

Charter Township of Redford

Parks Commission Meeting – Amended 9/22/08 September 8, 2008

The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Redford Park Commission was called to order September 8, 2008 by the Secretary at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Chair, Maureen Okasinski
Vice Chair, Diana Brang-Schroeder
Secretary, John Keenan
Treasurer, Laura Weaver
Commissioner Steve Offman
Commissioner Kevin Dodd

Absent: Commissioner Saira Comerford

Also present: Debbie Break, Mike Curle, Tom O'Connor, Theresa Burgess, Jan Pokorny and James Brown

08-099 Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by OFFMAN, supported by BRANG-SCHROEDER, to approve the Agenda. All ayes. Motion carried: 6-0 Absent 1

08-100 Approval of Amended Minutes from August 25, 2008: Motion was made by OFFMAN, supported by BRANG-SCHROEDER to approve the minutes by adding an e to Mr. Bailey's name and changing the opening of the meeting to be by Brang-Schroeder. All ayes. Motion carried: 6-0 Absent 1

Citizen Comments:
None

New Business:

- **Township Employee Class Discounts:** Theresa Burgess said the department had been discussing ways to increase participation in Parks and Recreation classes and thought it would be a good idea to offer a discount to all township employees. The Commissioners had some questions and the matter was discussed.

08-101 Motion: by BRANG-SCHROEDER supported by WEAVER to have a 6 month trial period where all township employees, their spouses or partners and their children would receive a 10% discount up to a maximum discount of \$5.00 on any Parks and Recreation class. Some exclusions may apply.

Old Business:

- **Doggie Rama Report:** Commissioner Brang-Schroeder presented her final report. Commissioner Okasinski congratulated her on increasing the profit margin. Commissioner Keenan asked where the money goes and was informed by Commissioner Brang-Schroeder it goes into the township's general fund.
- **Western Graham Field Cutback:** Mr. Curle stated he has billed St Valentine and had a meeting with their athletic director. He is expecting a check this week from St Valentine

to cover the cost Parks and Recreation paid to make the diamond safe for play after the diamond cut back.

- Commissioner Offman said it wasn't about the money it was about the principle.
- Commissioner Keenan stated he had gone back through the past minutes and cited several different dates where there had been discussion of the types of changes St Valentine was looking to make concerning Western Graham Field. He wanted to set the record straight that he never withheld information from the Commission and was not happy about the statement in the last minutes to the contrary. Commissioner Weaver apologized to Commissioner Keenan for her statement and the apology was accepted. Commissioner Keenan concluded with the fact it is easy to blame someone who is not in attendance at the meeting and therefore unable to defend themselves.

Department Report:

- **Debbie Break:** Has put together a list of the items for the new commissioner packets and asked the Commissioners to look it over and make suggestions if anything else needs to be added. The list will be finalized at the Special Meeting on Monday, September 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Also, she spoke with another township employee, Kristi Eveslage, who is involved with the RTJAA. Mrs. Eveslage said it would have been advantageous to RTJAA if they had the opportunity to place an ad in the Parks and Recreation brochure. I told her it would be a good idea for all youth organizations in the township that are not through the department to do so. Mrs. Eveslage said she would take the information back to her board. I also had the opportunity to mention the same to Chris Riffenburg who is the contact for the Soccer Club. He also said he would take the information back to his board.
 - Commissioner Okasinski asked Mike Curle to send a letter to all the athletic organizations in the township inviting them to advertise in the brochure and let them know what the pricing would be.
- **Theresa Burgess:** The brochure has arrived and is being distributed to the schools this week. Next year the brochure will be available earlier.
 - She is looking for a new fitness instructor since the old one dropped out at the last minute. Currently the department is working on hiring Fitness RX, which holds classes all over the state and have certified instructors.
 - She is looking to add another kickboxing class along with weight lifting and Zoomba (exercise to salsa music). A Fitness Boot Camp has been added.
 - The old Cheerleading instructor resigned. A new instructor was hired and then found out she was pregnant. A new instructor is being sought to start after the first session.
 - Simple cardio programs for children has been added to the Karate Studio
 - Arrangements are being made to have a Dog Obedience Class. Animals will come in through the back Gym door so they stay off the carpet.
- **Jan Pokorny:** The new fence for the skateboard park is going up tomorrow. The skateboarders are really looking forward to it. She asked the Commission to define "loitering in the park." She received a complaint from several youth that the police told them to leave the park when they were playing football behind the skateboard park. She said there have been fewer problems this year than last year. Commissioner Okasinski suggested a meeting be setup with the head of the police road patrol to try to work out an understanding. Mike Curle said he and Theresa would work on it.

- **Mike Curle:** Someone presented a flyer to him and asked if it could be published on our brochure. He asked the Park Commissioners opinion. It was determined not at this time. Mike has sent mailings out to all the groups such as the yoga, dance, and volleyball people.
 - Commissioner Offman wanted to know if a final accounting had been received from the dugout committee yet. Mike will contact Mr. Karker and see if one has been prepared.
 - Mike is checking with the township to see if the supplies for the concession stands can be combined as one while keeping the wage and revenues separated like now. It would make things much easier for Scott Grey to track. Capitol Concession is not used as much as Claude Allison. Sometimes one a couple of items are needed at Capitol not a whole order.
- **Tom O'Connor:** Apologies he missed the outdoor meeting. He was on his way when he was called to another meeting. He wanted to know if Commissioner Okasinski ever heard anything further about the Nike project. She said no, but did find out they had already made the decision on who they were going to help this year.

Commissioners' Report:

- **Commissioner Offman:** Nothing to report.
- **Commissioner Brang-Schroeder:** On October 7, 2008 the Fire Department will hold an open house. She would volunteer to run a table there and would like someone else to be there with her. Mike Curle will find out the time of the event. She feels Parks and Recreation should have a table there where people can sign up for classes. Next year she would like Parks and Recreation to have a sign-up table at all the school's open houses. Theresa Burgess said Vandenburg School is having an open house and perhaps they could have a table there. Commissioner Brang-Schroeder also thought maybe there could be a "bring a friend to the last class", to help encourage sign-ups.
 - She has not forgotten about buying the Parks Maintenance workers pizza for all their help with Doggie Rama. Mike said the best day would be Friday, September 19 at 11:30. Any Commissioner who has not made their financial donation to the pizza should do so at the next meeting.
- **Commissioner Keenan:** Said it has been a long summer. He is working on setting up a baseball tournament for 2009. He will be talking to Mike Curle about needing more red clay. Commissioner Okasinski offered to volunteer her help for the tournament.
- **Commissioner Weaver:** Sorry to be late. Due to her new job this may happen from time to time.
- **Commissioner Dodd:** Pleasure being here as usual. Quote: "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new." Albert Einstein.
- **Commissioner Okasinski:** Asked Commissioner Dodd to speak to the new Commissioners about the Parks website. Mike Curle will send out invitations to the new Commissioners inviting them to the October 22, 2008 meeting.
 - The Commission on Children's issues may be able to help with getting the 501c3 in place. She will be attending a meeting in Police Chief John Buck's office at 8:30 a.m. on September 11.

Park Bills

08-102 Motion was made by BRANG-SCHROEDER supported by OFFMAN to approve the Park's bills as amended for 75100 Recreation, 75500 Concession and 75200 Maintenance. All ayes. Motion carried: 6-0 Absent 1

Communication: A woman apologized to Mike Curle in response to an email she sent incase she sounded rude. The woman also thanked Theresa Burgess for the way she handled the situation.

08-103 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. by DODD, supported by WEAVER. All ayes. Motion carried: 6-0 Absent 1

Respectfully submitted by Commissioner Keenan, Corresponding Secretary

Recording Secretary: Debbie Break