

Charter Township of Redford

Parks Commission Meeting
October 8, 2007 - Amended

The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Redford Park Commission was held on October 8, 2007 in the Redford Community Center in Meeting Room C. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 Saira Comerford and Youth Commissioner

Also in attendance: Theresa Burgess, Mike Curle, Debbie Break, Tom O'Connor, Leah Groya
Randy Smith, Jan Pokorny

07-094 Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda Ms. Evich and Mr. Keenan
Agenda approved. All ayes. Motion passed.

07-095 Approval of Amended Minutes: Ms. Okasinski wanted the minutes Amended to retract Mr. Dennis's statement that there would be no block grant funding available if the skate park is expanded with a 10 foot fence instead of the 4 foot fence he is asking for. She realizes Mr. Dennis was passionate in his plea to the board to maintain an aesthetically pleasing look around the Redford Township Community Center and is an advocate for Parks and Recreation. Also, at the time of the last meeting Mr. Dennis was unaware there was a specific safety height requirement for the skateboard fence. Mr. Dennis has no problem with the skateboard expansion. Ms. Evich and Ms. Okasinski motion to approve Amended minutes from September 24, 2007. All ayes. Motion passed.

Citizen Comments:

- Mr. Randy Smith is concerned about the controversy over the height of the skate park fencing. He wants the Commissioners to know that a 4 foot fence would be a physical hazard to a skateboarder as well as a vandalism problem. He has also started a petition in regards to the construction of the fence.
 - Ms. Pokorny gave the Commissioners a copy of the MMRMA's Guidelines to proper fencing of a skate park. The recommendation is for a minimum of 8 feet. See attached.
 - Ms. Okasinski thanked Mr. Smith for coming in and expressing his concerns to the Commission, and is impressed with his youth leadership. She would like him to submit his petition to the Parks Commission. She also stated, "Sacrificing safety is not an option."

- Mr. Keenan said working with government takes forever and can be frustrating. Secondly, he recommends someone makes a trip over to the fence company on Plymouth Road between Beech Daly and Telegraph to see what choices might be acceptable and safe.
- Ms. Groya stated black coated fencing is the best. It blends well with outdoor backgrounds.
- Ms. Brang-Schroeder also suggested green coated fencing.
- Ms. Okasinski suggested adding a landscape element in front of the fencing. Perhaps getting students from the College for Creative Studies, etc. to submit ideas.
- Ms. Okasinski also wanted to know if Mr. Curle knew what is going on with the water department repairs. Mr. Curle said the beginning of the work depends on the contractor hired to do the job.
- Mr. O'Connor said Mr. Dennis is on board now with the skateboard park expansion since it has come to his attention the fence must be a minimum of 8 feet high for protection.

Old Business:

- Ms. Groya said to be able to present the Master Plan at the November 12 meeting of the Park Commission the Public Hearing announcement must be in the newspaper by this Sunday, October 14, 2007. It must be published at least 30 days before the Public Hearing. The plan also has to be ready for public review over those 30 days. Any minor changes can only occur after the Public Hearing. Ms. Burgess has sent pictures of Volleyball, Dance, etc. to Ms. Groya to be included in the Master Plan
 - Ms. Okasinski feels on page 17 the mention of swim team, swimming lessons, hockey and figure skating lessons should be removed, since Redford Township no longer provides such services.
 - Mr. Keenan complimented Ms. Groya on a fine piece of work. He brought out the fact on page 5 there is no mention of I-275 with the other freeway listings. Do not publish the fact that the population is decreasing. On page 23 there is no mention of the outdoor ice rink. Also, there was no mention of Western Golf & Country Club.
 - Ms Okasinski does not endorse adding Western Golf Course since it is private.
 - Ms. Groya said on page 36 under private facilities she could expand the description to include Western Golf & Country Club.
 - Mr. Keenan said on pages 58 and 59 he would like to see a sprinkler/irrigation system and scoreboard added to the wish list. Also, to add lights to Western Graham and Phoenix parks along with red clay for the mounds. It looks good and absorbs moisture aiding in better drainage.
 - Mr. Dodd said the Parks & Recreation Director and Parks Leader show as 2 full time positions. He would like to know if we are going to fill both positions over the next 5 years or should one position be eliminated.
 - Ms. Groya stated there was a line missing on page 13 linking 2 of the boxes.
 - Ms. Okasinski said there needs to be an explanation as to what the dotted line represents on page 13.

- Mr. Keenan stated the Constituent Services Director Position needs to be added with a line to the Supervisor.
- Mr. O'Connor suggested splitting the two boards on page 13, since they are both elected by the citizens.
- Ms. Groya will adjust the organization chart on page 13.
- Ms. Okasinski noted on page 56 under communication the brochure was not mentioned. Also, to add communicate to citizens fiscal responsibility, progress toward goals, and parks & recreation usage.
- Ms Brang-Schroeder noted adding the newsletter and website.
- Ms. Okasinski felt only the website should be added and to forget about the newsletter. Improve signage and Park Rules (St. Hilary's), maintain improvements, communication, continue to address deficiency needs and increase facility standards. Also, parking seems to be an issue
- Ms. Groya suggested adding parking with new facilities.
- Ms. Okasinski has a real problem with so much focus on baseball diamonds.
- Mr. Keenan said improved diamonds brings in more business in the form of tournaments, which brings in more revenue for Redford Township and its businesses, with more people eating and shopping in the Township. We need more of this kind of activity. Mr. Keenan feels Manning and Jaycee Parks need to be lighted so we can attract more little league business. He would like to see a sprinkler system at Capitol field to help maintain all the renovations done to the ball diamond.
- Ms. Okasinski stated baseball is not increasing nationally in fact it is declining and would like to see more emphases on other types of recreation.
- Mr. Curle said the fields at Jaycee, Volney Smith, Capitol and Claude will be in use for Little League Tournaments. The major and minors play Capitol in June.
- Mr. Keenan stated if properly maintained we could have a tournament ever year at Capitol field.
- Other Suggestions made were as follows:
 - Capitol Park – Move Picnic Pavilion to 3-5 years, and sprinkler & scoreboard to on-going.
 - Western Graham – Move all baseball to on going.
 - Korvette & Manning – Move all baseball to on-going, dugouts to on-going
 - Phoenix – Dugouts and fencing to on-going, pavilion to 3-5 years.
 - Volney – Red clay to short term
 - St Hilary – Remove red clay line.

07-096 Motion to Approve Tonight's Edits to the Master Plan by Ms. Brang-Schroeder and Mr. Dodd. All Ayes. Motion passed.

07-097 Motion to set Public Hearing Date for Master Plan at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 12, 2007 at Redford Township Board Room by Ms. Brang-Schroeder and Mr. Dodd. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Mr. Curle will put the public notices in the Observer Eccentric Newspaper and post it to the Parks & Recreation website.

New Business:

None

Department Report:

- Ms. Burgess said a new program is now available called “Recreation Therapy”, so we can now offer something to our population with disabilities. This program provides positive and appropriate leisure services to individuals with disabilities. The program is funded and sponsored by Western Wayne County.
- Mr. O’Connor did a time study with 3 full time people.
 - Mr. Keenan asked Mr. O’Connor is he had any idea how the latest changes in Lansing will impact us. Mr. O’Connor said he thinks we will take some kind of financial hit on the next budget.
 - Mr. Curle has 2 staff working 40 hours per week and 2 part time youth working 20-30 hours for 1 more month. He will be on vacation next week. He reminds everyone the Pumpkin Patch will be held on Saturday, October 20. A mini flyer has gone out to the schools about the Pumpkin Patch, Karate and other classes. Mr. Dennis has been able to get a hay wagon from the Western Country Club for the Pumpkin Patch. The splash pad is getting winterized and Fall Softball will be over in 2 more weeks. He has yet to get the figures he needs for the amount of water for the Splash pad, but is still working on it. Structural Engineering’s design for Claude Allison concession stand is going out for bid. Mr. Curle also asked Mr. Dodd what would be the best way to sort all the email addresses he has so there would be no duplicates. Mr. Dodd told him it would be best if they were in an excel spreadsheet.

Commissioners’ Report

- Mr. Keenan thanks the commission for putting up with, and being patient with, him and his various loves.
- Ms. Okasinski has nothing more.
- Mr. Dodd will be at the Pumpkin Patch
- Ms. Evich had a good time at the Fire Station Open House and will be at the Pumpkin Patch.
- Ms. Brang-Schroeder had a good time at the Fire Station Open House. She has bought candy for the Angels night and would like it to be on the next Agenda. She may be at the Pumpkin Patch.
- Mr. Offman said some people still owe Ms. Burgess and Ms. Brang-Schroeder money and would like them to pay up.

Park Bills

07-098 Motion by Ms. Okasinski and Mr. Keenan to pass Park Bills 75500 Concession, 75100 Recreation, 75200 Maintenance. All Ayes. Motion passed

Communication:

None

07-099 Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. by Ms. Brang-Schroeder and Mr. Keenan. All ayes.
Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Diana Brang-Schroeder, Corresponding Secretary

Recording Secretary: Debbie Break