Petsch – I think we were in at \$200,000 a few years ago.

Berkheiser – It was cheaper to build a new house.

Schantz – This is part of owning a historical home.

Petsch – I'm not fighting it. I'm discussing what's here to make sure we get the best value for our dollar.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 8: HICKORY GLEN WIND SCREENS

Ms. Kennedy – There was previous discussion about wind screens for Lakes Athletics. They asked for the Township to pay for them. Part of that was because it goes against the Township's policy for sponsorship, which is sponsorship only on the outfield, not the backstop.

Mr. Berkheiser – Pre-COVID, they wanted different logos on the wind screens. The Board wasn't in favor, but there was discussion as to whether they wanted the Commerce Township logo on the screens. If we did that, we the Township should have to pay the difference. They would like us to purchase the wind screens.

I think Emily included a portion of our league policy about vendors or sponsorships, and it's only on outfield fences. She wants to know how you want to move forward as far as the recommendation. My feeling is that we will ask the Board at the next meeting, if they really want the logo sponsorship. If not, and there's no logo, I would say they could put windscreens up, and they would have to purchase them. Generally, if it's something specific to the league, the league has to provide it.

Vice Chairperson Kast – I thought we had discussion that for the big kids, this was a safety issue.

Chairperson Petsch – I brought that up because it really is, to be able to see the baseball coming off the bat. It blocks the glare and the background trees, which makes it difficult to see a baseball. I would like to see a small Commerce Township Parks and Recreation logo on the corner. It doesn't have to be broadcast across the whole thing.

Discussion continued regarding differences in pricing with or without logos, or with different size logos, being consistent with other leagues, alternatives such as decal overlays for the wind screens, and responsibility for costs.

Mr. Berkheiser – I think that's part of the league responsibility.

Chairperson Petsch – I agree. Let's go with a no right now. That's my recommendation.

Mr. Berkheiser – I agree. If they want to do it, they can.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes, but it's their responsibility.

Ms. Kennedy – At their cost.

Chairperson Petsch – We don't need a motion for that.

Ms. Kennedy – I don't think it needs a motion.

Chairperson Petsch – Our discussion is, we feel we shouldn't have to pay for them.

Ms. Henderson – My sons are 10 years apart. One played on Lakes and the other played on Commerce Little League. Lakes Area was struggling then, and is not as much now, but it's nice to have the option of different leagues. I, as a taxpaying citizen, would like to see us support the leagues, with as much as we spend everywhere else.

Mr. Berkheiser – What we do for one, we have to do for all. The general rule is that we do things that are outside the fence, or for the general public use. Windscreens for a baseball game are not for general public use, and so that becomes a league responsibility.

Chairperson Petsch – We make the parks safe.

Mr. Berkheiser – Unless there's something that shows that the wind screen behind the backstop prevents safety issues. Is that truly a safety issue?

Ms. Henderson – It reduces glare.

Mr. Berkheiser – We've been playing without wind screens for 15-20 years.

Chairperson Petsch – They're also looking to keep parents from getting behind home plate.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's a management issue. I get it, it's just whether the Township should provide for that or not.

Chairperson Petsch – We don't collect monies from the league. That's what they have their concession stands for, to raise that money. They collect \$275 per kid. Shirts are sponsored. There's a lot of money that goes into the program and they're putting money back into the fields. That's part of that process.

Ms. Henderson – Okay, so if they're offering a solution that they can have the wind screens sponsored ...

Chairperson Petsch – Our park policy is that we don't have brand name sponsors in our parks.

Ms. Henderson – Except on the outfield.

Chairperson Petsch – Temporary, on the outside fences.

Mr. Walker – Aren't wind screens on the backstops temporary also?

Chairperson Petsch – But you still have this big sign. The others are limited to 4x6.

Ms. Henderson – What if the wind screens are plain, but you can hang temporary over it. You could resell the sponsorship every year for the fence. You just unclip the part that is your logo.

Mr. Berkheiser – Someone would have to recommend changing the ordinance and the policy we have in the parks.

Chairperson Petsch – We're back to, should we pay for them or not? That's their request. I think the consensus is that we shouldn't pay for those.

Mr. Walker – I don't think the Township should pay for them, but I think we should allow them to get them sponsored with a reasonable size logo.

Mr. Berkheiser – This is a topic to be brought up at the Township Board meeting. They had strong feelings about sponsorships.

ITEM 9: RICHARDSON CENTER PLAN

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- This is for the Master Plan. There has been an update to that.
- The first page is the new drawings that we've done for adding pathways around the Richardson Center.
- Are you good with these new plans, to make a recommendation for us to move forward and take it to the Board? If so, then we can work on trying to get CDBG funds to help pay for this.

Mr. Berkheiser – I thought the sidewalks already went to the Board.

Ms. Kennedy – I think Emily's concern is this new one, which has not gone to the Board.

Mr. Berkheiser – I thought it was already approved to reprogram funds to put in handicap sidewalks that circle the building.

Ms. Kennedy – I know that's been done for Dodge. I didn't think it was done for the Richardson Center yet. This was part of the Richardson Master Plan.

Mr. Berkheiser reviewed details of the Richardson Master Plan, including the soccer field to be turned into tennis courts and pickle ball, expanding the parking lot, increasing handicap parking, and the expanded unpaved parking lot. He discussed parking and utilization of the Richardson Center.

Vice Chairperson Kast – What's the timeline?

Mr. Berkheiser – I don't know. Part of this is for grants. She wanted to make sure that we are still good with this general idea so she can put a lot of this out for grant money.

Chairperson Petsch – This is the direction we want to go, if we want to continue leasing that and generating income from the Richardson Center, which is the reason why we expanded it and redid it. Do you need anything from us?

Ms. Kennedy – Not that I'm aware of. She just wanted to make sure you had all of this and were aware of what would be happening.

Vice Chairperson Kast – Do you know how long the boardwalk is? It says it's \$250,000.

Ms. Kennedy – The one that goes out to the lake? I don't know, but that would be farther down the line. That would not be in the first phase.

Mr. Berkheiser – Part of that plan, at some point, was to cut a path back to Reed Lake for a fishing pier and a kayak launch. That's all very wet and marshy and it would be done in different stages.

Vice Chairperson Kast – Could we consider coming in off Newton Road instead for that, where it's a shorter distance to the lake, than from the building?

Chairperson Petsch – I think we run into Multilakes property. I'd have to look at it.

Vice Chairperson Kast – Where the cross country team runs.

Ms. Kennedy – I know that Emily does have a meeting with Leah from Living Lab later this week.

Mr. Berkheiser – They're working on grants and I think she wanted to make sure we're still good with that direction.

Chairperson Petsch – We're onboard.

ITEM 10: DOG PARK

Mr. Berkheiser – Some of our master plan was dog park at some point, over at Wise on the Victory Park side. Emily wants to include this in the parking lot trail project that we were talking about. She wanted to make sure we were still good with that. That could also be done as a grant project.

Ms. Kennedy – She wanted to start working on grants for this because they are to be submitted next April. She was hoping to have all information so we can move forward with the process.

Chairperson Petsch – I think the direction we've been trying to go with Victory Park is to get cars off Wise Road. Our first thought was to put a parking area back there, along with a pavilion that the Boy Scouts could use, and have an area that people could use.

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Berkheiser, that the Committee is in favor of moving forward with the Dog Park and Parking Lot area at Victory Park.

Discussion –

Kast – This does not include the splash pad and playground as part of the grant, correct? Just the gravel driveway and parking?

Kennedy – Correct.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 11: HORSE FARM UPDATE

Mr. Walker – We already gave the updates.

Ms. Kennedy – I know there was discussion about getting the fenceposts replaced. I know they did purchase 100 fenceposts, and they'll be working to get those replaced.

Ms. Hancock – Yes, those have been delivered. We're putting some in by hand. I've got a guy coming out with an auger, but he is going to be a few weeks.

Mr. Berkheiser – Also there's a working group, that has Johnny on it, George Weber, Molly and several folks who are making sure that there's help with whatever needs to be done, safety issues and repairs, and prioritizing.

Mr. Walker – We meet tomorrow.

Chairperson Petsch – I'm very happy that things are moving along over there.

ITEM 12: LONG PARK ORDINANCE

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- We did go over this briefly in our walk-through.
- There has been discussion about possibly posting signs, possible changes to the ordinance, making a recommendation, et cetera. Any final decision would be made by the Township Board.
- They did have a DNR conservation officer come out about fishing and removing of snakes, turtles and turtle eggs. As long as you have a valid fishing license right now, all of that can happen, and fishing is allowed within the parks.

Mr. Berkheiser – The question, at least for Long Park, is whether we should not allow fishing, which means that you can't mess with turtles and snakes. We've had reports of people who have taken snapper turtles and dug up the eggs. Apparently the DNR says you can do that if you have a fishing license. The turtles you can't because they're nesting and they're protected during that time, but outside of nesting, nothing can be enforced.

Emily wants us to consider if we are comfortable with a no-fishing policy at Long Park. I think Larry wants to comment.

Ms. Kennedy – The DNR officer's suggestion was signage that stated "No Wading or Fishing".

Mr. Berkheiser – If we don't have posted signs, it becomes for hard for our enforcement folks to enforce.

Discussions took place regarding the issues, history of kids catching turtles and keeping them as pets, fishing at Lake Berry, people abusing fishing privileges, not wanting to

restrict fishing or completely eliminate it. The lake was supposed to be a fishing lake and a recreational area.

Chairperson Petsch and Ms. Garbutt were both in favor of continuing fishing, especially for the kids. Starting with signs could be the first step.

Chairperson Petsch – Larry, can we put up signs that say “Removing Wildlife from this Park is Prohibited”?

Supervisor Gray – That’s what we’ve talked about, having something that says, “No Hunting, Fishing or Trapping”, or “No Hunting, No Trapping, and No Nature or Wildlife Should Be Removed from the Park”. Going back to what you were saying about fishing.

Chairperson Petsch – Those fish aren’t edible. They’re little bluegills.

Mr. Berkheiser – Suppose it was catch-and-release.

Supervisor Gray – We have asked Lieutenant Reyes to start patrolling that area.

Mr. Berkheiser – When you meet with the Attorney, can we ask what we can put up that would allow either the Sheriff’s or DNR to enforce that, but still allow kids to catch fish? If it’s catch-and-release, in theory, if that includes turtles, at the appropriate time you can catch a turtle, but you can’t keep it.

Supervisor Gray – Yes, I’ll bring it up tomorrow.

Mr. Berkheiser – Personally, I would hesitate to prohibit fishing in our parks. Is catch-and-release reasonable?

Chairperson Petsch – I think so.

Mr. Walker – Go with the wording of “You Can’t Remove Wildlife from this Park, This Allows you to Catch-and-Release Fish”.

Mr. Berkheiser – Right. The Attorneys will tell us what we have to say.

Ms. Garbutt – I was watching a deer there, so we have a lot of different kinds of wildlife in there.

Chairperson Petsch – It is no-hunting.

Mr. Berkheiser – I suppose we have to post that.

Ms. Kennedy – There are ordinances for that.

ITEM 13: MUSIC BOX – LOCATION FOR DISPLAY

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- I know we’ve had this on here for a while now.

- We tried to reach out to a few other companies, and they have all told us this is not something that they can do.
- Dean asked us to contact Soltis Plastics. Mickey spoke with them last week. They said this is a larger project and something they wouldn't be able to do.
- All we have are the quotes that were in place previously.
- I tried to reach out to this other individual that Dean had spoken with who provided a quote of \$1790, so that we could try to get a picture and see how that compared to the other quote of \$4500. I was not able to get this gentleman to respond to phone calls or emails for a month and a half.
- I don't know how you would like to move forward.
- These are the two quotes we have. Unfortunately we don't have any examples or pictures for the lower quote.

Chairperson Petsch – Can we table this until the next meeting and do some more research?

Ms. Kennedy – Do you want to table it again for another month? We've been trying to reach out to him for quite some time. He's not responding.

Chairperson Petsch – When you call his phone number, what do you get?

Ms. Kennedy – That his mailbox is full. He has two different email addresses, and I've contacted both with no response.

Mr. Berkheiser – The reason we're looking at this is to protect the music box so it can be placed in the Library. I suppose we can go with a different way to do that, such as the velvet ropes. Or, we can pay \$4500 to the company who actually answers us and have it shipped. I imagine quite a bit of that is shipping. It seems like a lot of money for a plastic box. I'm not saying it shouldn't be protected.

Chairperson Petsch – I can't see spending \$4500 for a box.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is this a topic for our discussion session with the Board?

Ms. Kennedy – We can move it to that.

Mr. Berkheiser – Let them decide how much they want to protect it.

Ms. Kennedy – The biggest problem is the size, 48x20x76.

ITEM 14: PARKS AND RECREATION SHIRTS

Ms. Kennedy presented sample shirts to the Committee and discussed the following:

- There was discussion of getting shirts for everybody to wear to the concerts and other events.
- It's a matter of you deciding on a shirt that you would like. Emily was thinking either blue or gray.
- The samples included Ogio, Adidas and C-2 Sport.
- The logo could be embroidered.

- There was also discussion about having other options, such as long-sleeved. We'll look into those options once one of these is decided.

Mr. Berkheiser inquired about the Commerce Township blue. Vice Chairperson Kast recommended getting a female-fit in the standard shirt, in addition to the male fit. The wicking material was discussed and the samples were passed around to the Committee members.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are you offering shirts at the M-5K?

Ms. Kennedy – Correct. It's the M-5 sign, then it says K, and it's a little road with people running, and it says the date and Commerce Township on it. It's a long sleeve. That race is October 9th.

Chairperson Petsch – I like that, Allison. I'd like to see the gray, but see if they have the Township blue in that.

ITEM 15: OTHER MATTERS

Ms. Henderson – We can do it next meeting. I want to involve local businesses but I want to look at ordinances and do some research.

Vice Chairperson Kast – I have a friend who is a semi-professional skater and is interested in helping design a possible skate park at Bicentennial. We talked about this right before COVID. It looks like we were going to buy modular pieces but not resurface.

Chairperson Petsch – We were going to resurface, but not tear out. Mark and I noticed that the cracks haven't changed so the foundation did not need to be torn out. We would go with a topcoat and see how it goes for maybe \$20,000.

Ms. Kennedy – That was to resurface the tennis courts. Not for the skate park, which was on top of it.

Chairperson Petsch – On top of the new surface.

Vice Chairperson Kast – We don't have to do the modular stuff if we are going to semi-resurface it. He works with somebody local who does skate park design. They were interested in designing something custom for that space, and they thought they could do it cheaper than the modular.

Chairperson Petsch – We were thinking that in case the fad went away, we could just pull up the modular and go back to our surface.

Vice Chairperson Kast – You could rip out a non-modular too.

Chairperson Petsch – We have to get more info on that.

Vice Chairperson Kast – I'll get him with Emily about that.

Ms. Kennedy – I want to make sure everyone is aware; we are having the joint meeting on July 27th with the Township Board. I know we briefly talked about it earlier. We have our regular Parks meeting on Monday, July 26th, and the joint meeting on the 27th. Emily mentioned that if there's anything you would like specifically on the joint meeting agenda, we need to know by July 20th.

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be Monday, July 26, 2021, at 7:00PM, with a park tour at Dodge Park at 6:00PM.

A joint quarterly discussion meeting will be held by the Township Board with the Parks and Recreation Committee on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 7:00PM.

ITEM 16: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Kast, supported by Henderson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:59pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sarah Henderson, Secretary