

Charter Township of Redford

Parks Commission Meeting
July 23, 2007

The regular meeting of the charter Township of Redford Park Commission was held on July 9, 2007 in the Redford Community Center in Meeting Room C. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Chair, Steve Offman
Vice Chair, Kevin Dodd
Secretary, Diana Brang-Schroeder
Treasurer, Laura Evich
Commissioner, Maureen Okasinski
Commissioner John Keenan
Absent: Commissioner Sara Comerford and Youth Commissioner
Alejandro Dominci

Also in attendance: Theresa Burgess, Debbie Break, Tom O'Connor and Jan Pokorny

07-064 Approval of Agenda: Ms. Evich and Mr. Keenan motion to approve the Agenda. Agenda approved. All ayes. Motion passed.

07-065 Approval of Minutes: Ms. Evich and Ms. Brang-Schroeder motion to approve minutes from July 9 as amended by Ms. Evich and Ms. Brang-Schroeder. All ayes. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Master Plan Forum: The date for the public forum is set for Wednesday, August 1, 2007.
 - Ms. Okasinski and Ms. Brang-Schroeder made an announcement and passed out flyers for the public forum at the Senior Ice Cream Social
 - Ms. Burgess said she would send out flyers to the parents associated with the youth department.
 - Mr. Keenan wants to know when will be the final approval of the master plan.
 - Mr. Dodd said it would be in November
 - Ms. Brang-Schroeder would like the Dial-A-Ride bus available to the senior citizens who may need a ride to the public forum.
 - Mr. O'Connor stated if there were only a few he would pick them up himself.
 - Ms. Okasinski would like to talk to Ms. Dorothy Morris the Senior Director and have a sign-up sheet for the seniors who would need transportation.
 - Ms. Brang-Schroeder would like the bus to be available to bring them to the concerts in the park next year. This would be a good goal for 2008.
 - Mr. Keenan wants to know if Leah will return to speak to the Commissioners after the public forum is held.
 - Mr. Offman stated if there are any corrections to the Master Plan which was distributed this evening or any concerns to email Leah.

07-066 Motion by Ms. Brang-Schroeder and Ms. Evich to table until after the public forum has occurred. All Ayes. Motion passed.

- Doggie Rama
 - Ms. Brang-Schroeder does not have all the numbers yet, but should be ready to give a final report at the next meeting.

- Capitol Park Renovations

07-066 Motion by Ms. Okasinski and Ms. Evich to table until Mr. Curle returns from vacation. All ayes. Motion passed.

- Parks & Recreation Goals for 2007

- Ms. Okasinski informed the Commissioners the original notes for the Parks Commission 2007 Goals cannot be found. She asked the Commissioners to brainstorm to the best of their ability as to what they were. The following is a list of the goals for 2007:
 - ✓ Expand Doggie Rama
 - ✓ Coordinate with the Historical Commission about walking paths with spots that would be of interest
 - ✓ Expand Skateboarding Park
 - ✓ Work toward having a bridge across Five Mile to Bell Creek Park
 - ✓ Capitol Park Baseball Diamond Renovation
 - ✓ Continue volunteer recognition
 - ✓ Explore more sponsorship with outside sources and groups
 - ✓ Better communication with schools and outside agencies
 - ✓ Expand website development
 - ✓ Welcome packets for new homeowners with a sample copy of brochure, programming, and a letter from the Park Commission
 - ✓ Improve marketing through the brochures

New Business:

Department Report:

- Ms. Pokorny would like to know when the skateboard expansion can begin.
 - Mr. Offman stated it would be October or November before the Water Department is completed with their expansion.
 - Ms. Pokorny wants to know if the youth may speak early at the public forum.
 - Mr. Offman told her it depends on how it is set-up.
 - Ms. Okasinski said they probably would be able to speak early.
 - Ms. Pokorny said she is very happy with her new Parks & Rec. shirt.
- Ms. Burgess said she was sorry she has missed the last few meeting due to softball.
 - Summer program is going well. Next year will be the 50th anniversary and she would like to do something special. Both summer program parks are full despite the refunds given before the program began, due to people's change in summer

plans, wanting a different site, etc. One park is slightly over 50 participants. So far there have been no incidents.

- Soon there will be a new youth commissioner appointed to the position, since Alejandro Domonici can no longer participate.
- If the Parks Commission would like to review her programming she would be happy to include them in the process. Ms. Burgess would like to know what the Commission would like to see. The Commissioners stated programming does not need to go through them unless the staff has a specific question.
- Ms. Okasinski stated what we offer is pretty much like every other community. She is just disappointed all our programs for the summer are not working out so well.
- Ms. Burgess said the instructor contracts have now been changed to company's who must provide their own insurance and workman's compensation. This new development in hiring may have a negative impact on us.
- Mr. Keenan would like to see the proposals for the contract employees and for the company's.
- Ms. Burgess stated the ads for the Fall/Winter brochure needs to be in soon for the opening of the new school season. She would also like to know if a \$5 discount coupon can be distributed to those participants who signed up for July classes and were not given the discount for National Parks Month.
- Ms Okasinski thinks this would be a good solution.

07-067 Motion by Ms. Okasinski and Ms. Brang-Schroeder to review participants who signed up for classes between July 11-31 and give them a \$5 discount coupon (to go toward another class) to anyone who did not receive it. All ayes. Motion passed.

- Ms Burgess, Ms Okasinski and Ms. Brang-Schroeder will meet this coming week about the Access Conference on Monday, July 30, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00pm.
- Tom O'Connor said he will provide coffee, soda and refreshments for the public forum at the Redford Community Center on Wednesday, August 1, 2007.

Commissioners' Report

- Ms. Okasinski stated she, Ms. Brang-Schroeder and Ms. Burgess would be attending the Access to Recreation Conference. She wants everyone to know Kory will be getting his recognition award for Clean-Up Day.
- Mr. Keenan is happy to be here after having been on vacation. He has had a French student visiting in his home and encourages everyone to try having an exchange student stay with them sometime.
 - He has received many compliments on the Capitol Diamond Renovation project. Some have stated it looks like a professional field now.
 - Mr. Keenan said individual teams have been taking turns raking the field after their games to help keep it looking good.
 - He went to a seminar on a 403B Charity Plan and will meet with Ms. Okanski and they will put together a draft for recreation in town. Maybe they can get more money for improvements.
 - Mr. Keenan feels the skate park expansion is not moving fast enough. He suggests contacting the Water Department to see if they can't move up their schedule.

- Ms. Brang-Schroeder stated she and Ms. Okanski read the National Parks Month proclamation at the Township Board Meeting, they attended the Senior Ice Cream Social and bought the pizza for Mr. Curles maintenance workers with the money the Commissioners donated. Mr. Curles men are very grateful.
 - Ms. Brang-Schroeder would like to know if we can hire some people for \$7 per hour or get volunteers with disabilities to work in to parks. Mr. Bill Hartley from the Lincoln Behavioral Services at Plymouth and Fenton has individuals who are capable of performing different duties. We just need to let him know what kind of work we need done and he would supply the person with those capabilities.
 - Mr. Keenan wanted to know what kind of abilities these people possess. He is enthusiastic about the idea of working with people from Lincoln Behavioral Services.
 - Mr. Offman said his church uses these types of individuals to help clean the church and it is working out ok.
- Ms. Evich congratulates Ms. Burgess on being with child. Ms. Burgess is due around March 3, 2008.
 - Ms. Evich is very disturbed by the condition the Little League people left the concession stand at Capitol Park. They took over 90% of the refrigerator and blocked other access areas causing a potential danger. It made it very difficult to conduct business the evening of Concert in the park. She suggests we never let them use our facility again.
 - Ms. Brang-Schroeder stated we lose revenue because of them.
 - Mr. O'Connor wants to ask Mr. Curle when he gets back from vacation what kind of perk we received for letting them use the concession stand.
 - Ms. Okasinski stated they should have been given better direction as to what they could do and use in the concession stand.
 - Mr. Keenan stated maybe they didn't understand. Perhaps there was a communication problem between them and Mr. Curle. He would like to talk to Mr. Curle and then to the Little League people. At the time Mr. Keenan was at the park he felt everything seemed ok.
- Mr. Dodd stated he had voted no to letting the softball people use the concession stand. He was going to ask Ms. Burgess about the Youth Commission, so he was glad she addressed this issue. He would like to know when they are going to get paid for their meeting attendance.
 - Mr. Dodd feels there needs to be several corrections on the cover of the Master Plan. First to remove Mr. Curle as Parks & Recreation Director since he has never officially been given that position. Also, to remove Lee Cox as secretary since she is no longer in that position. The cover should reflect the real status of the department.
 - Quote: "The past always looks better than it was because it isn't here." By Finley Peter Dunne

Park Bills

- Ms. Okasinski would like more information from Mr. Curle regarding the C&M Landscaping and Prime Strip bills. Are these quantities for the year or what? She also wants to know how many hours are going into the Master Plan project from Wade Trim.

07-068 Motion by Ms. Evich and Mr. Dodd to pass Park Bills 75100 Concession, 75100 Recreation, 75200 Maintenance. All Ayes. Motion passed

Communication

None

Citizen Comments

- Mr. O'Connor would like to know about getting a park bench in honor of July Lowham, a one time Park Commissioner, who passed away.
 - Ms. Break informed him Kay Martin from the Redford Democratic Club has been working with Mr. Curle to do this very thing.
 - Mr. O'Connor would like to have this issue added to the next Parks Agenda

07-069 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. by Mr. Dodd and Mr. Evich. All ayes. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Diana Brang-Schroeder, Corresponding Secretary

Recording Secretary: Debbie Break