

Charter Township of Redford

Parks Commission Meeting June 2, 2008

The special meeting of the Charter Township of Redford Park Commission was called to order June 2, 2008 by the Chair at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Kevin Dodd, Commissioner Saira Comerford

Also present: Tom O'Connor, Mike Curle, and Pat McRae

08-063 Approval of Amended Agenda: Motion was made by Commissioner OFFMAN, supported by Commissioner WEAVER, to approve the Amended Agenda. All ayes. Motion carried: 5-0 Absent 2

The Board without objection allowed Trustee McRae's comments regarding the recent Memorial Day Parade and a person wearing a political t-shirt passing out Doggie Rama literature.

New Business:

- **Distribution of Parks & Recreation literature:** Discussion centered on the distribution of Parks & Recreation literature at the Townships' annual Memorial Day Parade. Trustee McRae just wanted to state that he was concerned that the literature was being passed out by someone wearing a political t-shirt at what has been traditionally a non-political function. He also wanted to know if something could be done in the future to prevent or control this from occurring again.

Commissioner Weaver indicated she never has liked it either, and said she often would see it in the summer concerts in the park series, but did not believe the Commission could do anything about it.

Commissioner Brang-Schroeder offered an explanation as to how it occurred. She was approached by former Township Trustee and Park Commissioner Mr. Gajewski, who offered to hand out flyers to a Parks & Recreation event (Doggie Rama). At the time he offered to assist with this hand-out he was not wearing a t-shirt with a political affiliation, but later changed shirts. Secondly he was not an active participant in the parade itself, but was handing out the flyer to viewers along the parade route.

Trustee McRae stated again that it was not right to be wearing a politically centered t-shirt and pass out flyers.

The discussion continued with why another politician was allowed to be an active participant in the parade and hand out his political information while actually in the parade. No one had an answer for the posed question.

➤ **Discussion and Comments With Respect to Ball Diamond Use**

Mike Curle informed the Commission of the various facts with regard to the use of the Capitol Ball Diamond. The Redford Rebels, a travel baseball team, had requested use of the field earlier in the year and the Commission had approved same. The conflict arose when the Capitol Park League (ages 13-15) submitted their schedule and some of the dates they wanted conflicted with those selected by the Redford Rebels. The Capitol Park League does not know how many players it will have until approximately the end of May of each year.

The Commission discussed in detail the various difficulties at some length attempting to forge a policy statement which would accommodate all parties concerned. All agreed that the Capitol Park League had virtually no competition for the use of the field until recent developments in the local baseball scene. The Commission was informed that the travel baseball leagues are much more prevalent now than before. The brand of baseball in the travel leagues is quite good and in the past some of the better baseball players in Redford Township chose to play travel baseball instead of the Capitol Park League. All agreed that no team should have exclusive use of the field and felt each should attempt to accommodate the other as often as possible. Discussion was made with respect to the use of the fields by teams wherein the Township residents comprise at least 50% of that team. The maintenance of the fields were likewise discussed as to whether that should have any bearing on the decision to give a particular team use of the field. A draft of a policy was tentatively formed with the suggestion of a future meeting to finalize the policy.

08-064 MOTION TO TABLE BASEBALL FIELD POLICY

Motion to table the baseball field policy by Commissioner KEENAN, 2nd by Commissioner BRANG-SCHROEDER. All ayes. Motion carried: 5-0 Absent 2

08-065 MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion made by Commissioner OFFMAN, 2nd by Commissioner WEAVER to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried: 5-0 Absent 2

Respectfully submitted by: John J. Keenan, Corresponding Secretary

Recording Secretary: Michael Curle, Parks & Recreation Director