

Charter Township of Redford

Parks Commission Meeting
August 27, 2007

The regular meeting of the charter Township of Redford Park Commission was held on August 17, 2007 in the Redford Community Center in Meeting Room C. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

Also in attendance: Theresa Burgess, Mike Curle, Debbie Break, Tom O'Connor, Jan Pokorny, Leah Groya and Jose' Duron

07-077 Approval of Agenda: Ms. Evich wanted New Business to come before Old Business. Mr. Curle wants to add to New Business Compensation for a sound system. Ms. Evich and Mr. Keenan motion to approve the Amended Agenda. Agenda approved. All ayes. Motion passed.

07-078 Approval of Minutes: Ms. Evich and Mr. Keenan motion to approve minutes from August 13. All ayes. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Family Photography – Mr. Jose' Duron came before the Parks Commission to let them know he has opened his own business in Redford Township. He would like to work with the Township in any way possible to benefit both parties and would offer good prices. He is available to do all types of still photography – no video.
 - Mr. Keenan suggested Mr. Duron place ads with the Chamber of Commerce, Little League Associations along with other sports Associations within the Township, Redford Directory, restaurants and businesses in the Township and the Parks & Recreation brochure.
 - Mr. Curle suggested he give the dance program quotes for their end of year pictures.
 - Ms. Okasinski thanked Mr. Duron for last year's township calendar and would like to work with him again.
 - Ms. Evich said, "We'll see what we can do".
- New Sound System – Mr. Sherman Arnold asked Lou Richards to use his amplifier for his performance at Concert in the Parks instead of using the system provided by the Township. During the performance Mr. Richards's amplifier burned up. Mr. Richards asked Mr. Curle to speak to the Parks Commission to see if they would be willing to help him replace his \$700 amplifier.

- Mr. Curle stated under part B of the contract we do not have a responsibility for Mr. Richard's equipment. He should have used ours.
- Mr. Keenan stated in lieu of the contract the Park Commission would not be willing to give Mr. Richards and money. This was seconded by Ms. Okasinski. All ayes.

New Business:

- Doggie Rama final report is postponed until Ms. Brang-Schroeder is present.
- Master Plan – Ms. Leah went over the anticipated schedule and said the commission was on track and pretty close to being done. The draft will be finalized next month, another public hearing, Parks & Recreation adopt the plan, Redford Township Trustee's adopt the plan and then the plan will be submitted.
 - Ms Okasinski pointed out a correction in the Meeting Summary from the Public Workshop, that Commissioner Cavanaugh is not providing funding assistance only Wayne county.
 - Mr. Keenan would like to add to the plan the \$250,000 Wayne County will provide funding for non-motorized trails.
 - Ms. Leah wanted to go over collaboration and what was accomplished since she wasn't present at the last meeting.
 - Ms. Okasinski wants a copy of what was presented to the Township Board last year.
 - Ms. Leah stated no is the time to include the Basis for Action. Look at the parks and keep in mind age groups, greenway efforts and connected trail use. The DDA has updated their master plan and will fold that into this plan. Workshop results have been folded in along with Capitol Park improvements. Leah would like the Commissioners to openly discuss and brain storm about issues to include in the plan.
 - Mr. Keenan – Security Issues
 - Ms. Leah – What is the current police relationship
 - Mr. Curle Bike patrol this summer is major in Parks plus downtown area. Their shift is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and covers Redford Union and Thruston.
 - Mr. Keenan – Claude Allison Park need attention plus Capitol Park
 - Ms. Okasinski – address how to reduce park problems with the police – a training or working with them to meet the parks needs.
 - Mr. Keenan – Parks need a security plan where we know for sure what is being done on a consistent basis not a hit and a miss.
 - Ms. Burgess – Has had several different discussions with the police. The police need stated park rules. There is a problem with underage smoking. The police response time is not good. They are not getting out of their cars and approaching the youth. Ms. Pokorny is doing a good job, but need police enforcement.
 - Mr. Keenan – We need people with arresting power in the park. The Commissioners need to talk to the Township Supervisor and the Chief of Police about this. This issue of park security really hit home by residents at the public meeting.

- Mr. O'Connor – The Wayne County Juvenile system is over loaded. We need to handle this in house.
- Mr. Curle – Our police can't hold youth here. They must be sent down town. Most problems at Claude Allison Park happen before and after the softball games. Maybe more lights would help detour problems.
- Ms. Leah – skate boarders were also concerned about security.
- Ms. Okasinski – We need to develop a security plan like Mr. Keenan said. Add a community service component; work with police, more lightening. We can handle preventive side but not the law enforcement side.
- Mr. Keenan – More activities at Claude Allison Park. Shift some Parks and Recreation resources to that end of the township.
- Ms. Okasinski – Improve ADA accessibility aggressively. Need a greater indoor capacity since we have 4 seasons in this state. Add a boxing club, swimming, rock climbing wall, etc. How can we become more economically efficient, increase capitol improvements, better communication with the Township Board for pocket parks? Look at what we have, what it costs and what do we need. "Parks Report Card" with the Citizens and Township Board about what we need. Reporting to our citizens.

Old Business:

None

Department Report:

- Ms. Pokorny – The outside element is affecting the skate park. There are problems on weekends and late at night.
- Ms. Break – Concern over the number of people requesting to use Capitol Park Shelter and some of the other parks such as Phoenix Park and Jaycee Parks where there are no bathrooms or picnic shelters. Large groups are picnicking in Capitol Park by the playscape. Some with at least 100 persons. Is this fair to the people who rented the shelter? Pressure on them to also let these other people into the bathrooms for which they are responsible. We need to make some changes before next summer.
- Mr. Curle – This winter there are concerns which need to be addressed. More residents are requesting to use Capitol Park and the shelter. Perhaps we need to increase the deposit, add more staff, more picnic tables, more picnic permits, etc.
 - Today was the first day of dance registration and 56 students signed up. The department took in \$6000 in dance registrations alone.
 - Kevin McCoy has found a great red clay source (which is hard to find), but it is not cheap. \$55 per ton and it takes 10 tons to do one field. Red Clay really helps with the drainage.
 - The department received \$1,900 grant from the National Softball Association.
 - There was vandalism to Claude Allison Concession. The vandals ripped off the outdoor drink counter.
 - There is not enough funding this year for a shade canopy at the back of the Splash Pad.
 - Ms. Okasinski – See if we can get a sponsor to help pay for it.

- Mr. Keenan – how much does one cost
- Mr. Curle - \$5,600 - \$8,000 without installation. Closer to \$8,000 for the desirable size.
- Mr. Keenan – Talk to Wayne County.
- Concerts in the Park series were great. Next year will be the 20 Anniversary. Can we increase the budget to do something special for this?
- Three staff are going back to school. Mr. Curle can carry 6 people so he may hire one more person. Then he would have 3 full time, 3 part time working 20-30 hours per week. With the large amount of rain we have been having the grass is growing faster. There will also be leaves in the fall to deal with.
- Diamond 3 & 5 should be completed approximately by next week.

Commissioners' Report

- Ms. Okasinski – Meeting with Mary Haney was canceled.
- Ms. Evich – Thank you to Mike, Kevin and Pat Deal for the Concerts in the Park.
- Mr. Keenan – Always getting compliments on the baseball diamond improvements.

Park Bills

07-079 Motion by Ms. Evich and Mr. Keenan to pass Park Bills 75500 Concession, 75100 Recreation, 75200 Maintenance. All Ayes. Motion passed

Communication

None

Citizen Comments

None

07-080 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. by Mr. Offman and Ms. Evich. All ayes. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Diana Brang-Schroeder, Corresponding Secretary

Recording Secretary: Debbie Break