

Charter Township of Redford

Parks Commission Meeting
July 9, 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
Absent: Commissioner John Keenan, Commissioner Sara Comerford and
Youth Commissioner Alejandro Dominci

Also in attendance: Mike Curle, Debbie Break, and Tom O'Connor

07-056 Approval of Agenda: Ms. Okasinski and Ms. Brang-Schroeder motion to approve the Agenda. Agenda approved. All ayes. Motion passed.

07-057 Approval of Minutes: Mr. Dodd wanted corrections to page 2, tracks miss-spelled, typo on page 3 in date needed a coma. Motion to approve minutes from June 11, 2007 as corrected by Ms. Okasinski 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 wants a more effective distribution plan with face to face contact with people when dropping off flyers. She also wants local churches contacted, have Pat Deal make an announcement at the Concert in the Park nights, Jan Porkorny to talk to youth and parents at the skate park and splash pad and sports leagues.
 - Debbie Break said she would talk it up at the seniors Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, July 17 and will have Dorothy Morris, Senior Director, mention it to others who visit her office and programs.
 - Mr. Dodd would like it mentioned at the baseball games and at the concession stands.
- Park Evaluations
 - Mr. Curle gave the commissioners updated forms to fill out.
 - Ms. Okasinski would like to see an area on the forms noting the number of males and females, along with the number of adults, adolescents and children. She would like the commissioners to attend their assigned parks at different days and times to try and get a more accurate picture as to who is using our parks. She also mentioned talking to the staff who mows the lawns and pick-up the trash.
 - Mr. Offman stated he would cover the park (s) assigned to youth commissioner Alejandro Dominci.

- Doggie Rama
 - Ms. Brang-Schroeder stated Doggie Rama was a success. It raised just under \$2000 this year. She is still waiting for the Jaycees \$20 which is the only outstanding money. The vendors said they made more money this year. There were 30 less shots given out this year. Next meeting she will have an accounting of the event ready to present to the commissioners. She would also like to thank Mr. Curle and Ms. Evich for helping out all day at the event.
 - Ms. Okasinski stated all handouts were gone by 2:30 p.m.
 - Ms. Brang-Schroeder said the Dogmatics did a good job.
 - Mr. O'Connor said it was great that the vendors made more money.
 - Ms. Brang-Schroeder said all the free handouts the vendors brought with them were gone by 12 noon. She also wants to thank Mr. Keenan for volunteering, and Mr. Curle and his staff for the ramp they set up. It worked out great and she would like to use it again next year.
 - Ms. Okasinski thanked Ms. Brang-Schroeder for another great job.
- Capitol Park Renovations
 - Mr. Curle stated he would have the figures for the full cost of the renovations prepared for the next meeting.
- Skate Park Expansion
 - Mr. Curle said sometime in September or October the Water Department is going to run a new water main right through the middle of the parking lot of the Redford Community Center. This will interfere with the expansion timing and he sees three possibilities:
 - Roll over the money until next spring
 - Use the money on other projects and try for more money next year
 - Wait until November and do the expansion then.
 - Ms. Okasinski does not feel waiting until next year is a good idea. She suggested the money could be used this year to put in skate spots along the walking track at Claude Allison Park.
 - Mr. Dodd asked Mr. Curle if the water main project would affect the current skate park and who will benefit from the new water main.
 - Mr. Curle said the project would not affect the current skate park. The neighborhood behind the skate park is the one who will benefit from the project.
 - Mr. Offman thinks we should start getting bids now for the skate park expansion.

New Business:

- Discounts for Parks & Recreation Classes
 - Ms. Okasinski would like to see individuals signing up for all classes in July get a \$5 discount. This would take effect for all classes beginning after the Township Board of Trustees acknowledges the Proclamation for National Parks & Recreation month of July at their meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2007.

07-058 Motion: by Ms Okasinski; In honor of July being Proclaimed National Parks & Recreation month all individuals signing up for a Parks & Recreation class beginning Wednesday, July 11, 2007 and ending Tuesday, July 31, 2007, shall receive a \$5 discount on one class. All ayes. Motion passes.

- Debbie Break will email Ms. Okasinski with the classes that could benefit from the \$5 discount.

07-059 Motion: by Ms Okasinski and Ms Brang-Schroeder to adopt the Proclamation for National Parks & Recreation month of July. All ayes. Motion passed.

- Mr. Dodd asked where the idea came from.
- Ms. Okasinski said she would go to the township board meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 and read the proclamation to the board of trustees.
- Mr. Offman will join her.
- Permit for Pearson Softball Field for Northwest Catholic Softball League
 - Mr. Curle stated Mr. Cubba the township finance director wants to know if we would be renting the field to them.
 - Mr. Curle said Thursday nights were offered to them, but softball rainouts caused a conflict. They had to move some games to Pearson. The Catholic League liked Pearson and would like to rent it all of next year. They were being charged \$10 per hour or \$260 for Capitol field. The Catholic League will pay the same amount for Pearson field, but want a port-a-john at the Pearson field.
 - Mr. Offman and Mr. Dodd are concerned about the theft of (chain it to the fence or something) or the spilling of contents. The Catholic League would have to assume full responsibility for the port-a-john.

07-060 Motion: by Ms. Evich and Ms. Brang-Schroeder to let the Northwest Catholic Softball League use Pearson field for no cost and the League will provide the port-a-john and assume full responsibility for it. All ayes. Motion passed.

- Parks & Recreation Goals for 2007
 - Mr. Curle will look for them. They have been misplaced during the change in secretaries.
 - Mr. O'Connor will look through his paperwork and see if he can find 6 or 7 good targets from the March meeting. He will also help Ms. Break to look for the missing paperwork.
 - Ms. Okasinski wants to take the lead on this and form a sub-committee with the Historical Commission. Ms. Brang-Schroeder will assist her with this.

07-061 Motion: by Ms. Okasinski and Mr. Dodd for Ms. Okasinski to chair a sub-committee for the Parks & Recreation Goals for 2007. All ayes. Motion passes.

Department Report

- Playground Soft-landings
 - Mr. Curle passes out a handout of all park areas still needing soft landings installed.
 - Ms. Okasinski would like Mr. Curle to talk in terms about how much time it will take to complete this project.
 - Mr. Curle said his crew has been busier and he has less people to get work done. The old style swings are also a problem since their footings are incased in concrete which has to be chiseled away and the swing set then needs to be resealed. After digging down to the proper depth it takes 3 – 4 days to dispose of the dirt.

- Ms. Okasinski wants to know if it is reasonable to prioritize Phoenix Park's (1) Whirl and (1) 4-way Animal Hop, Manning's (1) Climber and Kraft's (1) Play Structure, (3) Climbers and (1) 4-way Animal Hop to be completed this calendar year.
- Mr. Curle said it would be Ok. He said his crew had been working their way north, but stalled at Manning and Vandenburg.
- Mr. O'Connor wanted to know if Mr. Curle had looked into rubber bark.
- Mr. Curle said yes, but it burns and children like to throw it around.
- Mr. Offman heard it stinks and it hot to walk on. He wants to know how often the woodchips need to be changed.
- Mr. Curle said his staff add to them every year and they rot till them every year, which fluffs them and they seem to last longer.
- Concession Stands – Revenues & Expenses
 - Mr. Curle stated the concession stands are now operating in the black.
 - Ms. Okasinski is very glad the concessions are in the black now, and thanks Scott Gray and his staff for making the necessary changes so this can be possible.
- Capitol Picnic Shelter
 - Mr. O'Connor is very disturbed by the family reunion in Capitol Picnic Shelter and youth in the skateboard park, which turned into a police report. Mr. O'Connor does not want the Frenchy Sizemore family to be allowed to rent the Capitol Picnic Shelter again.

Commissioners' Report

- Ms. Okasinski said she and Ms. Brang-Schroeder volunteered to attend the Grandale Association Ice Cream Social and it was a very nice event. Ms. Okasinski will be a volunteer host for the upcoming Garden Walk. She is disturbed "New Park Rules" and "Doggie Rama" were not on the Parks & Rec web site. Ms. Okasinski met with Supervisor Miles Handy and he was very enthusiastic about Parks & Recreation. He gave Mr. O'Connor a packet of information he received from MRPA. Ms. Okasinski had an opportunity to ask the supervisor about his vision of adding bike trails. The Supervisor told her he would like to do more at Claude Allison Park. At the next meeting there will be a map presented to show the people his ideas. Ms. Okasinski feels the more shared the vision the better and would like to capitalize on Supervisor Handy's enthusiasm.
 - Mr. Curle apologized for not getting the MRPA packet to the commissioners in a timelier manor.
- Ms. Brang-Schroeder wants to thank Mr. Curle, who was there all day, and all of his staff who helped out with Doggie Rama. She would like all the commissioners to pitch in to buy pizza for the staff who participated. She would also like to thank Ms. Evich for being there all day. Ms. Brang-Schroeder really liked the female singer KT of KT's Alibi and would like Mr. Curle to have them return for next years concert in the park series. Also, a thank you goes out to Mr. Offman for all of his assistance with Doggie Rama. The Grandale Association Ice Cream Social and Sue Thompson were great. A thank you to Ms Okasinski for the press releases for Doggie Rama. Her mother has an organ she would like to donate. Would the community center like it?
 - Mr. Curle told her to check with Mr. Dennis, Community Development Director or she could try Ms. Morris, Senior Citizens Director.

- Ms. Evich would like to thank Ms. Brang-Schroeder and Parks & Recreation staff. She heard great comments about KT's Alibi, the concession was ok, but she would like to see Coke products offered.
- Mr. Dodd stated he was sorry he missed Doggie Rama, but he received a call from the Rotary Club who has chosen him Citizen of the Year. He wants to know why there were so many refunds for the summer playground program and the summer camps. Also, why isn't the Parks & Recreation programming coming through the Park Commission.
 - Mr. Curle stated many children dropped when they found out their friends could not participate, but all 50 positions at the two playgrounds are full.
 - Quote: "Success is when your name is in everything but the phone book" – unknown
- Mr. Offman would like to know how much to pay Therese Burgess for sponsoring a hole at the Commission on Children's Issues golf outing. He will contact Ms. Burgess.

Park Bills

07-062 Motion by Mr. Dodd and Ms. Brang-Schroeder to pass Park Bills 75100 Concession, 75100 Recreation, 75200 Maintenance. All Ayes. Motion passed

Communication

None

Citizen Comments

None

07-063 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. by Mr. Dodd and Mr. Evich. All ayes. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Diana Brang-Schroeder, Corresponding Secretary

Recording Secretary: Debbie Break