

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

*Monday, June 27, 2022*

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  
Johnny Walker, Vice Chairperson  
Barbara Garbutt, Secretary  
Bob Berkheiser  
Krystal Schwartz

Ron Krueger  
Laura Waterworth  
**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 Berkheiser, seconded by Schwartz, to approve the April 25, 2022, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.

**ITEM 1: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT**

**Interlakes Girls Softball – Tim Bailey**

- We've had two very successful tournaments. The first one, we had 38 teams, and the second one, we had 36 teams.
- We had our Family Fun Night, and our All-Star Game Night. For our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we gave away 400 hot dogs to families and players in the league. We also had bounce houses and fun things for the kids.
- We had our first alumni game. We had 24 women participate in the game, and we probably had 200 to 300 people spectating at the game. It was very fun and successful. We may even make it an annual event.
- Our house league championship games are Wednesday night, which ends this Wednesday night.

- We still have the travel girls who will be practicing out there, and we've got their tryouts and so forth coming in August.
- I assume some of you walked the park for the May meeting. I don't know if you had any comments.

No comments.

**Lakes Area Hawks – Pete Lesner**

- We're moving forward and everything is going well.
- We didn't do a lot of maintenance this year, because last year we did the painting of both the Hawks house and the equipment shed.
- We have full squads on 3 of the 4 squads of football, and cheer is also almost full on every squad.
- Our camp is the last weekend of July, from July 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> as it is almost every year.
- I've handed the Hawks schedule and league schedule to the baseball people. We want to stay on the same page with practice and game availability. It's always a good relationship we have with them.
- It's the regular season and I saw kids and coaches practicing today. I'll stop by on my way back home.
- Are there any questions?

Mr. Berkheiser – Are you having any issues with the alterations that are being done? Is the construction causing any issues?

Mr. Lesner – No, not at all. I'm hoping the big mound of dirt is gone. It's the second one and they've been working around the clock. By the fourth week of July, hopefully the mound is gone. I've been told that it will be. It's going very nice and we love the new entrance there. Thank you.

**CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney**

- Our season ended June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Trials were the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and it went really well.
- We had reduced events at Dodge this year. Because of larger club issues, we combined some age groups and they were at a different location.
- The fields are getting better. There will be 100 tons of top dressing sand dumped in the parking lot tomorrow morning and it will be cleaned up by 9:00am and spread across the 3 fields.
- We did some repairs to Field 3. The sprinkler lines installed there were not compacted well enough and settling exacerbated the drainage issue. We will be doing extra top dressing there tomorrow as well.
- Our Pee-Wees and Juniors are Monday and Wednesday evenings through the summertime. I will send Emily the dates for the two summer camps.

Discussion took place between Ms. England, Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Haney regarding Fall season dates and a trick-or-treat weekend event.

Mr. Haney – I'll give you the dates as they're scheduled.

Ms. England – Do you guys play during the week during that time, or just weekends?

Mr. Haney – Typically there's 2 or 3 days per week in early Fall, and later, due to loss of daylight, we can't play.

Chairperson Petsch – Do you deep tine before you top dress?

Mr. Haney – Yes, they did that last week.

Mr. Berkheiser – Once you top dress, how long before the field can be used?

Mr. Haney – It can be used immediately.

Chairperson Petsch – As soon as you water it, the sand goes down into the deep tine holes.

**Motor City Mountain Bike Association – Mike Kearney**

- I don't have much to report.
- Earlier this year, Sarah Vano came in and talked about Little Bella's Mountain Bike Group for girls ages 7-13. It's usually out of Milford. They're coming out to Hickory Glen on July 18<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup>.
- We'll be doing some normal maintenance over the next week or two.

**Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz**

Mrs. Schantz –

- Since our last meeting, the barn sign did come down, Byers Country Store. New ribbons are now complete and it's heading to the artist to be painted at the end of this week.
- The new siding for the front entry is back to bid. We deal with Iverson's, but they sold their mill, so now it's been a tailspin, but they're still the best pricing. We're planning on doing the barn in mid to late August.
- One of the hinges broke on the garage door. I have one of my guys at Doors of Pontiac scheduled to repair it.
- This past weekend, Art on the River was a total success. We had about 1200 people on Saturday, and another 300 on Sunday. The parking lot was full, the barn was crammed.

Mr. Berkheiser – How many vendors did you have?

Mrs. Schantz – She had 17.

Discussion continued regarding vendor feedback and the maximum number of vendors that can be accommodated. Mrs. Schantz noted that the area at the farmhouse is not level so it's hard to put up tents there. Mr. Berkheiser also discussed parking for the event. Ms. England and Mrs. Schantz discussed this being an annual event, and related advertising.

Mrs. Schantz – The painting of the farmhouse was done that day and it sold immediately.

Chairperson Petsch – If you had 1500+ people come through in two days, that should attract more vendors.

Ms. England – Absolutely, that's a success.

Mr. Berkheiser – If there's more that's done next year, we may want to have traffic control. We can coordinate with the OCSO auxiliary.

Mrs. Schantz discussed bussing of visitors to events, with offsite parking. The food truck, CC's Soul Food, was well received and the food is phenomenal.

Mrs. Schantz –

- August 14<sup>th</sup> is our Ugly Duckling event. We have 18 vendors and growing. We are hoping to have 22-25 vendors.
- The barn is booming.
- Spring cleanup went really well with the Boy Scouts. Troop 308 is great and they are hard workers.

#### **Windmill Farms (Horse Farm) – Carrie Hancock**

- We had our open house at the barn.
  - It was a big success.
  - We signed up new riders for lessons at the camp.
  - We had pony rides.
  - Most of the attendees were Commerce Township residents. That's what we're working towards.
  - We had a lot of chatter online on Facebook about it and we got a lot of calls from that as well.
- We have a new instructor who is a Commerce Township resident.
  - She goes on this Mom-to-Mom Commerce Township page.
  - She introduced herself as a new instructor there, and she filled all her spots in less than 24 hours for local lessons, with 23 new students.
  - She starts with 6-year-olds and she takes special needs riders as well.
  - I think her page also covers West Bloomfield.

Mr. Berkheiser – Carrie, when you get the forms, you get a copy to Emily, right?

Ms. Hancock – Well, they haven't filled out the forms. This just happened Sunday.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, but the plan would be that the Township will –

Ms. Hancock – You'll have a way to track the new riders coming in.

- As far as the Boy Scouts, we're set up and ready to go with that.
  - Interestingly, there's some kind of authorization we have to have because we're a business that is offering it.
  - I've been working with Mike and he said something has to be cleared through Dave Oakley with the Advancement Committee. They have to approve the business.
  - Once that's in place, they will forward a flyer right through their organization.

- We have our first camp starting this week. It's primarily for our current riders and a training camp for the rest of the summer. That will be Wednesday through Friday.
- You have Concerts in the Park coming up. July 8<sup>th</sup> is your first one. We're looking at horse-oriented activities at a table for the kids.

Mr. Berkheiser – Do you plan to bring an animal? That's what will attract people.

Ms. Hancock – We can, and we've got some good ideas.

Chairperson Petsch – My grandkids loved the cardboard horses that they assembled.

Ms. Hancock – Yes, those were great and they have all the business information. The Michigan Horse Council had the big expo up in Lansing with Michigan State. We had a youth area and we had tons of crafts. We have tons of ideas and materials for different age groups.

Chairperson Petsch – It's good to have hands-on things for the kids to do and then they have something to take home.

Ms. Hancock – I'm thinking advertising and face painting for the kids. The pony is always good, but something they can do too.

- Our high school equestrian team practice starts in July.
- We're busy 7 days a week with lessons and getting busier all the time.
- You guys should come out and see what we do during lessons, camp and equestrian team practice. Most of you have been to the farm, but to see us in action and what we do.

Mr. Berkheiser – Did you advertise your camp, or is it just really open for current riders?

Ms. Hancock – No, we will have that posted.

Mr. Berkheiser – So, your open house and your camp is what I heard, but I'm not aware that I've seen that sent to the Township for us to help advertise. Again, we're looking for the things you're doing over the next three months so we can help advertise.

Ms. Hancock – You'll get that, yes. I just –

Ms. England – The camp information has not been sent to me. The open house information was sent to me about 5 days prior.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's hard if you're only sending it a week or so ahead of time. If you know you have an open house a month ahead of time, that makes it a little easier for us to help with that.

Ms. Hancock – Sure, and we can do the next one that way. That was our first one and early in the year.

Mr. Berkheiser – We had the same at our last meeting. You talked about a show that you did. Again, people wanted us to be able to come out and see it, but yet we don't know ahead of time that it's coming.

Ms. Hancock – Right. I have to tell you though, for those schooling shows, it's not typically something that's open for public viewing. It's where our students practice in front of friends and family. It's a little more protected.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's fine.

Ms. Hancock – So the board, anybody who wants to come out and look, but I wouldn't want to advertise that to the public. We would have things we do, like a demonstration or clinic, or things like that which would be more appropriate to have the general public come in.

Ms. England – Even for the Committee or Township people to come out, we still need some advance notice so we can make sure we can fit it in our schedule. Even if it's something you don't want advertised to the public, if you ask this Committee to be present or come and see what you do, we need more notice of that.

Ms. Hancock – And that's fine. We can do that.

Ms. England – Is that all you had? I have a few things to update.

Ms. Hancock – That's all I have at this point, unless anybody has any questions.

Ms. England –

- Jay James told us today that the well bladder will be moved this week.
- Once that's done then the house can be removed. It's expected to be removed from the site within 90 days. So, Carrie, that gives you a timeline for the trucks and trailers, to have those out of the way within 90 days.
- Can we get an update on your schedule to have the manure pile removed?

Ms. Hancock – Well, we did haul some of that out of there, and then we compost it and cap it.

Ms. England – It's supposed to be removed every 90 days offsite.

Ms. Hancock – Okay. I mean, I thought the way we were doing it was accepted. We can ...

Ms. England – If you get a schedule together, will you just send that to me so I can update it?

Ms. Hancock – Yes.

Ms. England – Okay.

**Commerce Little League – Paul Kammer, President**

A report dated June 21, 2022, was submitted in the packet:

- *Commerce Little League Spring Season is wrapping up with our Year End Tournament this upcoming weekend.*
- *We are welcoming in 40+ teams from all over Metro Detroit and even Canada to come play.*
- *After the tournament, we will be hosting the Little League Intermediate State Championship Tournament at Maple Glen from July 5 – July 9.*
- *Our Commerce Team won District 4 and will be competing for the State title.*
- *We will also be hosting District Tournament games as our teams try to get to their individual age group State Tournaments.*
- *The season will officially wrap up around mid-July. Fall Baseball will begin mid to end of August.*

**Lakes Athletics Association – Jerry Stoddard**

A report dated June 22, 2022, was submitted in the packet:

- *League Update – Spring 2022 Season completed with Championship, Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>; Travel Ball continues through July; House T-Ball Summer Season 5U/7U will be Mon/Wed evenings July and early Aug. Fall registration will open later this summer.*
- *Upcoming Dates & Information*
  - *Season Dates – Travel Ball through July; T-Ball Summer begins July 11<sup>th</sup>*
  - *Monthly Meeting – Next scheduled Board meet is June/End*
  - *2022 Capital Improvements – SPRINKLERS! Our main lines were crushed and need many repairs after bleacher cement installation. LAA is funding now before grass dies, but need Township support.*
- *Needs From Township*
  - *Restrooms – Many old and rusty toilet issues; Does the Township have a plumber or maintenance team to support repairs?*
  - *Flagpoles –Quoting electrical companies for the work; plan to still implement before year end; and receive P&R appropriated funding*
  - *Parking Lot Construction – Ongoing; seems to be going well and no issues finding parking during on-field events. Thank you all.*
  - *SPRINKLERS – We have a SOW (attached) from Images for sprinkler repairs; at this time our on-field watering system is not operational. Images Company sites many crushed or destroyed main water supply lines from bleacher cement pad installation need to be fixed. Also old system with many rust issues. \$3500 initial quote but can grow as the work is further investigated. LAA must invest and pay immediately or grass will be dead before July. Can Township support off-setting cost from prior year bleacher work damage to lines? Does the P&R have any sprinkler or maintenance techs available for repairs? Thank you.*

Mr. Berkheiser – Regarding the report from Lakes Athletics; we generally don't react to things that aren't open to the public. On the restrooms, my comment would be that I don't see the restrooms being a Township issue. I think you're trying to get a meeting with Lakes.

Ms. England – Yes, I sent a message over today.

Mr. Berkheiser – We need to work with them and clarify what we do versus what they do. I don't think the sprinklers ... if it was truly done when we put the bleacher pads in, that's different, but when I looked at their estimate, this looks like old maintenance that was never done.

Ms. England – Yes, there's only one zone, or one head that was called out for possible ...

Mr. Berkheiser – Field #1, someone said it's really burned up. But on the estimate, dated in May, it says they notified them back in September of last year that these things aren't working right.

Ms. England – Correct.

Mr. Berkheiser – If you get a meeting set up, let me know. I'll be more than happy to help.

### **ITEM 2: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- At the June meeting, we had a lot of public comment dealing with a couple houses in the Lake Sherwood area. The Township is working through the process to address the issues.
- We approved fireworks permits.
- I think the biggest thing was Byers Farmhouse. We approved a contract a long time ago. We've had some issues with the contractor not responding. Therefore, the Board voted to withdraw from that contract and look for someone else.

Ms. England – We are meeting with two contractors over there on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Berkheiser – So don't hold your breath, but hopefully we can get a little closer to the work on the Farmhouse.

Lastly, SADs were redone for annual items such as snow plowing, weed and aquatic, dust control, et cetera.

### **ITEM 3: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Ms. England discussed the following:

- The majority of everything is in your board report.
- The Senior Center continues to get more active every day.
- We are still down a staff person.
- We do have our Zumba instructor, Maria, who is filling in a couple hours a week. She is leading our new walking group. It seems like we get a few more people coming to that every week.
- Trips are back and they're filling up fast. People are excited to get out and do things.
- We are having a Senior Concert on August 25<sup>th</sup>. It's something new we're trying this year.
- As far as Parks; the pickleball courts went out to bid last week. That contract should be awarded at the quarterly Township Board meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup>.



- The work is continuing over at Hickory Glen. It's going great. The contractor is outstanding. They're doing a very nice job. Communication has been great with Wolverine. They had those two large trees to take down and they did an outstanding job.
- We're still trying to find a contractor to finish our pathway around the Richardson Center, but I think we've got that figured out.
- We will start work on the 14 Mile pathway in the next few weeks. We're getting construction documents together.
- Our concerts start on July 8<sup>th</sup>. I'll send out an email tomorrow. Please give me an idea of what concerts you can be at.

#### **ITEM 4: PARK LIAISON REPORTS**

##### **Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park**

- I think you saw we are working on the Victory Park side. We've had some issues with the archeologist. There is a time limit in the grant process, so we are now working with a new archeologist.
- At Wise Woods, on the other side of the road, you may notice that we were getting cars just parking in the woods. Mark put in some barriers and I appreciate it. I haven't seen any cars there since then and the barriers look nice. Good job.

Ms. England – I'll give you an update on the archeological study. The first archeologist who did the original Section 106; she's got too much work and she can't complete this on time. We have to have a letter with no adverse effect to submit by mid-September and they need 30 days to review that. So, we parted ways with her and now we're dealing with a larger firm. They said they will be in the field for a week, instead of 4-6 weeks, and they should be able to get all reporting back to me within two weeks. We're just reviewing some questions on insurance.

##### **Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race**

- At Mill Race, everything looked good and super clean. The brush cleanup looks great. I love how it looks from the road with it all cleaned up. However, there is a little bit of new graffiti.
- At Byers, I did go and see Art on the River on Sunday. Everyone was having a great time. I think the music was the best part. The park and the woodchips all looked great. Everything was cleaned up over there. I drove by after the event and everything seemed to be clean as well.

##### **Krueger – Dodge Park**

- I have driven through it a couple times and everything is looking great.
- I had a conversation with Emily regarding the parking situation and I'm learning a little bit more about that.
- Overall, it looks terrific.

Mr. Berkheiser – Have we had any parking issues with Dodge? Didn't we have a lot last year?

Ms. England – I'm setting up a meeting with CW3 to discuss parking issues. Chris and I have already talked about this. I have some dates so we can have a sit-down. We have to show that the parking issues are happening outside of just soccer times. Between all

of us, we're trying to keep our eyes open, take a survey, document what time of day it is, what day it is, how many parking spots are filled, et cetera. I know we're having issues with people parking along the entrance to get closer to Field #3. Chris and I talked about it and maybe there's a little area where we can add a couple spots near Field #3 to help alleviate some of that. More to come.

Mr. Berkheiser – As you drive by, we used to be able see through, and now it's summer so you can't see anything. I know Mark at one time did some brush clearing. Maybe we contract that out to have it all done, and then it's a maintenance matter after that.

Chairperson Petsch – Can we use the contractor who did it before?

Ms. England – No, that was Louie's Tree Service and he's not around anymore, but we can get prices.

Mr. Krueger – It started with me because I drove through the park and I counted 90 cars that were parked out of –

Mr. Berkheiser – Oh, we've had that. It has been that way. The question was whether it was due to Scarlet and other reasons, such as COVID when the only places you could go were parks.

Ms. England – The problem is that you have people who aren't parking in the parking lot. You have 90 cars in the drive, but the parking lot is half empty. If they need overflow parking, that's a different situation.

Mr. Krueger – I know when I drove over there, the parking lot was pretty much full, except that no one was parked in the handicapped. Are we required to have that many handicap spaces?

Ms. England – We have a lot. It's not required, but when we submitted the grant, we put a lot because that is an all-inclusive playground. It's easy to take some of those away and convert them to regular spots, but we wanted to have them in case they were needed. We are noticing that the majority of the time, those are open.

**Petsch – Bicentennial Park**

- I've really got nothing new to report.
- I hope the playground equipment has been ordered.

Ms. England – It's ordered.

**Garbutt – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park**

- I've spoken to Mark about some things that I saw and he will take care of them.
- I know along the road still needs some work to make the park look more attractive.

Mr. Schoder – They're on my list.

Chairperson Petsch – Well, as soon as they get the road done, we can get the entrance the way it's going to be.

**Walker – Maple Glen & Windmill Farm**

- Maple Glen looks really good.
- It was really busy last time I was there. There's a lot going on there almost every day of the week, but it looks good and everything was going well.
- People are still somewhat parking everywhere they can possibly find a spot, but I don't think we're going to change that unless we did a major overhaul. It works well for what it is.

Mr. Bailey – People love that park. We get so many compliments during tournaments.

**Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park**

- There's a lot happening at Hickory Glen.
- I did a pass through, but I will sync with Emily, to make sure I know the plans.

Ms. England – Yes, we will set up a time and I'll send that over to you. Everything is going great over there. It's going to be wonderful when it's done. It's definitely needed.

Ms. Waterworth – I have a question, and I don't know if it's for the Mountain Bike Association. I know there's always people out there cleaning up the trails. There are some trees that are leaning.

Ms. England – On the mountain bike trails?

Ms. Waterworth – Yes, so is it their crew?

Mr. Kearney – After the storms last year, we tried to get the ones that were leaning that we could get as safely as possible. The ones that are still up are really hard to get safely. Some slowly get lower and then we cut them out once they're low enough. Let us know if there are any.

Ms. England – I'll get you his contact information too.

Ms. Waterworth – Thanks, because I do walk those trails.

Mr. Kearney – We rely on reports from the riders most of the time. They'll let us know directly or post on a trail commission page.

**ITEM 5: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE**

Ms. Waterworth – The Tiki Night Fireworks are July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Chairperson Petsch – How about the corn roast?

Ms. Waterworth – I was not at last month's meeting, but I will let you know.

**ITEM 6: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- Bob, we are going to clear that spot we did last year over at Dodge so you can see it from the road. We'll try to go further back and there is some brush in there we will chip too.

- Mill Race got hit with graffiti in May. It was painted over in June, and was hit again.
- We've installed two benches; one at Dodge and one at Maple Glen.

Mr. Berkheiser – Were those part of the bench program?

Ms. England – Yes.

Mr. Schoder – We have two others to go in, hopefully at the end of this week.

Ms. England – Yes, so we have had four go out so far as memorial benches.

Mr. Berkheiser – How many did we buy? Are you ordering more?

Ms. England – We bought five for memorial benches, and five just to go out in the parks. You'll see that next month at your Township Board meeting. We'll try to keep them on hand because they don't ship fast.

Discussions took place regarding graffiti at Mill Race and addressing the issues.

Mr. Schoder –

- We're clearing the tree lines at the baseball diamond.
- We're going down the Airline Trail and clearing that for the first time this year. It's not too bad because we did a good job last year.
- We're almost done repairing and replacing the Byers split-rail fence.

Mrs. Schantz and Mr. Schoder discussed reinstalling the split-rail fence along the path, between the barn and Granny's Pantry. She explained that it was taken out years ago and it would be nice to get it back.

Mr. Schoder – Lastly, the trail leading to the condos at Long Park; we put some rocks in there and filled it in so we can get a mower down there.

#### **ITEM 7: BYERS TREE**

Mrs. Schantz – The tree that broke off and took out the electrical, in front of the Farmhouse; it's still standing. It's probably 10-feet tall. I asked Emily and she said I had to come to the board. I want a wood carver to carve it.

Discussion took place regarding potential carvings; a bear, an eagle, an owl, et cetera.

Chairperson Petsch – A carver would look at it and tell you what they could do there.

Mrs. Schantz – Except I can't take their opinion. I have to take yours.

Chairperson Petsch – Our opinion would be a choice of what he can carve there.

Ms. England – It would be considered art in the park. If you approve the idea, let her find an artist and bring back a final design.

Mr. Walker – Who's paying for it?

Mrs. Schantz – Byers.

Mr. Walker – Cool.

Chairperson Petsch – We have to make sure the tree isn't hollow.

Mrs. Schantz – It's not.

Mr. Berkheiser – So it's not a safety issue; it's not rotting out and it's not going to fall over.

Ms. England – We'll double check it.

Mrs. Schantz – At Art on the River, I got two names of wood carvers, so I will move forward and I'll bring it back to you.

Chairperson Petsch – Thank you.

Mrs. Schantz – You're welcome. So, I can go ahead?

Mr. Walker – Yes, bring us some designs.

Mrs. Schantz – Do I need drawings too?

Chairperson Petsch – I'm sure he has a portfolio, and once you choose who you want and he has an idea, I'm sure he'll have pictures of things he has done.

**ITEM 8: DISC GOLF**

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- I will give you the overview, and then I will let you direct questions to Allison. She actually dealt with this gentleman.
- Larry reached out to us about disc golf at Victory Park. We've had several people reach out to us over the years.
- He designs courses. Take a look at it and see what you think. He did go to the site and he put together the report that's included in your packet with a few different options. I don't think he actually laid out the course; he just showed the area of the course and gave a couple cost estimates for that.
- In the past we've had people come to us that wanted to start their own 501c3, be a user group and help raise funds for it. We could try to reach out to those people again if they're still around.
- It's in here for information. I don't think we need any action on it at this time. I say that because the concept plan was done in 2014 for Victory Park. So, just as we did with the dog park, any improvement that we do over there, we're going to revisit the concept plan.
- Next year we're due to redo our 5-year Master Plan. It would be a good idea to maybe incorporate that into this.
- If it is something that you think you would like to pursue over there, we can do some background work, reach out to those other people to see if they're still interested and get the ball rolling. When it comes budget time, we'll have a better idea of what we should budget and how to move forward.

Mr. Berkheiser – I think the biggest item has to do with money. Generally for things like this, we try to partner with organizations. I guess I would say if there's a local organization that's going to do something, that might be the first. Overall, I think it's okay, but it would be nice to see this overlay on our plan for the park with all the other things that are planned. I don't understand the difference in the two proposals. Both are 18 holes, but one is \$54,000 and one is \$94,000.

Ms. England – It's the quality of the course is what I gather. One is considered a championship course, where they hold state or world championships, and the other one is just an amateur course.

Ms. Kennedy – He calls one championship and one basic. To be honest, I don't know the difference between the two.

Mr. Berkheiser – And, what would the parking requirements be? Those are the things that came to mind.

Ms. Schwartz – Would these be in one of the phases?

Ms. England – The idea, as far as including this in the Master Plan process, is that you need feedback from the community if it's something they want.

Chairperson Petsch – Allison, I think Kensington Metro Park has disc golf. You could contact them to see what kind of participation they have.

Ms. Kennedy – They do, and it's crazy. Anytime I drive by there, their parking lot is packed and people are parked on the grass for disc golf.

Discussion continued regarding the popularity of disc golf, man hours for maintenance of the course, where to locate courses with the parks, and sharing of those areas for other uses.

#### **ITEM 9: PARK POLICY**

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- You've seen this. Nothing has really changed but we want to get it finalized. I wanted to know concerns and questions moving forward.
- I did notice that the wildlife is in here in two spots, so we will remove one.
- There were some questions on the alcohol use.
  - *It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or consume alcoholic beverages within Dodge Park V or Mill Race Park.*
  - I know that's in our Ordinance.
  - Does anyone know why those two parks are spelled out?

Chairperson Petsch – I think one of the things was that they were not really camping parks at the time. Byers at that time was pretty new for us to take over as a park. We still had the house there. It wasn't really a social park. Dodge, same thing; we didn't have anything on this side of Dodge.

Ms. England – You don't believe it was something because of the way we purchased or acquired the property that created that?

Chairperson Petsch – I don't recall anything like that. Barbara, do you?

Ms. Garbutt – No.

Chairperson Petsch – The only thing we ever had with Dodge was the Metro Parkway ran through there at one time.

Ms. Garbutt – It was proposed that Northwestern Highway would extend all the way out here. There was a lot of camping in there. It was a campground, and then we had the pavilion there.

Ms. England – Our question is, do you want that removed or do you want that to stay? Do you think any other parks need to be limited?

Mr. Walker – Why wouldn't it just be all parks? We don't allow drinking in any of our parks, do we?

Ms. England – Yes, every park is allowed except for Dodge V and Mill Race. If you eliminate it from all, then you have to eliminate it for the Richardson Center. We actually let people cater alcohol in there.

Discussion continued regarding events in the parks, especially concerts at Richardson, rentals at the center, permits for special events, tournaments, et cetera.

Mr. Berkheiser – You could make it like the smoking rule; no alcohol within 100' feet of ... I don't know what that leaves open.

Chairperson Petsch – I'm not in favor of banning it from the parks.

Ms. England – But do you want to remove the ban from Dodge V or Mill Race?

Mr. Walker – Unless there's something specific that says it has to be banned, I don't know why we would do it there.

Ms. Kennedy – I only initially added it because it's in our Ordinance.

Ms. England – And we're actually going to be changing our Ordinance. If that's something you want to move forward with, I'm going to include it.

Chairperson Petsch – Karen, at your event this past weekend, was there any wine?

Mrs. Schantz – No. When we did our wine tasting, we had to get special permission. It would be okay with me to have a ban on alcohol at Byers.

Mr. Berkheiser – But you haven't had issues there, have you?

Mrs. Schantz – Just with kids, but not adults.

Mr. Berkheiser – Well, you're not going to stop that with a ban.

Ms. England – I will confirm with the attorney. If I'm going to make changes to the Ordinance, I'd like to include that. The other part was, *No person or renter shall sell or distribute alcohol within Township owned, leased or controlled lands*. I think that needs to remain in there.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes.

Ms. England – Okay.

Mr. Berkheiser – If they're going to do something, they would have to get a permit.

Chairperson Petsch – Right.

Ms. England – They have to do that through the MLCC, not just the Township.

- We will remove the pavilion rental policy.
  - We don't have enough staff to monitor something like that at this point in time.
  - We have a draft of the policy and when we get to that point in time, we will add it in.
  - We continue to get requests for Scarlet's pavilions. We give them the same response and I haven't had any complaints or issues.
  - We are getting ready to add in another pavilion over there. Scarlet's Smile put down a pad and they donated a pavilion. Jay just got the plans for that, so it should be happening in the next 30 days or so.
- I will leave the smoking rules in here, but I'm going to include the smoking language in our ordinance so it's doubled up.
- We will clean up the wildlife language.

Mr. Krueger – In Kensington, they allow electric bikes, Levels 1 and 2.

Ms. England – Bob and I had a quick discussion about that.

Mr. Berkheiser – I have issues with golf carts. It's not mentioned about those being approved or not approved. It just says motorized vehicles. I know you're talking about those bikes being for handicapped.

Mr. Krueger – I'm handicapped and I was going to purchase a bike, but not if I can't ride it.

Mr. Berkheiser – If you're accepting that, then you're going to get all of the kids with bikes out there.

Ms. England – Our pathways are considered non-motorized.

Chairperson Petsch – You can either pedal a bike or use pedal assist. You can ride that on any trail way if you want to.

Mr. Berkheiser – If you're pedaling it.



Chairperson Petsch – You're pedaling it, but it's still assisting.

Discussions continued regarding electric bikes, motor scooters, mopeds, motorized skateboards, DNR prohibitions on Class 1 E-Bikes, power limitations, distinctions between the types of trails, and speed limits on the trails.

Ms. England would look further into the rules of the DNR and Oakland County Parks.

Mr. Berkheiser – The other questions I have are on our rules regarding hunting, fishing, snakes, turtles, et cetera. You're going to put that into one spot under wildlife?

Ms. England – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – I thought we said we had catch and release fishing at Long Park. Is that what we agreed?

Ms. England – That language of catch and release wasn't put into the Ordinance.

Discussions continued regarding wildlife rules, Long Park, the pocket park at Union Lake, whether or not catch and release is permitted, DNR licensing and controls.

**ITEM 10: OTHER MATTERS**

Mr. Berkheiser – We're having a movie night, right?

Ms. Kennedy – Yes, it's Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be at the Richardson Center. The movie is *Sing 2*. The movie will start at dusk.

Mr. Berkheiser – When does school start?

Ms. Kennedy – I don't know, but they usually start the last week of August, so this should be a week before school starts.

Ms. Schwartz – You got the grant?

Ms. Kennedy – Yes, so it's not costing us anything. Oakland County brings the screen and everything, including the movie.

**The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be Monday, July 25, 2022, at 7:00PM immediately following the 6:00pm Park Tour at Dodge Park V.**

**ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Krueger, supported by Walker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Barbara Garbutt, Secretary