

Charter Township of Redford

Parks Commission Meeting May 14, 2007

The regular MEETING OF THE Charter Township of Redford Park Commission was held on May 14, 2007 in the Redford Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: President, Steve Offman
Vice President, Kevin Dodd
Secretary, Diana Brang-Schroeder
Treasurer, Laura Evich
Commissioner, Maureen Okasinski
Commissioner, John Keenan
Absent: Commissioner Sara Comerford and Youth Commissioner
Also in attendance: Tom O'Connor, Theresa Burgess, Mike Curle, and Debbie Break

07-042 Approval of Agenda: Revise New Business portion of agenda by adding (1) Waive fee for Cinco de Mayo Party (2) Discuss Capitol Park renovations. Revised Agenda approved. All Ayes. Motion passed

07-043 Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from April 9, 2007 meeting were approved. Motion by Ms. Evich and Ms. Okasinski. All Ayes. Motion passed.
- Minutes from April 23, 2007 meeting were approved. Motion by Ms. Okasinski and Ms. Brang-Schroeder. All Ayes. Motion passed.

New Business:

- **07-044** Fee for Cinco de Mayo Party waved. Motion to wave the \$30.00 fee for the Capitol Shelter by Ms. Okasinski and Ms. Brang-Schroeder. All Ayes. Motion passed.
- Discuss Capitol Park renovations
 - The entire board strongly voiced their disappointment and objections to Commissioner John Keenan proceeding with the Capitol Park renovations without the consent of the Parks Board.
 - Mr. Keenan apologized profusely. Mr. Keenan stated he moved so quickly because he was concerned the funds might be retracted. Mr. Keenan felt since the Parks Commission had met on this issue several times he could just move forward without their approval. He agrees the news article in the Redford Observer & Eccentric is wrong. For the project to be done by June 6th for the start of the Little League Season the work had to begin now. The contract for the work was signed one week ago and the work has begun.
 - Mr. Offman is very disappointed Mr. Keenan didn't address the board.

- Ms. Okasinski agrees it is too late and the renovations will continue, but she is very disappointed and feels the board looks bad.
- **07-045 Resolution:** We the Parks Commission disapprove of the action and timing to proceed with Capitol Park renovations without the approval of the Commission. Resolution by Ms. Okasinski and Ms. Brang-Schroeder. 5 Ayes and 1 Nay and 1 Absent.
- Ms. Brang-Schroeder wants a letter sent to the editor of the Redford Observer & Eccentric newspaper retracting false statements. She also sends an apology to the Thurston teams.
- Ms. Okasinski is also concerned about the negative newspaper article about Thurston losing the use of the Capitol ball field which they are currently using as their home field. She will contact the editor of the newspaper and correct the false statements. She also asks Mike Curle to spice up Pearson field to make it more appealing for Thurston's games.
- Mr. Curle will make sure the field at Pearson will be ready and looking attractive for Thurston's games. He will also check into providing Port-a-Johns at the field, and see if some type of bleacher system can be made available.
- Mr. Dodd states Thurston can not currently use their field and are waiting on a bond issue to do renovations. He also wanted to know if Parks and Recreation is losing money due to the switch to Pearson field. He wants to know at what dollar amount a job must go to bid.
- Mr. Curle stated no money is being lost since Thurston was not and is not being charged to use any field. Also the dollar amount for a job to go to bid is \$10,000 and higher.
- Mr. Keenan said he knows the amount of the Capitol field repairs was under \$10,000; therefore he only needed a quote.
- Mr. Dodd expressed concern for the newly redone Capitol field since as soon as it is completed the little leagues will be beginning their season. The field will be immediately under heavy usage and wonders if the turf is going to hold up.
- Mr. Curle states the landscaper will be using biodegradable stakes and said the turf should take in 2 weeks.
- Mr. Offman wants to know if all the money Mr. Keenan received is going to be spread around or is it all being spent at Capitol.
- Mr. Curle stated for liability reasons the money is best used at Capitol, but 1/5 will be spread out over the little league diamonds in other parks.
- Mr. Keenan asked Mr. Curle if Thurston was OK with using Pearson.
- Mr. Curle stated NO. Thurston will play at a back-up field somewhere else in the Township – he does not know where.
- Ms. Okasinski told Mr. Curle to let the little league know they may have the use of Pearson to preserve the integrity of the new field. They should be prepared for this change.
- Mr. O'Connor stated the staff should shoulder some of the blame. He feels the relationship with Thurston will heal. He was surprised the renovations took place during mid season.

Diane Brang-Schroeder

- Mr. Dodd reiterated he was not in favor of renovations at this time.
- **07-046** Fundraiser National Honor Society for St. Jude Research Hospital, Friday June 1, 2007. Mr. Curle said they can use the Volleyball courts at Claude Allison. Motion to approve by Ms. Okasinski and Ms. Brand-Schroeder. All Ayes. Motion passed.
- **07-047** Park Clean-up
 - Honor Cory Lambert for his contributions and leadership of this project with a framed certificate.
 - Motion by Mr. Offman and Mr. Keenan. All Ayes. Motion passed.
- **07-048** Wavier of Fee for Youth Commission for Doggie Rama. Motion to wave the fee by Ms. Okasinski and Ms. Brang-Schroeder. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Park Commission Bylaws: Tabled
- Five-Year Master Plan
 - Ms. Evich feels the commissioners need to stand behind and strongly back the Parks and Recreation budgets.
- Concession Issues
 - Scott Gray's Report
 - Revenue is picking up at Claude – more people are using the park
 - Mark Christensen will help out around Capitol thereby reducing staff and providing more security.
 - Starting cash at Capitol will be reduced thereby lowering the risk factor of theft.
 - Most inventory items were raised 25 cents.
 - Dollar numbers are low because of inventory start-up costs.
 - Claude Concession: +\$189.58
 - Capitol Concession: -\$246.38
 - Capitol numbers should be improving when more games are being played on Thursdays and Fridays. Traditionally the Women and Co-eds who play games on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays do not purchase much from the concession.
 - Concerts in the park will also help increase the revenue when they begin.
 - Comcast is talking about playing 4 games per night for 4 weeks at the cost of \$100 per night and the cost of balls.
 - Mr. Keenan wants to know what the cost of the beginning inventory was for the concessions.
 - Ms. Okasinski said Mike Curle should tell Scott Gray – Good Job!
- Park Evaluations
 - Ms. Okasinski wants to know when the youth commissioner will be coming back again.
 - Ms. Burgess stated he should be back by the June 11 meeting.

Diana Bray Schroeder

- Ms. Okasinski feels the evaluation form for the parks needs to be revised to include the number of people in the parks at the time of the survey, such as the number of Adults, Children and Adolescence
- Mr. Keenan wants to know if the evaluation forms will be sent by e-mail.
- Ms. Evich would like her form e-mailed to her.
- Parks Secretary
 - Debbie Break will be the new recording secretary for the Park Commission Meetings.
 - Debbie also works in the Parks and Recreation office Monday to Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and sometimes longer.
 - Debbie will be doing all the payroll for the Parks Maintenance, Parks & Recreation and Youth Department; process credit card statements and purchase orders, warrant reports, disbursement vouchers for all instructors and the parks bills; service customers; answer phone calls, etc.
 - Mr. Dodd wants to know if anything is pending.
 - Mr. Curle said credit card statements and purchase requisitions are behind. He will try to get the paperwork done so the commissioners can be paid.
 - Ms. Burgess said John Cubba is looking into getting Debbie access to process these bills.
 - Ms. Okasinski wants an e-mail update on how everything is going to be handled.
 - Mr. O'Connor stated a commissioner should join him to see why bills are not being paid.
 - Mr. Dodd said he would go with Mr. O'Connor to help.
 - Ms. Okasinski is disappointed that bills are not being taken care of and it has been 3 weeks since the last Parks Commission Meeting.

Department Report

- Mr. Curle states the seasonal's are cutting grass six days per week. A new seasonal started today. He is in the process of dividing teams for the girl's softball. He is getting the concert in the parks checks. Sign-up for the Summer Playground Program started today and 40 youth at the rate of \$50 each have already signed up. Mr. Curle is working with the dance instructor to balance the last quarter of dance payments so she can be paid. Mr. Curle states he has to spend much more time at the front desk.
- Ms. Okasinski has noticed several errors on the web page, such as the commissioner's titles need to be changed and the Parks Rules are not updated. She will talk to Betsy McRae.
 - Mr. Curle said he would handle it.
- Ms Okasinski also would like to see more lights at Vandenberg for security. She has received complaints of drug paraphernalia and drinking.
 - Mr. Curle stated new contracts with DTE need to be established by the lighting commission.
- Mr. Curle states the lights at Elliot Tot Lot have been fixed.
- Mr. Curle said the web liaison would like to add pictures and possibly a video to the site.

Debbie Break - Strade

- Mr. Dodd states we have a great web site.
- Ms. Pokorney said she has been having some racial trouble in the skate park with several new youth to the area. She called the police and it took them 20 minutes to show up. She would like to see the police come through the area at least twice a night. She asks the Commissioners to please talk to Police Commissioner John Buck and express their concerns.
- Mr. Dodd suggests a letter be sent and kept on file. Ms. Brang-Schroeder will write the letter and Mr. Offman will sign it.

Commissioner's Report

- Ms. Brang-Schroeder would like help in advertising for the Doggie Rama, since funds are low this year. She asks if everyone could publicize it in any community calendars, flyers, postings, etc. She has 19 tables, 3 sponsors, 5 adoption groups and 2 non-profit groups.
- Mr. Keenan apologized again. He feels the commissioners need to be more proactive with the board of trustees and the township supervisor. He feels the board needs to constantly drive home the point of needing more money for improving the parks. Would like to see the skate park expanded. States a good park system is an integral part of the community.
 - Mr. Curle said Mike Dennis is looking into getting funds to add equipment to the skate park.
 - Ms. Evich said she will help.
 - Mr. Curle would like to see dugouts for Capitol Park. He also suggested it would be a good rule of thumb to always get 2-3 bids on any project
- Mr. Offman stated since there will not be another meeting before the Memorial Day Parade arrangements needed to be made at tonight's meeting.
 - Mr. Curle said the Golf Carts are ready to go.
 - Ms. Okasinski said Mr. Keenan was going to buy the candy and asked Mr. Curle to provide 4 Golf Carts. She also stated she was happy to be here.
 - Mr. Keenan said all should meet at Glenhurst Golf Course at 1:00 p.m. and the parade will start at 2:00 p.m.
 - Ms. Brang-Schroeder asked Mr. Curle to send an email reminder to all commissioners about the parade meeting time.
- Mr. Dodd wanted to know if we received enough money from outside advertising to pay for the Parks & Recreation brochures.
 - Mr. Curle stated they needed \$2,000 and only received \$1,000.
- Ms. Evich wants to thank Scott Gray for providing information on the concession stands and of stepping up and filling in where needed.
 - She also would like to thank Debbie Break for stepping up and assisting the Parks & Recreation department and the Parks Commission.
 - Also a thank you to Lee Cox for attending tonight's meeting. She misses Lee very much.
- Mr. Offman stated he didn't mean to offend anyone with his comments.

Park Bills

Debra Brang Schroeder

Once again the Warrant List of Bills was unavailable. A complete list will be available at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Communication

Citizen Comments

None

07-049 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. by Mr. Offman and Ms. Evich. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted by Diana Brang-Schroeder, Corresponding Secretary

Recording Secretary: Debbie Break

