

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

Monday, December 18, 2023
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairperson Petsch called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** William Petsch, Vice Chairperson
Bob Berkheiser
Krystal Schwartz
Ron Krueger
Laura Waterworth
Denise Vecellio

Absent: Johnny Walker, Chairperson (excused)

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

Director England – The only communication I have is we have a new Parks member, Denise.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Welcome.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Schwartz, seconded by Krueger, to approve the October 23, 2023, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.

No comments.

Vice Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.

ITEM 1A: PUBLIC HEARING: PARKS AND RECREATION 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN

Leah Groya delivered a presentation on the overhead.

Leah Groya – We have been talking about the update to the 5-year Plan for a number of months now, and culminating here at the public hearing. Just a reminder, the purpose of the 5-year Plan; there are a few reasons that the Township puts this information together every 5 years. First, it assists in documenting the needs and priorities in the community and starts you thinking about long-term improvements and what you want to accomplish.

Once approved, the Plan is a tool during the annual budgeting process. So, once adopted, it doesn't mean that every project is approved or that funding is set aside for it to happen, but it is a tool to be used during the budgeting process and to continue to seek funds to implement the projects. It will serve as a guide for the year for both Emily and her staff, and Township leadership.

We did follow the DNR guidelines in putting the 5-year Plan together and in doing so, once it's approved and adopted by the Township, it will make you eligible to apply for grants through the DNR. Should anything significant change, the Plan can be amended and the DNR has a process to follow to do that within the 5-year time frame.

The Plan certainly doesn't resolve everything that is brought up, it doesn't solve all of the issues, but it does help to identify and document them so that you can be thinking about how to address them in the upcoming months and years.

As I said, the DNR does issue guidance for us to follow, a process, contents and things that we have to include and look at. Your 5-year Plan includes a description of the community and a description of the process that you took to develop the document. It describes the structure of how Parks & Recreation is managed in the community.

There's an inventory of your facilities in the Plan, a basis for action, and then finally, an action plan. We put a couple slides in here from the action plan summary.

The process the Township took to put together the 5-year plan included an online and paper survey where you received 640 responses. That was done over last summer.

There was also input gathered at a few events in the community. A small group brainstorming session was held here in July. All of your Parks & Recreation Committee meetings are obviously open, public meetings, and you discussed the draft of the Plan and developing the draft over the summer and fall months. Emily and I did some additional meetings over the past several months to review the draft and talk through the Plan. The draft was made available for public review November 17th and posted to your website so that folks had ample time to take a look at it before tonight.

Tonight is the public hearing and we're also asking the Committee to consider adoption by resolution tonight. If you do adopt the Plan tonight, then it will go to the Township Board for their consideration of adoption at their January meeting.

The action program in the 5-year Plan outlines the direction that you're looking to go over the next 5 years. As Emily has indicated a number of times, it's a really nice tool for her and staff to use during the annual budgeting process to remind ourselves of the priorities and what funding we want to seek to implement those. It includes goals, objectives and tasks in quite a bit of detail and also includes some capital improvement priorities by park. I won't go through all of these, but there are goals for a lot of different topics; organization, operation and maintenance goal, partnerships and collaboration, facility development improvement/expansion goal, a goal related to programming and the desire to expand some programs, accessibility and connectivity, and finally funding. It's important to note that if you do apply for a grant through the DNR, it doesn't necessarily need to be a project that's listed in your Capital Improvement Priority Table, but it does need to be something that meets one or more of your goals in your Plan. So, we intentionally keep those fairly broad when we write them. There are projects that maybe we are not even imagining right now that might come up and hopefully they will fall within one of your goals.

The action plan also includes the Capital Improvement Priority Table, listed by park. These are just things that we've talked about that are goals of yours to try to implement. Again, there isn't funding in place to implement all of these projects currently, but

certainly with some of your millage funds, some of them can be accomplished, and then also seeking outside funding sources, grants, partnerships, things like that. That was an overview summary of the 5-year Plan. We look to have you get comments from the public tonight if there are any, and have any discussion amongst yourselves, and then consider adoption by resolution which I believe is in your packet. That can be adopted with edits if in your discussion or in public comment, you want to change something, you can do that tonight as well. Then we will move onto the Township Board, and then file the 5-year Plan with the DNR. They have a filing process that we have to follow and an online system that we have to upload things to. That has to be done by February 1st.

Vice Chairperson Petsch opened the public hearing.

No comments.

Vice Chairperson Petsch closed the public hearing.

ITEM 1B: CONSIDER RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION OF 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN

MOTION by Berkheiser, seconded by Schwartz, to adopt the Parks & Recreation 5-Year Master Plan and to recommend approval to the Township Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Berkheiser, Schwartz, Krueger, Petsch, Waterworth, Vecellio

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Walker

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 2: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Lakes Area Hawks Football – Pete Lesner

- After 30 years of being with the Hawks and 15 years at Hickory Glen Park, I'm retiring this year.
- I'd like to introduce my new President, Andy Grant. Andy will be taking over for me from here on out. He's a construction guy so he was specially chosen. He has helped immensely and he has been with us for 10 years, and with me during the off-season, 365 days a year, just making the improvements that we always have to do.
- We will have a meeting with Emily next week to handle the changeover.
- The Hawks are fine and everything is good. We had a great season. Our cheer won everything that they could win, and our football program was very successful also this year.
- We're moving forward and it's going great.
- I have two grandkids and I have to attend their events, so that's what I'm doing from here on out.

Vice Chairperson Petsch thanked Pete Lesner and reminisced about the history of the Lakes Area Hawks. He expressed the Committee's appreciation for all of Pete's hard work and dedication. Hickory Glen is a wonderful park and facility because of the Hawks. The Committee looks forward to the continued relationship.

Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz

Dean Schantz shared the following with the Committee.

- A month and a half ago, we had our open house at the Byers Farmhouse. It went really well. We ushered in 12 groups. We had a total of 45 people that day. We didn't really even advertise it, so it could have been a lot more.
- More recently, we had our Photos with Santa. We were fully booked. We had approximately 230 residents and they all appreciated how we staged the house. We gave them a little history tour also. They loved the place.
- As far as improvements go, I replaced the LED accent lighting on the house yesterday.
- We're feeding the ducks and waiting until springtime in the New Year.

Mr. Berkheiser – As you get ready for spring cleanup or fall cleanup, I know the Boy Scout troop that I'm associated with has a new person to reach out to. I'll get you that information.

Discussion continued regarding changes in leadership with the scoutmasters.

CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney

- We are indoors for the remainder of the winter.
- We plan to open in the 3rd week of April.
- We will provide dates to Emily as we get closer.
- Mr. Lesner, you've done a fine job. You will be missed, sir.

Motor City Mountain Bike Association – Mike Kearney

- Really nothing to add.
- The trail is in good shape.
- We have a few small projects that we will try to knock out in the spring. I will get that list to Emily and Allison.

Commerce Little League – Nikki Shaffer

- I'm Nikki Shaffer and I'm the new President of Commerce Little League.
- Registration opened up for the Spring 2024 season. We are expecting between 550-600 kids this season.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is that more, less or the same?

Nikki Shaffer – For 2023, we were at 525, so about the same.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – How far did the kids go in different tournaments?

Nikki Shaffer – Commerce Little League swept Districts, and we had 3 teams make it to States, so a great season for us.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Very good. I'm glad that program is going so well. It's wonderful.

Silo Ranch – Dawn Ray

- We had our first open house. It went pretty well. I think we had 350-400 people.
- Now we're just getting ready.
- The electrical has all been updated.
- I think the roof is coming soon.
- We are waiting on our water to be done.
- Hopefully in the next two weeks, we will be able to open and have more events coming up in the spring.

Director England – She has boarders currently lined up to go in there and then they're planning the community garden. She will get information out soon and we will share it with the Committee.

Mr. Berkheiser – The Township Board over the last couple of months authorized money to get things done on the building; basic things that are appropriate, including water lines, electric and addressing safety issues. Those are moving along as Dawn said. We're excited to hopefully see something going this spring.

Director England – They have done a lot of work over there, so if any of the Committee members ever want to stop over there, get a hold of me and we can set up a time with Dawn. That way, you can see the property.

Mr. Krueger – I did go to the open house and it looked fantastic. I was there before helping on some electrical work, and it wasn't anywhere near looking as nice as it did for the open house.

Dawn Ray – Thank you.

Lakes Athletics Association – Jerry Stoddard

A report was submitted in the packet dated December 9, 2023:

- *League Update – LAA and LCB have invested considerable funds into landscape overhaul of 4 out of the 7 fields; including material, grade, balance, crown of the infields at Hickory Glen Park. We hope these improvements promote the beauty and safety of our players and families of this great township. Please let us know if you have detailed questions about this process. We are also excited at the LAA House growth for our 14U division, typically 1 team in past, we now expect 4-6 or more 14U teams; and possibly older rec divisions. Thank you!*
- *Upcoming Dates & Information*
 - *Season Dates – Spring April after Easter; Clean-Up and Field open for practice may be earlier in Spring 2024 weather dependent*
 - *Monthly Meeting – Next scheduled meet Jan 15 2024 for the Board Meeting at Richardson*
 - *2023 Capital Improvements –*
 - 1) *Sprinkler work is completed; LAA will work with Parks to schedule meetings for review and support of repair work invoices. We need to schedule a separate meeting for this discussion. TBD*
 - 2) *Infield landscape overhaul for 4 of the 7 fields at HG.*

- *Needs From Township*
 - *Picnic Tables: Can the township provide 5 new picnic tables for the park? We have limited, and the current are old. We have increased volume at the concessions, and would like to provide families a place to enjoy.*
 - *Cement Bleacher Pads F1: The poured cement bleacher pads and ADA accessible seating area on Field #1; Township to provide updates.*
 - *Sprinklers: Repaired and renovated after many years of service. Map of the completed system is now in existence for future construction reference. LAA can schedule meeting with P&R to review and discuss next steps, and reimbursement for approved portion share. Lakes board member will reach out to schedule meeting for further discussion in early 2024.*

Mr. Berkheiser – On the Lakes report, Emily, one of the questions had to do with picnic tables.

Director England – We have the picnic tables ordered. They have not been distributed yet. We will be ordering our second round of picnic tables the first of the year, and all the parks will get nice picnic tables.

Mr. Berkheiser – We talked at one time about putting a pavilion and a pad up front. Is that on our project list to do this year?

Director England – Yes, that's correct.

Mr. Berkheiser – Then I have sprinklers circled and a question as to their indication that they want to meet with us to discuss ...

Director England – We have had discussions in the past with them. It has been determined that it's an old system. They have not taken it off their report, so I will make that request again.

Mr. Berkheiser – Yes, ask them pull the sprinkler stuff because that is not our issue.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – We could request that Lakes Athletics have somebody show up to the meeting so we can question them and talk with them.

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

- *Interlakes Girls Softball*

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- Our December meeting was mostly budget oriented.
- We approved the salaries and wages for boards and commissions. You all get a pay increase starting in January.
- All of the 2024 meeting schedules were approved.
- The AFSCME contract was approved. That's for the folks who are in the union for the Township Hall. I think we're good on the union contracts for 5 years.

- In January, the LysteGro Agreement process will start. At the treatment plant, waste will be turned into fertilizer. This has cut our transportation fees from about \$150 per ton; I think GFL took it down to \$50, and now with this system it will be about \$15 per ton, saving money on the sewer system.
- We also approved the Open Space Millage; the wording, and for it to be on the ballot for the August election. Just so you know, there were 6 Board members and it was 4-2 to put it on August. One of the members that did vote for it said that if it does not pass in August, they would not vote for it to go on in November. The Board had a discussion as to which election it should be on. I encourage you to tell your neighbors and friends to make sure they vote in August. If it does not pass in August, it may not make it onto the November election.

ITEM 4: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. England discussed the following:

- The majority of everything is in my written report.
- Since we last met, we did have a meeting with the County, People's Express, and the 7 communities that utilize People's Express to see how we were standing with that.
 - I think it was good with all communities.
 - I've seen our ridership increase, and they have seen that continuously throughout the communities.
 - We will continue to meet quarterly to let them know of any issues and how that service will continue to benefit our residents. Hopefully we will see more expansion in services over the next year or so.
- We are finishing up the construction documents with the design phase for Bicentennial Park and Victory Park. We're going to try to bid those together so maybe one contractor will pick up both projects and get us a better price. These will go out to bid for a spring project.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Emily, I don't know if I'm just more observant, but I've noticed a lot more People's Express buses moving around the community than in the past.

Director England – Before the County took over the contract with them, I didn't have any coming to the Senior Center. We had other buses, but I never saw People's Express, and now they're there several times a day.

ITEM 5: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

- You heard information on Victory.
- I do still see a lot of usage at Wise Woods, at least in the parking lot.
- I do see vehicles parking on the other side of the road. Hopefully we will put in a parking lot over there in the next year or so.

Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race

- Between the last meeting and now, there was some graffiti.
- Mark and his team cleaned it up and it looks really nice. Thank you for that.

Petsch – Bicentennial Park

- Looking forward to having our plan take place to improve that park.
- Nothing else to report.

Vecellio – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- I have been to both parks a couple times.
- There's not a lot of usage right now. Maybe Snowy Ridge will pick up after tonight.
- I've asked Emily to connect me with Barb Garbutt to have continuation of things that she may have seen before.

Krueger – Dodge Park

- I've driven through the park again. I was actually under the weather for 3 weeks so I didn't walk around.
- I did have a meeting with Chris Haney and he mentioned that there was a tree down on one of the paths.

Chris Haney – I checked both of them out. It's not just one tree. It brought half the forest down with it.

Mr. Krueger – Maybe Mark can get with you.

Chris Haney and Mark Schoder discussed the issue.

Mr. Krueger – Chris and I also talked about a potential phragmites problem around soccer Field #3. Phragmites is an invasive grass that gets about 10-12 feet tall. I have information from Michigan on how to possibly control it. I'll continue to do some research and put a report together.

Director England – I can tell you, Ron, we have a contract with a company that treats the phragmites at Long Park, and they were treating them along S. Commerce Road. We will make sure we add that as a treatment area.

Mr. Berkheiser – Which field is it?

Chris Haney – Field #3; it's on the southeast corner, the drainage swale. It's just starting a couple plants.

Director England – It will be September of next year, but we will add it to our treatment area.

Discussion of phragmites continued.

Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park

- Hickory Glen looks good.
- It has been busy with lots of dog walkers, including myself.
- This summer, I reported two trees that had spray paint on them. I found them again and took pictures for Mark so he can find the mystery trees.

Walker – Maple Glen

No report in Chairperson Walker's absence.

ITEM 6: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Ms. Waterworth discussed the following with the Committee:

- I have forwarded the list of competitor's addresses for the Christmas light contest so it can be shared with all of you. Judging for the Christmas light competition will be held tonight.
- They don't really have anything else going on for the remainder of the year.

ITEM 7: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mark Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- We replaced the fencing at the sledding hill, and we put up parking blocks and rocks to stop the lawn jobs over there.
- At the Airline Trail, we lost 22 rails and 2 posts. We scrapped about 10 of them, but we are trying to find a place that sells them. We can't find anything that matches up with it. We are searching.
- The pickleball courts are shut down. We cleaned them and locked up.
- We continue to clean the pathways and the parks.

Mr. Berkheiser – The pickleball courts; since we've invested quite a bit of money and it gets high usage, is there recommended maintenance? Winterizing, sealing, et cetera?

Director England – They will come back in the spring because we did experience some cracking. We will ask about a maintenance plan at that time. It is still covered under warranty at this point. The reason we locked the gates is because salt or ice melt will ruin the paint on that, so we have prevented people from going in.

We had one of our nets broken and when they came out to fix that, Mark met with them. They went ahead and removed the nets and the posts for us. They explained to Mark how to winterize those holes so that we don't experience any more cracking.

Mr. Schoder – That, and they said keep all leaves and debris off of the courts or they will stain them. We cleaned that all up and we're going to keep an eye on it.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Why did we take the netting off the fence?

Director England – To prolong the life of it. Once the play stopped, we took the nets or screens down. Those were actually put up as requested by the players as a windscreen. They served two purposes because drivers were distracted as they drove by trying to watch people play. They will go back up in the spring.

Ms. Waterworth – Wolverine Village asked if it was possible to keep the nets up longer.

Director England – It's weather dependent. As soon as the first snow flies, I have to take them down because I don't want people in the courts who may use ice melt as it will cause damage to the courts. It's a protection factor. We have had several people bring their own nets, and we did purchase a net that we keep at the Richardson Center. We're trying to work out rental of that through the Library. They can check it out. People

already rent out pickleball paddles, and we don't have a way at the Richardson Center to loan things out, so we could utilize the Library.

Mr. Berkheiser – So they would check it out at the Library and drive over to the Richardson Center.

Director England – Yes, we can keep it at the Richardson Center.

Discussion continued regarding preventing salt damage on the courts and winterizing the postholes to prevent cracking of the concrete.

ITEM 8: COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Berkheiser, to nominate Krystal Schwartz as Secretary of the Parks & Recreation Committee.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Krueger, supported by Waterworth, to retain Johnny Walker as Chairperson, and William Petsch as Vice Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Committee.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 9: OPEN SPACE MILLAGE

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Bob mentioned our Open Space Millage. Again, reach out to your organizations and groups to make sure they vote in August. If we get that passed, we can continue doing what we're doing to make our parks better. That will reflect on our 5-year plan tremendously. Emily, I hope we get that out on our web page to let everybody know. Anybody involved with kids at school, let their parents know what we need their support.

Mr. Berkheiser – We have the Presidential primary, but I don't know if we have a firm date for it.

Director England – It is in February.

Mr. Berkheiser – So we will have the February, August and November elections. The millage comes up in August.

Mr. Krueger – Can we do flyers?

Director England – I will get you all of the rules and regulations for Township employees and Committee members as to what you can, and cannot do for the millage. I will send that out to everybody.

Mr. Berkheiser – Basically, you can't spend Township dollars to promote, either way, of whatever is going on in an election. You can do whatever you want. You can get a group of people to donate money and you can do what you want, but you can't put anything on there that says "Parks Committee" or something like that.

Director England – And you can't be out campaigning for it during the time that the Parks would be meeting. We can't use the Parks meeting to get the word out. It has to be done on your own time.

Chris Haney – On that note, any of us that are 501c3 nonprofits, we can't directly advertise one way or the other to our members, by IRS rule. This is on my best recollection. But, what we can do is remind the members that there is a millage, it's about the Parks and direct them to go vote one way or the other; to let them know that there is an election and when it is.

Mr. Berkheiser – Correct, you can encourage people to vote.

Director England – This millage has been in place for 20 years, so this will be the second renewal.

Mike Kearney – Is there information about the millage that we can share?

Director England – Yes, we will get that out to everybody.

Mike Kearney – Thank you.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – The more we spread the word, the better off we are. I'm not anticipating hiccups. We have done tremendous things and I think our citizens have realized that. We are getting great participation in everything we've done. Even if you look at Wise Woods and that little parking spot that we got so much heat about. It turned out great and it's used. Every day there's cars there. People realize and they see what we've done, and what we are continuing to do with our new 5-year Plan, and what we've got planned in the spring, and the grants that we have acquired because we have matching funds so our dollars go farther. We really need the support of the community, and as long as people know, it's no more money out of their pockets. We're not asking for an increase; it's status quo, continuing to do the same things. Thank you.

Ms. Vecellio – Are we able to do direct mailing using emails from the survey?

Director England – I'll have to ask.

Ms. Vecellio – Maybe it is just to say that there is a vote coming up.

Director England – Those were given to the Township and there's only certain things the Township can do.

ITEM 10: PARK EVENT UPDATES

Director England – We had our Christmas Tree lighting. It was not as congested as last year, but it was a great turnout. We've geared up and got plans for next year.

Mr. Berkheiser – Do you have a rough headcount?

Director England – I'd say 250.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Well that’s a good turnout.

Ms. Kennedy – We changed it up this year. We didn’t have glow golf. It was only kids crafts in the other room, and I think it really helped with the flow. Kids crafts and face painters were in one room, and the other room was cookies and cocoa, and pictures with Santa.

Director England – The whole building was opened up so people could move around.

Vice Chairperson Petsch inquired about soliciting Home Depot to sponsor the event.

Director England – They used to come to our concerts, but then they didn’t have staffing to do that anymore. We can reach out to them again.

Ms. Kennedy – In the Parks Department report submitted, our dates are listed for 2024 events. We are looking at adding additional pickleball tournaments.

- Concerts will be July 5th through August 2nd, with 5 concerts.
- The M-5K, we’re looking at the Saturday before Memorial weekend again.
- We’re looking to do the Trail-or-Treat.
- We’re doing the Tree Lighting.
- We’re looking at adding other events. We will provide updates as those come up.

Ms. Vecellio – Do you add the Airline Trail onto any communications?

Director England – They are on the M-5K communication.

Ms. Kennedy – I usually go to their committee meeting the first of the year to get approval from them.

Ms. Vecellio – There’s a Table to Table Ride in June. I’m on that friends committee.

Director England – We can do that.

Ms. Schwartz – I thought we were not going to do a concert around July 4th this year.

Director England – But then we would be changing the consistency of what we’ve always done. We had a discussion about it. We understand that will be a smaller concert and we will invest accordingly, but I feel like if we don’t have it, we will send the wrong message to the community. It has always been for 5 consecutive Fridays, and there will be a time where it will fall differently again. It’s just the way the cards fell.

ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Berkheiser – I have one. It was supposed to be when we did the lights on the tree. We requested two bids to put white lights up on the Richardson Center to light up the building, the outline of it, and also Byers Farmhouse. Those would be left up from December to end of February.

One guy did not send a quote back. He sent an email with a rough price range, but that is what most projects cost. The other contractor came out and he is local. He said he

graduated from Walled Lake Central. He gave us a price. I'm looking for us to support putting lights up on the two buildings. I think the total is under \$3500. They lease the lights. They put them up and they'll maintain them. If the lights go out, they will take care of them, and they will take them down. We don't have to worry about anything.

Director England – It's \$3480 to do both.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – That would be seasonally?

Mr. Berkheiser – They would not put up permanently. It was in our budget for this year, we just didn't do anything with it. I would still like to try to get them up because we still have a lot of winter left. The idea is to put them up in December, and they would come down in the February/March time frame.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – My daughter owns an ebay company and they are fanatics on seasonal decorating. For Christmas, they acquired LED permanent lighting. They're very small and non-invasive so you don't notice them, but you leave them up all year long. You just turn them off and on. They're programmable. We might want to look into something like that. They're very small, but bright lights, like a tape almost, and they're permanently installed on your ridgelines. We might want to look into something like that. She said if you shop, you can get them at a reasonable price. It may be something we want to look into. The LED is programmable so we can turn them on for Parks events in different colors. That's just a suggestion.

Ms. Vecellio – My neighbors have those and they're very cool.

MOTION by Berkheiser, supported by Schwartz, to authorize the Parks Director to move forward on lighting as quoted for the Richardson Center and the Byers Farmhouse, not to exceed \$3500.

Discussion –

Schwartz – They will go up this year?

Berkheiser – They will go up this week if we move fast enough.

Petsch – The only discussion I have is that we do look into permanent lighting for the future.

Berkheiser – In the summertime, by the time it's dark enough to put lights on, it's 10:00pm.

Petsch – But we still have the concert and other events going on after dark.

Berkheiser – And we try to do stuff with the bridge and light that up certain colors.

You're talking about purchasing them and Maintenance would put them up and maintain them.

Petsch – Right.

Berkheiser – There's plusses and minuses to that. With this, someone else is taking care of it.

Petsch – Right, but they are a warrantied, LED product. You shouldn't have a lot of maintenance.

England – I will look into it.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Pete is gone, but I wanted to thank him again for all of the hard work that he has done. That was one of our first projects. I think I'm the only board member that has been around that long. And it's accolades to all of our groups. Karen, you guys with Byers; look how far we have come there in the last few years. And our Lakes Athletics, and Commerce Little League, and all the hard work all of these groups have put in. Look at the fields over there, Chris. That's another thing. Remember they day they started clearing and grading it out.

Discussion continued and Vice Chairperson Petsch recommended that something go to the Board to recognize Pete Lesner.

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2024, at 6:00PM at the Township Hall.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Krueger, supported by Waterworth, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

William Petsch, Vice Chairperson