

**FINAL
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, August 23, 2021

2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Petsch called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

ROLL CALL: Present: William Petsch, Chairperson
Johnny Walker, Vice Chairperson
Sarah Henderson, Secretary
Bob Berkheiser
Barbara Garbutt
Krystal Schwartz
Kathryn Duff

Also Present: Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks & Recreation
Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Walker, seconded by Duff, to approve the July 26, 2021, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes, and the August 2, 2021, Parks and Recreation Committee Special Budget Meeting Minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alex Gillespie, 8916 Shady Point, Commerce Township – Shady Point is off of Wise. I came today because I'm kind of upset with what's going on with the north side of Wise. I think we're all very fortunate to have such a beautiful piece of property right here in our own city. It's something that me and my neighbors enjoy daily. It's absolutely serene back there. I've seen bald eagles, owls, deer, coyote, you name it.

I'm nervous with this parking lot. We're throwing money at a problem that doesn't exist. I pass it twice a day. There's never an issue with parking. There's plenty of parking on the south side. If someone wanted to try the north trails, it would be easy enough to look left and right and cross the road. I feel like once a parking lot is there, it's going to cause more problems in the future. I think it's something we're going to have to maintain. I think eventually it will grow into bathrooms, and it could grow into more development of that land that we're so lucky to have, and I would hate to see it change.

Chairperson Petsch – Thank you.

Edward Glomb, 8948 Shady Point, Commerce Township – I echo what Alex had to say. I was here when that millage was passed to buy that property. It was sold on the idea that the north side was always going to be maintained pristine. It has been that way since we bought that property, which I believe was in 2014.

I was told today that the reason they're going to put a parking area in there is because it's a traffic hazard. I asked if they had done any traffic studies, or if there was any record of accidents or problems. I was told no, that they didn't. I don't know if they

contacted DNR because there's certain trees back there that I think are not supposed to be taken down.

I agree with Alex. There's plenty of room on the south side to put a parking lot in. If there is a problem, put a light there, and put the parking lot where it's supposed to be on the south side of the street, like they do with this nature trail. They built a \$10 million bridge for that. I'm sure they could install a light if it that's big of a problem. I'm recommending ... I know it's approved, and I feel kind of stupid that we didn't know anything about it, which is our fault.

Chairperson Petsch – There was a master plan. There were two public hearings on that master plan. It was discussed by every member of the Township that wanted to come in to discuss what they felt should be in that part of the park. You can't say that you didn't know about it.

Mr. Glomb – Okay, right. I agree. That's my prerogative not to come. I vote for you to handle it. Again, that thing was sold on that it was going to be maintained pristine.

Chairperson Petsch – It is being maintained with nature.

Mr. Glomb – Not when you put an asphalt parking lot in there. That area is not that big. I don't know if any of you have even been down on those trails back there, but it's not that big on the north side of the street, and there's houses that back up right to that property, probably within 300 meters of where that parking lot is going to be. The only thing I'm asking is that you sit back and take another look at this. If you want it, if you gave me 60 days, I'll bet you I could get 90% of our neighbors in the Venice of the Woods area to sign a petition not to do it. The whole thing is, we're all guilty of not coming to council meetings and that sort of thing. Hopefully, there's a better way that we can be informed, if we got an email. I was told today we could get on the website and be notified of certain things like this. That would help a lot. We get complacent, there's no doubt about that. I apologize for that. I'm asking you to take another look. It doesn't have to be done tomorrow. I think you'll find the majority of the people would agree with that.

Chairperson Petsch – Thank you.

Jennifer Stuart, 8948 Shady Point, Commerce Township – I do agree with Mr. Glomb and Mr. Gillespie. I also work for another municipality and notification to residents is sometimes difficult. We are fortunate enough to have the email system, but that may or may not have been around at the time. I would also appreciate another look at the situation. It is a pristine area, and I do hope that each of you have travelled in that area and walked those paths before you make this decision.

Mr. Glomb – Will you be discussing this matter tonight?

Chairperson Petsch – That is not on the agenda this evening.

Mr. Glomb – Under 11, it says other matters.

Mr. Berkheiser – From an explanation point-of-view, the Parks and Recreation is a Committee. They provide recommendations to the Board. The sole decision-making in

the Township, especially on anything that requires money to be spent, is the Township Board. I would encourage you to make your comments known to the Township Board at our meetings on the second Tuesday of every month, 7:00pm at the Township building. Obviously, if you feel strongly about things, you can make comments. It will be done in the same format if it's not on the agenda. The decision has been made on this particular topic, but let the Township Board know when you have concerns. That would be my recommendation.

Mr. Glomb – I appreciate that. We were just told today.

Mr. Berkheiser – Things start out here, but everything gets referred to the Township Board. It's how things flow.

Mr. Gillespie – If I got enough people together, and was able to hire an attorney that works with the DEQ or DNR, there's a lot of endangered species out there. You can't kill endangered species.

Mr. Berkheiser – They don't own that property. The Township owns the property. I don't think we're killing anything. I realize you all live there, but I live up the street. Where am I supposed to go? There's no parking there. There's 266 acres on that side of the road. The Township pays for that property and everybody in the Township should be able to utilize the property. We're looking at a parking lot that took seven trees down. The parking lot is a small area.

We have issues in that park. People that back directly onto it are utilizing park property for their own property, there's encroachment on the Township property. The feeling is that the more we can get the Township to walk through the trails that are in that park, the more visibility it will have, the safer it will be, and the less encroachment there will be.

Mr. Gillespie – So it's going to look more like Dodge Park and less like woods?

Mr. Berkheiser – I encourage you to read the master plan for the parks. On the north side, there are no plans except for enhancing the trails so that everybody can use them. There's no plans to put baseball or buildings over there.

Mr. Glomb – What do you mean by enhancing the trails?

Mr. Berkheiser – Right now, the trails get utilized by dirt bikes, motorcycles running through there, four-wheelers, et cetera. No motorized vehicles are supposed to be on any trail in the Township.

Mr. Glomb – Then why don't you just enforce it?

Mr. Berkheiser – It's hard to enforce it if you can't get people back in there to use it, whether it be police or anything else.

[Crosstalk]

Mr. Glomb – It's like you're trying to make a problem that's not there. There are motorized things, not us, and we don't like it, but that's an enforceable issue. The

Sheriff's Department has RTVs and four-wheelers. They can get back in there, if it was a problem, which it's not.

Mr. Berkheiser – We put signs up there telling people not to do it and they get torn down. It's really hard, when it's not being used by the community, to police the area.

Mr. Gillespie – I passed it this morning, not a single car. I passed it on the way home, I walked the whole property that was cut down. Seven trees is just baffling. Tonight on the way here, nobody there. Never once has somebody went there, realized there were too many cars and turned around.

Mr. Berkheiser – There's also no place for them to park on that side of the road.

Mr. Gillespie – Then they can cross the street.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's not very safe on Wise Road.

Mr. Glomb – If that's the issue, put a light up.

Chairperson Petsch – We had two minutes here.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's my fault, I apologize. I'll be more than happy to talk with you about it.

Chairperson Petsch – We do appreciate your comments. We have to continue with our meeting. Thank you.

ITEM 1: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Motor City Mountain Biking Association – Mike Kearney

Mr. Kearney shared the following with the Committee:

- I don't know if Emily circulated pictures from the first storm from a month ago.

Ms. England – Yes.

Mr. Kearney –

- The storm completely demolished sections of Hickory Glen. We have over 100 volunteer hours in just clearing the trail, and that's just cutting trees and moving them over. It's not hauling them out.
- I think you're still working on getting a company out there.
- Otherwise, last Thursday, another storm knocked over more trees. We're still going to have more coming down.
- The trail is open and rideable and people are enjoying it. It is very different than it was, due to the amount of water that fell and the whole geography of the trail has changed. It's very interesting.
- I've talked about the Wise Road property before. With so much time spent getting Hickory Glen back up and rideable, I have not been able to focus on Wise Road. We will put together a proposal to take over some of the south trails and add signage. Long term, we will work on a mountain bike trail specific plan for the north side. Hopefully we can get to that over the winter.

- I will talk with Emily over the next couple of weeks regarding the bridge project. We were looking for some updates from Township Engineering on how that bridge would be classified so we can lay out those requirements as to handrails, guardrails, ADA accessibility, weight capacity, width requirements, et cetera. We want to plan this properly. Also, the DEQ initial feedback wasn't really a surprise. There is one additional floodplain requirement. Not being a hydrology expert, the requirements for that are relatively similar for a clear span crossing.

Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz

Mrs. Schantz shared the following with the Committee:

- The Ugly Duckling Vintage Event was August 15th from 10am-6pm:
 - We had our event last weekend. Mr. Gray attended, which was the first time we had a Commerce Township Supervisor at one of our events. We were grateful.
 - It was a very successful day. It was beautiful, sunny and 82 degrees. The event was loaded with people.
 - All of the vendors did well. We had an enjoyable day. People enjoyed the park, noting how beautiful it is.
- Our meeting is Thursday.
- We're starting to plan two events in October.
- We have our first annual golf outing on October 2nd:
 - I just promoted the outing on Facebook.
 - We'll start putting up banners and flyers.
 - We're looking for more contact business type situations to get businesses involved in Byers. We're going to really push that and start going out to associations also.
- Boo-Bash is Saturday, October 23rd, from 6-8pm:
 - We are gearing up.
 - We already have all of the stations filled with the exception of one.
 - We thought it might be good for Parks to have a station.
 - We set up every building with a different theme. We fill bags of candy, and the kids trick-or-treat each building as a different theme.

Discussion continued regarding the themes, activities, stations and refreshments for the Boo-Bash event at Byers.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Do people have to sign up for that in advance?

Ms. Schantz – We are going to do a sign-up again this year. We'll pay attention to COVID. Last year, it worked very well as we did it by appointment. It went so well, we think we will follow that platform. It only allowed for 300 versus 500 kids to come through, but safety first.

Everything is great at the barn. We have not noticed anymore vandalism, other than the porta-potty sometimes.

Ms. England – Yes, Allison has been out of town. She will be back tomorrow and we will follow up with the company.

Ms. Schantz – That building is in the dark.

Ms. England – We may need to move it closer. We'll work with you.

Lakes Athletics Association – Matt Morelli

A report was submitted in the packet:

- *League Update – The Summer season for 5U and 7U is complete with great success for our younger divisions. Lakes house Fall registration for all age divisions is now open and enrollments are coming in strong. Fall will have one practice night per week and games to be played on Sundays. Can the Township advertise on the electronic sign for Fall Registration?*
- *Upcoming Dates & Information*
 - *Season Dates – Fall Ball in September and October.*
 - *Tournament Dates – September 18-19*
 - *Monthly Meeting – Next scheduled is September 8th.*
 - *2022 Capital Improvements – Looking into Flagpoles (Can Township help direct us or support flagpole implementation?); Fence repairs after storm damage are also needed at F1 and F7*
- *Needs From Township*
 - *Bleacher Pads – Cement poured for permanent pads for the field bleachers; almost all are placed on new foundation; need Township to complete grading and anchor bleachers down in the fall*
 - *Parking Lot Construction – We see survey crews and stakes being marked throughout the front of the park. Can Township provide updates, especially schedule, so we can advise scheduled teams around any planned construction? We have water run-off and field flooding issues on F6 due to parking lot grade/slope; please advise contractors to be cognizant of drainage and direct away from fields when completing new parking lot.*
 - *Backstop Windscreens – In 2020 the township suspended our acquisition of sponsored windscreens in replacement for some Commerce focused windscreens. Where do we stand with that?*
 - *Lawn Care and Weed Whip – The outside fences green fields areas could use some extra attention for touch-up and weed whip, especially areas near Field #7 and the front entrance.*
 - *Sprinklers & Water – Is it possible to have the township help us with winterization and un-winterization of our water system, this would help save us over \$1000 annually.*

Mr. Berkheiser asked if feedback had been given to Lakes Athletics. Ms. England stated that she had replied with a follow-up on the parking lot construction. The bleacher pads at Hickory Glen are done. Mr. Schoder added that the grading to the bleacher pads is also done. Ms. England had also followed up with Lakes regarding the backstop windscreens, lawncare, sprinklers and water. She noted that there has been a change in representatives from Josh to Matt.

Mr. Kearney – On the parking lot, I noticed the orange markings. Is there a timeline for when they might be tearing it up?

Ms. England – Nothing has been approved yet. The markings that you're seeing are for us to go through and walk the site, and to be able to get proper bids on the work to be

done. Then we will deal with the potential of a permanent entrance, and what Wolverine will require. You'll see us out there Wednesday around 3pm walking the site. I'll keep you updated.

Windmill Farm – Carrie Hancock

Ms. Hancock shared the following with the Committee:

- Bob requested a pony at the Concert in the Park. I was a little nervous at first because I was worried about getting mobbed by kids, but the number that was there worked very well.
- The kids were brushing him and we were leading him around. They were asking a lot of questions. It's interesting; we probably had just as many adults brushing him and interested in lessons.

Ms. England – Have you had anyone return coupons?

Ms. Hancock – I have had a couple calls for lessons, but nobody has walked in and handed me a coupon yet. We'll see, a lot of times you'll get those just before they expire.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are we done with concerts?

Ms. England – Yes.

Ms. Hancock continued:

- A lot of people also asked about trail riding.
- We're finishing up our last week of day camp. That has gone well. We have had quite a few kids interested in that.
- We took some horses up to the Pink Derby over the weekend. It's a fundraiser, but it's also the local horse show that the kids do before the equestrian meets begin.
- By the way, if you don't know, Milford High School has the only equestrian grounds onsite in the state. Along with Lakeland, both of those high schools have won state championships several times. You have a strong horse community.
- We are getting busy and we're adding another instructor.
- We will be doing pony rides at the Wixom Panther Hunt. That's always a good promotion too.
- An update on the fence work, and removing the trailer and other items; the two weeks following Labor Day, we will have a dumpster onsite. We may get someone in sooner to do the fence work, but that will be the latest that it will be completed.

Mr. Berkheiser – Labor Day is the 6th. You're saying by the 19th, all that stuff will be gone?

Ms. Hancock – If everything goes as planned, we should be able to get it all done. The only other thing was we did have some storm damage. We were able to get the materials for that repair. I think the guy will get up there this week to patch up those panels that needed replacing.

Ms. England – I have also reached out to the roofer for the observation room. He has to order the materials. It will be a few weeks out. I will be in touch with you as soon as I have a start date.

No representatives were present at the meeting for the following leagues:

- Interlakes Girls Softball
- Lakes Area Hawks
- Commerce Little League
- CW3

ITEM 2: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. England discussed the following:

- The majority is on your written report that I included in the packet.
- Things are still going great at the Senior Center.
- We're expanding our programs to get back to normal programming.
- I think everybody is still living with the fear that we might go backwards, but we will deal with that when that day comes.
- As far as Parks and Rec:
 - The Byers House; I've reached out to the contractor. I know Larry has reached out also. We are waiting on those insurance dollars to come back to us. We still haven't heard anything. I'll keep you updated on a start date for that, as well as Karen.
 - The roof for the barn at the Horse Farm; we're waiting on materials to be ordered and then I will let Carrie know.
 - We are walking Hickory Glen later this week to look at the layout. We're going to meet with Chief Ellsworth of Wolverine Village. He had the concern of public safety issues. It's a possibility that there may be a decel lane requirement, with movement of utility poles. We're going to see if we can meet and come up with a solution so this won't turn into a million dollar project, yet it will reach the same goal.
 - As you know, they started clearing at the Wise Woods project. They are not going to be doing road work until Union Lake is reopened so we won't have traffic jams there.
 - The pathways at Dodge will begin next month.

Mr. Berkheiser – What about the sidewalks here at the Richardson Center?

Ms. England – That has been sent over to CDBG for approval. It has to be approved by them, then we reprogram the money. We hope to get that in this year.

Mr. Berkheiser – I thought we already reprogrammed.

Ms. England – We reprogrammed the money for the pathways at Dodge.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay.

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- At our last meeting, we introduced language for the ordinance having to do with prohibiting removal of animals and wildlife from the parks. Technically, I think we have to read it one more time before it becomes law.
- You are aware that we looked at a lot of Township-owned properties and we classified them into groups, one of which was parcels that can be sold to neighbors. If you happen to live near one, you might get a letter that states you could buy it and it's first come, first served. It is divided into small medium and large parcels, with different prices for each. It would be combined with your property. You can't subdivide it later. It may be something you need to make your garage bigger or put a garage on there. It's also an effort we're making to address a lot of encroachment issues.
- There are several pieces of property, 9 or 10, that are buildable properties. We're looking to get a real estate agent involved who will market them and hopefully sell those for us.
- One of the parcels is by Huron Valley DMC Hospital. It backs up to two plats and private property, so three different types of property. We can't really subdivide that. It would require so much paperwork, financially it's not worth it, so at this point in time, we have decided not to include that in properties to be sold. We're going to hold it as greenspace right now.

Chairperson Petsch – I'm familiar with where it's at. What would you say the acreage is?

Ms. England – It's just over three acres.

Mr. Berkheiser – I thought it was five.

Chairperson Petsch – It might be something where we look at putting in a pocket park.

Discussion continued regarding potential to involve local HOA's in a project such as this, the location of the property near the hospital, and enhancing the park-like setting.

Mr. Berkheiser –

- We entertained an application by Outrun Hunger 5K which we have done in our DDA area and Township Hall. That was introduced and it's scheduled for November.
- We also talked a lot about the Horse Farm, the roof quotes and trying to nail down dates of when certain things would be done. Carrie just gave us those dates. We approved the quotes for getting some of the roof work done.
- We updated our purchasing policy. It allows Emily to spend funds that are budgeted to try to speed things along. That was done for all directors to make things faster and more responsive.

ITEM 4: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

- You've heard several comments already.
- I've been bypassing Wise Road until the Union Lake Road construction is done.

- You've heard that we have some initial work done, and we know some folks in that neighborhood are not happy.

Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race

- I went by Mill Race twice.
- A lot of the storm damage has been cleaned up and moved to the side.
- You can get through the main entrance at the front and the trails.
- Everything looks great there right now. It's very clean.
- At Byers, I looked today. Everything is clean and it looks great. I didn't see anything moved, such as the furniture. Everything seemed to be in place.

Chairperson Petsch – Did I notice a tree down in the water?

Ms. Schantz – No, unless it just happened. There's one big log that's still there. We can't hoist it down. It's on the other side of the bridge.

Chairperson Petsch – I thought I saw something in the water between the barn and the house.

Ms. Schwartz – I didn't see that today.

Ms. England – Mark, did you clean anything up over there?

Mr. Schoder – No, I didn't see anything.

Ms. Schantz – We'll check it out. Our meeting is Thursday.

Chairperson Petsch – It could have been a branch that came down, and the high water moved it down the river.

Mr. Berkheiser – I know some of the Boy Scouts went in and spread some chips through there a couple weeks ago to enhance the pathways. I think that looked pretty good. Who maintains the bridge? We had talked about putting some sealant on the wood. Is that us?

Ms. England – It's us.

Mr. Schoder – It is us. We have done it once already, but that was two years ago. It's time to do that bridge again, along with the two bridges along South Commerce.

Henderson – Dodge Park

- Nothing really to report.

Ms. England – It has been pretty quiet over there. It seems they fixed the issues we were having with the restrooms. They're still working on the locks for the ADA accessible restrooms.

Petsch – Bicentennial Park

- Nothing new to report.
- It's still busy when I go by.

Garbutt – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- There are lots of people that go in and out.
- There's still lots of work going on around there, so we can't really clean up what we need to do until the road construction is finished.
- It's looking good, Mark. Thanks.

Mr. Schoder – We cleared that one last tree over there so they could get to the other observation deck.

Mr. Berkheiser – Did you have the concrete guy look at the pavilion pad?

Mr. Schoder – Yes, we're going to get a quote on that. The recommendation is that the whole pad needs to be replaced. We will put it on for next spring or early summer.

Discussion continued regarding washout under the concrete pavilion pad, changing the drainage and slope, and compacting gravel underneath.

Walker – Maple Glen & Windmill Farm

- Maple Glen looks good. I went through there the other day. It was pretty busy.
- Carrie talked about the barn. Everything over there is going really well.

Duff – Hickory Glen Park

- The kids and I walked through Hickory Glen.
- As we've all heard, most of the paths are open. It was fun and somewhat treacherous at times.

ITEM 5: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Ms. Duff discussed the following with the Committee:

- September 11th is our annual Corn Roast from 12pm-5pm on Saturday.
- There will be a band.
- They'll have the prizes from the fishing contest, crab tents and food.

ITEM 6: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- We're clearing more trees now. We were waiting on the insurance company, but we just have to get the trails open as much as we can. We're doing the best we can, clearing fence lines at Field #1 at Hickory, and the soccer fields.
- Mill Race hasn't had any graffiti so far. We're doing good.
- At the sledding hills, someone dumped a large dump truck load of old construction material.
- At Scarlet's, people have been dumping brush and clothing in the parking lot; however, it's getting used a lot. We're there seven days a week, so we clean it up before anybody gets there. We still need more trash cans.
- The pads are complete. We'll put topsoil and grass seed down.

ITEM 7: REGINA MUSIC BOX

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- It's back on the agenda.
- It's everything that you've seen, except I did get a price that Dean got from Soltis. I reached out to them and asked for pictures. They will not respond to me. I can't get a picture of what this box is going to look like. Karen, can you follow-up?

Ms. Schantz – Okay.

Ms. England – I think the purpose of this is to keep the music box in the condition it is in.

Mr. Berkheiser – What did the Township Board approve? Didn't we decide to go with the company that responds to us?

Ms. England – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – Why don't we just do that?

Ms. England – That one is going to be airtight. Once we oil the music box up, it will be airtight. It's made for museum pieces.

Discussion continued regarding pricing.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Berkheiser, to approve the Regina Music Box case, from Architectural Plastics, not to exceed \$4,700.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 8: HORSE FARM UPDATE

Chairperson Petsch – I think we've already covered this. Are we good?

Ms. England – Yes.

ITEM 9: 2022 PARK EVENTS

Ms. England – I put this on here to get approval. My recommendation is to edit the dates to remove the last week of the concerts. We're always competing with Milford Memories. Therefore, instead of 6 events, we would just do 5, starting July 8th which is the Friday after the 4th, to the weekend before Milford Memories.

Discussion took place regarding scheduling events, arranging bands, and Oktoberfest.

Ms. England – Are you fine with taking August 12th off the schedule?

There were no objections.

Ms. England – That takes us to September. We need to start planning now for the 2022 Oktoberfest, as far as getting vendors onsite. We've selected September 10th, 17th or 24th as the dates. That will also allow us to start the process to get the beer tent. We just didn't have enough time this year to secure that. We want it to be a successful event.

The Committee decided upon September 17th Oktoberfest.

Ms. England – Okay, and then the M-5K is October 8th.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are you saying we're not doing Oktoberfest this year?

Ms. England – Right, it will be next year.

ITEM 10: BUDGET REVIEW

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- This is everything we discussed, typed up in the format that will be submitted to the Township Board.
- The list is prioritized with the top 6 items. A lot of those will be overlapping because we have not heard back from contractors.
- If you have any questions, concerns or recommended changes, let me know.
- The priorities are as follows:
 1. Byers Farmhouse (repeat from last year)
 2. Hickory Glen (repeat from last year)
 3. Bicentennial Park
 4. Richardson Center
 5. Wise Woods
 6. Mill Race
- Technically, the first two should be coming off this list, which will push us down to 3-6, and will allow us to bring up 7-9.

Chairperson Petsch – On Snowy Ridge, didn't we look at the firepit and gazebo?

Ms. England – We've talked about it, but I don't think it was budgeted for. We only have \$10,000 there.

Mr. Berkheiser – This is the budget. That's all we allotted. So, we could.

Ms. England – Correct.

Mr. Berkheiser – I think part of what we talked about was, will the Fire Chief let us do a firepit over there for the wintertime?

Discussion continued regarding the potential for a firepit at Snowy Ridge and possible issues. Ms. England would follow-up with the Fire Chief. Budget adjustments could be made if the Committee is in agreement and the Fire Department approves.

Mr. Berkheiser inquired about pickleball. Ms. England said it is listed under the Richardson Center, which is priority #4. Discussion continued regarding pickleball nets, court measurements, multipurpose courts vs. exclusive courts, along with availability and usage of tennis and pickleball courts. A member of the public added that at Clara Miller, they are able to play six pickleball courts on the two existing tennis courts. Ms. England explained that when pickleball gets to the design phase, she is aware of several other communities that have great court layouts that could serve as guidelines. In addition, the feedback of the community and user groups will be sought in this regard so that the courts are designed properly.

ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS

- Mr. Berkheiser asked if any further communication had been received regarding the splash pad, besides their withdrawal letter. Ms. England had not heard anything from them.
- Ms. England had met with the company treating Oak Wilt at Maple Glen. It appears the spot in the front section of the park has been contained; however, the arborist had some questions about the original site. It's possible that some of the injections had not worked. He wants to see what actually killed the tree, so they will be doing additional testing.
- Ms. England stated that the arborist had also visited Mill Race to review options and develop a plan. He indicated that the black walnut trees drink so much water, the concern is that if you remove those, you'll now create an environment that is even wetter than it already is. He said the worst thing would be to thin the trees out. Right now, the overgrowth is keeping the undergrowth under control. He will provide an estimate on doing a management plan to help make Mill Race a usable park.
- Mr. Berkheiser wondered if bids should be sought to have the undergrowth thinned out at Mill Race and Dodge. Ms. England stated that this was included in the general fund budget.
- **The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be Monday, September 27, 2021, at 7:00PM, with park tours at Mill Race and Byers at 6:00PM.**

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Garbutt, supported by Walker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sarah Henderson, Secretary