

The regular meeting of the **Charter Township of Redford Park Commission** was held on April 9, 2007 in the Redford Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Roll Call – Present: Kevin Dodd, Laura Evich, Steve Offman, Maureen Okasinski, Diana Brang-Schroeder

Absent: Saira Comerford, Youth Commissioner Steve Nosakowski, Megan Semon

Also in attendance: Tom O'Connor, Theresa Burgess, Scott Gray, Mike Curle, Lee Cox

07-035 – Approval of Agenda

Evich/Brang-Schroeder motion to approve the agenda with the exception of moving Redford Union Boys Soccer to the top of the agenda and the welcome to the new youth commissioner..

07-036 – Approval of Minutes

Evich/Okasinski motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2007 regular meeting, motion passed. Minutes from the March 12, 2007 meeting were not approved pending the addition of the Master Plan list of goals voted on by the Parks Commission.

New Business

- Redford Union Boys Soccer Fundraising Walk-a-thon: The parents of the Redford Union Soccer Team are requesting the use of Claude-Allison Park Sunday June 2nd for a fundraiser. They will be using the perimeter track from 10a – 6p; this is to raise money for warm-up suits. After some discussion it was determined that June 2nd was not a good day due to the Relay for Life and the Township's Memorial Day Parade uses the parking lot for staging the parade.

07-037 – Approval of Fundraising Date

Evich/Dodd motion to approve the Redford Union Boys Soccer Team to use Claude Allison Park as a fundraiser pending an agreed date after Mike Curle checks the availability of the future park dates and that they provided with a set of Park rules and liability issues are set.

Old Business

- *Park Commission Bylaws:* Offman, Dodd and Curle to meet soon regarding by-laws.
- *Five-Year Master Plan:* Curle has talked with Treasurer Brang and Financial Officer Cubba they stated that the Township needs to sign a formal agreement with Wade-Trim; Curle has obtained said document and needs to it signed by the Supervisor Handy and Clerk Christie. The Parks Commission needs to plan several citizen forums these items will be brought to the Commission at the end of May or first of June. Most of the wording and facilities from the last master plan will remain the same; however the Commission needs to establish some new goals for this Commission and master plan.
- *Parks & Recreation Recognition Event:* Sub-committee planned to meet immediately after this meeting to review timeline and potential members of Review Committee.
- *Ball Diamond Renovations* – Pearson & Western Graham: No meetings have been held lately. Waiting for input on the Capitol # 1 first. Spoke with some landscapers, committee will meet again soon.
- *Concession Issues:* Scott on vacation last week. Concession workers from last year who will be returning, only Bobbie Woods won't be back. This is a huge cost savings since she was the highest paid worker who has been with the Township for over twenty years working in the concessions. In scheduling the softball league Claude will be filled first and then Capitol, at this point it looks as if Capitol will only be opened on Monday's and Friday's. Staff will make accommodations to help with overall plan; this should be a simple fix. Concession expenditures, revenues and salaries to be split off into a separate account to make accounting easier to monitor. Commissioner Okasinski still wants to have money figures written out in a plan. She would also like to see projection in writing for next meeting. Commissioner Evich states that Scott has done a good job to cut and manage, looking forward to it opening. Also there is the possibility to just stock Capitol with cans of pop instead of using "bag-in-the-box" syrup. Just go with bare necessities and play it by ear.



New Business

- *New Youth Commissioner:* Alejandro Dominici is a Junior at Thurston HS, Class President, Student Council Treasurer and also does tutoring.
- *Park Evaluations:* Emailed last year's list and forms.
- *Commission on Children's Issues – Hole Sponsorship:* Commission agrees to sponsor a hole at the golf outing.

07-038 – Approval of Hole Sponsorship Commission on Children's Issues

Brang-Schroeder/Dodd motion to approve the Parks Commission to a sponsor a "golf hole" at the Commission on Children Issues Golf Outing. Motion passed.

- *Parks & Recreation Secretary:* Commissioner Okasinski unclear and incomprehensible for this last minute change. Tom O'Connor everyone had the same reaction; it is a blow to the day to day operation. Management has the right to move people. The first day was rough with Mike being all alone due to vacations, some real gaps in coverage. Take concerns up with supervisor. Commissioner Okasinski questions this movement and weren't there better places to cut.
- Scott Gray mentions the major concern with spring and summer season being the most hectic time and the Youth Program meaning the Summer Playground Program and all of things going on. How often will the P & R office be closed or understaffed. Dance payments due next week. There is talk of sending people to the Water Dept. to make payments.
- Mike Curle: stated last week he didn't anything accomplished it's going to be interesting.
- Commissioner Offman stated that someone must have known that this was going to occur and it was not done in a professional manner.
- Commissioner Okasinski wants to record comments and citizen complaints; she is really disturbed by this, again wants careful tracking of Parks and recreation office. We need to look at this objectively as can to address problems that may occur.
- Tom O'Conner states we all know downside, Lee is not happy, but has been flexible enough to do work. He had met with Al Hoard to see how this is going to work, everybody in Township are doing multiple tasks. He thinks there has to be some upside to this situation, something good has to come out of this. Scott to pick up some of the slack. Ripping this department apart having Lee to multi-task. No complaints yet, only from Lee and Mike. Regarding Commissioner Okasinski' comment on better place to cut if detrimental – What can we do?
- To Tom O'Conner why fill with temporary help when we have money for a director's salary? Saturdays to catch up is okay for Lee to work. Tom O'Conner his concern is get our stuff done
- Theresa Burgess hope we all pull together, if people need to do something we need to schedule it.; it can be done; pick it and go.

Department Report

- Cox – What goes around comes around.
- Curle – Seasonal workers started this week, swings, picnic tables, repaint signs. Weather is killing us can't get started. Office getting things done, concerts are scheduled and rotated bands in and out, ordering baseball supplies – normal stuff for this time of year.
- Gray – Softball and concessions starting up, we approved for a \$1,900 grant from MDASA for some red clay infield mix. Not the entire amount we asked for, but enough to started in the right direction. We can purchase and use it anytime before the end of the season.
- Burgess – Brochure and summer information coming together, brochure advertisement deadline is April 16th, but we are flexible on that date. Playground applications for employees available. Access to Recreation Grant will not be applying this round due to the additional information needed, but we are still in the running with next deadline in July. Funds will still be available, also working on other grant.
- O'Connor: Freedom and flexibility in this building, more laid back here.
- Pokorny: Jan is waiting and hoping for nicer weather, teens don't care about the weather. Getting for the skate park season. Has some new kids this year hanging around and it looks like a dilly of a year.



Commissioners' Report

- Okasinski: Novi Park naming in our packet, look at money raising tactics for our parks. Keeps our goals in mind.
- Brang-Schroeder: Curious to see how it will progress without Lee in the office. Doggie Rama progressing well. John Cubba, with the Rotary Club, asking about money for Phoenix/Rotary Park for swing equipment or other stuff, Mike to let him know our needs.
- Evich: Lee gone upsets her, Lee's always been the heart of the office. Lots of miscommunication going on. Lee has always gone above and beyond, couldn't ask for a better person.
- Dodd: Wants his notes added to the minutes of the meeting. See attachment.
- Offman: Travesty to wait until March 29th to transfer, shows lack of respect the Commission gets from the Town Hall.

07-039-- Approval of Park Bills

Dodd/Brang-Schroeder motion to approve the bills as presented: Parks Maintenance \$1,272.75 and Recreation \$3,452.44. Roll Call: Dodd, Evich, Offman, Okasinski, Brang-Schroeder – Yes. Approved.

Communication

- Parks Commission was shown video of the first Parks & Recreation show that was co-hosted by Theresa Burgess, Steve Urban and Mike Curle.

Citizen Comments

N/A

07-040 – Adjournment

Dodd/Evich motion to adjourn Parks Commission Meeting. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Diana Brang-Schroeder, Corresponding Secretary

Recorded by: Lee Cox and Mike Curle



Commissioner Report: Dodd

I wanted to touch on another apparent miscommunication that has presented itself. It's not clear if the concession cuts were a smoke screen for this current issue, but we were informed that we are losing the P&R secretary on a permanent basis. This I believe was not just a spur of the moment notion to cut a position as critical as this for cost savings reasons. This was something thought out during budget time with failure to report to the Parks Commission for who knows, maybe an oversight. This is the most critical time in this department for terminating a position, with no thought out reasonable remedy for recovery. We have a Recreation Supervisor, who has his own duties, an acting Parks Director/Leader with other duties, and a shared office with the Youth Services Advisor which all must now take on the additional task of being secretary. When no one is available due to their position duties, the department will suffer. The office must be closed for lunches, the phones go to voicemail, and the other duties related to having a secretary fall short. It's totally ludicrous that a highly qualified secretary that is thorough and well versed in all aspects of this office, be moved to an entry level position that currently has open funding. There are many departments that have two or more secretaries attached to them for what reason? Can't these overfilled positions be moved around or terminated to better serve the public? A lot of communities do away with non revenue producing activities for the residents until they get back on track financially. Maybe there's a thought for restructuring. Why is it that the Park's department suffers the losses without explanation? Hopefully those involved in this decision step forward for the recognition they deserve when this department fails. I do not want to be tied to the failure of this department, and these decisions are not ours nor do we support them. Hearsay has it that this is politically motivated to show the lack of leadership in our department and commission. With the upcoming election year, it would seem ridiculous to dismiss these allegations true or false, but continue to move forward in what's best for the people of our community. Change is a good thing when administered with knowledge, direction, and the willingness of all involved. Something that is overlooked way to often.

Kevin Dodd

Deanna Burg-Schroeder