

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

Monday, November 23, 2020
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

In accordance with Public Act 228 of 2020, this meeting was held via Zoom, video conferencing technology.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Kast called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL: Present:

Rachel Kast, Chairperson
Tim Wichert, Vice Chairperson
Sarah Henderson, Secretary
Barbara Garbutt
Linda Champagne
William Petsch
Bob Berkheiser (logged on at 6:04)

Also Present:

Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks and Recreation
Allison Kennedy, Assistant to the Parks and Recreation Director
Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director
Rob Widdis, Meeting Moderator, Merge Live

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Garbutt, seconded by Champagne, to approve the October 26, 2020, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Garbutt, Champagne, Wichert, Petsch, Henderson, Kast

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Berkheiser

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Kast – Is there anybody from the public on the call today who would like to speak that is not already on the agenda?

Rob Widdis – Let's see if any members of the public would like to address the board. Press *9 to raise your hand and I will unmute you. Caller -9408, if you press *6 you can unmute yourself and address the board.

Larry Gray, 2115 Glen Iris Ct., Commerce Township – I just want everybody to know that I'm on the call. I wasn't able to get on the Webex here. I'm finishing up my first day here at the office so I wanted to jump on the call. I'm here. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Chairperson Kast – Thanks for joining, Larry. Anybody else?

Rob Widdis – We'll give it a moment here to see if anybody else wants to address the board. Press *9 to raise your hand. No one else has raised their hand.

ITEM 1: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Chairperson Kast – Does anybody want to speak that is not already in the agenda packet?

Windmill Farms – Carrie Hancock

Ms. England – I do have an update from Carrie, at the Horse Farm, that I'm going to read to you. I believe she is on this call so if you have any questions, she can help us with those.

- The high winds last Sunday caused damage to the arena roof. Several panels were blown off and many other panels were loosened. The roof repairs have been started.
- Work on the foundation where the tree was growing is in process.
- The indoor arena base has been graded and sand added.
- The manure pile has been moved and that area regraded for better water drainage on the north side of the barn.
- A large, bold coyote is frequently in the horse pastures and roaming the neighborhood at unusual times. Animal Control had us contact the Oakland County Sheriff.
- The Horse Farm Subcommittee will meet at the farm this week to look at maintenance and repair needs.

I can give you contact information for Carrie if you have any questions for her. I know that Mark is on. The damage to the barn ended up being an insurance claim. Mark did meet the adjustor and the contractor who is doing the repair work over there on Friday afternoon I believe. They are out there going through everything to make sure that the panels that blew off were put back on, and any existing panels will be secured from the wind.

Mr. Berkheiser – A question.

Ms. England – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – Sorry for being late if I was late. Is that all they're going to do is put back everything? Is this still an issue that we should be looking at?

Ms. England – Yes. They are only going to put back everything to make it windtight, and they're going to deal with anything up there that maybe loose. In the future, we probably want to look at weatherproofing that roof, as well as the roof over the observation room. That is going to be part of our goal on Wednesday, to develop priorities. That would be a top priority since there is so much leaking, as well as the potential of moving the well. Carrie is going to walk the site with us and point out any areas that she feels need to be addressed, and the Subcommittee will take that and set the priorities based upon the funds that are in the account.

Mr. Wichert – Emily-

Mr. Berkheiser – Second question, sorry. Coyote; what would be expected? Obviously kill it, but my point is, I don't know what maintenance can be done. It's not a fence thing. I don't think it's expected to put chain link fence around the whole place to keep coyotes out. I don't know.

Ms. England – This is a tough one. We had a coyote years back in Dodge Park that was pretty bold. It definitely didn't turn the other way when people came close to it. When we called the DNR and Animal Control they told us there was absolutely nothing we can do. The difference is, that was park land and this is agricultural. They are allowed to hunt them over there, it's just going to be up to the Township if that's the avenue we want to go down.

Mr. Berkheiser – We can trap it, okay. Sorry.

Mr. Wichert – Emily, I wonder if that's a park visit, or if a visit to the Horse Farm would be appropriate, to add that into our rotation.

Ms. England – We absolutely can add it. Once it's safe to do so, we will add it in there so you can go over there and see it.

Mr. Wichert – Sounds good. I think we should do that next spring or summer.

Ms. England – I think it's a good idea. If there are no more questions on that, Chris Haney is also on, but he did send me his monthly report. I know that David emailed me too. I haven't forwarded that out to everybody, but it was the numbers so maybe he can chime in on that.

CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney & David Spencer

Ms. England shared the following from the report submitted:

- Fall season at Dodge Park ended Sunday, November 15th, with the only cancellations due to weather and field conditions.
- Sprinkler shut down was scheduled November 10th.
- We aerified all fields Monday, November 2nd.
- Spring clean-up date is to be determined.

Ms. England – I do have an update about that gate. They were out last week and installed the post. The gate is on order. Hopefully that will be done in the next week or so.

Chris Haney – Thank you. I have a question. Did you guys have a dog event out there on Field 3 a couple weekends ago?

Ms. England – No, we sure didn't.

Chris Haney – Somebody did, because there were at least a dozen of the same breed running around on Field 3. It looked like they were doing some kind of training for field trial. The good news was, they cleaned up after themselves and there were really no issues.

Ms. England – Good. Nothing that has come through us, so maybe we need to look at putting up signs at the fields.

Mr. Berkheiser – I mean it's a park, so it's open to the public.

Chris Haney – Absolutely.

Mr. Berkheiser – The only comment I would make is maybe something in the sign that says, *If there is a scheduled league activity, that has priority*, or something like that so that if the soccer practice showed up, sorry dogs, you're gone unless they've coordinated.

Ms. England – That's basically what the sign covered was that you had to contact us.

Chairperson Kast – If there's nothing else from CW3, do any other leagues want to present?

David Spencer – Emily, did you want me to run through the numbers?

Ms. England – You can, yes.

CW3 Soccer – David Spencer

- I'm the new President of CW3.
- We just finished up our fall season November 8th. I think Chris mentioned that.
- We had a total of 324 players throughout 3-18 year olds.
- We've got another session that is currently active from November 6th to January 30th. In that, we have registered 137 players. We're doing that a little differently, through December 9th at least, because of all of the COVID restrictions. We're doing Zoom calls and working on skills that the players can work on individually. That's a new experiment that, if all goes well, we might continue to extend depending on what happens coming up in the next several weeks and the first part of next year.
- Our Winter II session will run from February 5th to April 10th. In February, we'll meet as a board and discuss all of 2021 and get organized for that.
- Any questions from anyone?

Mr. Berkheiser – Obviously indoors; is it out at the Wixom place, or mixed around?

David Spencer – For the Winter session, it would be in Wixom, although right now it's over Zoom. They're just working on skills. They're not playing games or anything.

ITEM 2: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. England discussed the following:

- As you know, last month I was happy to report that we had developed a plan to start to reopen the Senior Center, and the Sunday before that week was supposed to start, things changed for us.
- Yoga cancelled on their own. We were still allowed to have meets on that Monday and Tuesday of last week, until the new Executive Order went into effect on Wednesday. Yoga decided to cancel on their own.

- We did hold a very small art class, which I think went off great. Everybody seemed to love it. We followed as many protocols as we could. Everybody had their own table. We used that large room. I think we had five participants, so they were spaced out. We obviously made sure that building was sanitized completely after the election and after the events.
- Right now, we're on hold as far as indoor activities until that order gets updated or we feel that it's safe to do. We are still providing meals to seniors, even over the holidays. If they let us know, we made sure to order them extra meals that they will be picking up with their meal order on this Wednesday.
- We're going to continue sending out activity packs and doing home checks by calling. We are delivering pantry packs to people who need those, and we're doing senior kits to go so they have activities to work on. A lot of those are being sponsored by our partners in the area.

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- Our meeting a week ago in November, there really wasn't a whole lot.
- There were some ordinances. As we change our code of ordinance, you have to just update them.
- We spent a lot of time discussing salaries, which is always awkward. Obviously it all has to be done in public session, and it's salaries of all the directors. We struggled, but got through that. The 2021 fiscal year and budget was approved.
- Starting in January, whatever we have on our Parks budget, we need to start planning and getting going to bring that up before the Board. However you, Emily, and your staff want to handle that. I guess some of that is employee staff too, so you can be thinking about those types of things.
- There was a conditional rezoning done for some property on Martin Road. That ultimately passed, so we will see something going in where the old driving range was. It will take probably a year or so to get going.
- I expected the meeting to be 30 minutes long, and we probably spent 60-90 minutes trying to respectfully discuss salaries. It was a fairly benign meeting.
- Obviously it was David Scott's last meeting.
- The other big thing is we did have our swearing in on Thursday, November 19th. Vanessa was on lockdown, but I think the Clerk was going to go to her house to swear her in through the door. The new Board technically is in place.

ITEM 4: PARK LIAISON UPDATES

Wichert – Maple Glen

- I drove through the park last Friday.
- The park is being used. There were girls out there practicing their pitching, and a father and daughter, hitting fly balls out to her. They had a pickup game at the boys' field.
- Emily, I noticed that a lot of the trees have been painted white. Are those good or bad trees?

Ms. England – They're good trees. The arborist recommended doing that to help deflect the sun that was burning up the bark on those trees. We did that to save those trees.

Mr. Wichert – I noticed a few at the new entrance that were not covered. Are those dead trees?

Mr. Schoder – I'm pretty sure those were dead. We pulled out as many dead as we could, and I know there's a few more that need to be pulled out.

Petsch – Bicentennial Park

- Nothing to report.

Champagne – Hickory Glen Park

- I've got nothing.
- I think we're going to be discussing Hickory Glen on Item 8 anyway.

Garbutt – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- I was over to Long Park. There are still people walking around, looking at the birds and things.
- There's still a lot of construction going on down the road. Our regular entrance is blocked off.
- Mark, one thing, on the northwest corner, there are a lot of branches that must have come down. They're right in the parking lot, so maybe somebody can go over. They'd have to have a truck to pick them up.

Mr. Schoder – Yes, I've noticed they've taken down a lot of trees there because of the tree line. If it's something that fell from the wind, we'll take care of it. If it's not, I'll talk to the foreman over there about picking those up.

Ms. Garbutt – Okay, and Bill will talk to you. I talked to him tonight about the little free library. He will get in contact with you about that soon.

Mr. Schoder – Okay, good.

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

- The only thing I would say over at the Wise Road properties, they're getting some decent use. I think it's time to resurrect the parking lot and trail maintenance.
- I don't know specifically, but I think I'd say keep your ears open. The Wise Woods side is always the deer hunting side. We had issues a few years ago, and that seemed to die for a couple years. I think we're having some deer hunting going on over there. Obviously, if we can get trail stuff done and marked over time and more people using it as trails, I think that will help. I really don't want to have to spend money fencing in a park from the neighbors.
- Maybe we should look at what our plan was there. I know we were trying to attach it to other things to get work done. Maybe with the COVID issue we'll get good rates by putting things out to bid.

Ms. England – We were looking at redoing Long Park's parking lot also, so maybe we can join those together as one project.

Chairperson Kast – The trails are really well maintained back in there.

Mr. Berkheiser – On the Wise Woods side?

Chairperson Kast – On both sides, yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – There aren't a whole lot of trails on the other side.

Chairperson Kast – On the south side?

Mr. Berkheiser – There's the open field type trails that I've seen anyway.

Chairperson Kast – If you go up from the graveyard side, there's a lot of trails.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, I don't come in that direction.

Chairperson Kast – It seems like they're all well maintained. Somebody rebuilt one of the bridges across the river this summer.

Mr. Berkheiser – That causes a lot of issues on the cemetery side. We obviously don't want people parking in the cemetery, right Barb?

Ms. Garbutt – Yes, and Bob, they have been. I saw a car again the other day.

Mr. Berkheiser – I know they are. They're parked way in the back and the problem is, they run over stuff if they're not careful. We really don't want them parking on that side. That may be something we need to look at, trying to figure out how we cut that down and stop it. I don't know what that is.

Chairperson Kast – Does the power company own the strip of land that the power lines are on, on the west side?

Mr. Berkheiser – I don't believe they own it. If anything, they have right-of-way.

Chairperson Kast – That connects to the park and would be a logical place to put a parking lot right there.

Ms. England – We own a sliver right there that goes out to Carroll Lake Road. I think that's where you're talking about. In the original plan, that is identified as an entrance and parking location.

Chairperson Kast – Right, that wasn't the one I was thinking of. I'm talking about right across from the Library exit.

Mr. Berkheiser – Sort of across from Leo's, diagonally, and it's about the width of a driveway, 8-10'.

Henderson – Byers and Mill Race

- I was on the Planning Commission meeting earlier this month regarding the Marathon Station on Commerce Road, east of Commerce and Sleeth. They're planning on expanding. They proposed going from about 900 square feet to over 3,000. Obviously there was some feedback from the local community about whether it needs to be that big.
- One of the things they mentioned that I was looking forward to seeing in the plans was sidewalks. I don't know how far they will go, but if there's connectivity there that we can take advantage of for the sidewalk to Byers, that would be fantastic. Is it something that I should talk to Dave Campbell about?

Ms. England – Yes, that's a great idea.

Mr. Berkheiser – Generally the sidewalks are for their property, which means it would stop as soon as it hits the old meat market next door. I think it's going to be the dentist office. Then there's the open property before it gets down to Byers. As people do things, we are requiring them to put in sidewalks. Further west, where the veterinary office is, when she redid some stuff, she was required to put in sidewalks. That's slowly being done. There was talk at some point as to how much sidewalks the Township wanted to do. It's costly to put in sidewalks, so whether that was to be done is a valid question to people. It was all being done in conjunction with trying to do our pathways. If you haven't seen our pathway plan, Emily has that.

Ms. England – That was identified as a connection to deal with the crossing for the Library, because you have people darting across. We needed to make that corner connection, and extending that pathway down by Byers and to the corner would help start the process of getting that crossing there at the light for people to cross safely over to the Library. We can look into it more.

Ms. Henderson – Thank you. It was just a thought. They're coming up with plans. Why not try to use the leverage we have.

Kast – Dodge Park

- It is always super busy.
- The Library side has been very quiet lately.
- I have seen kids playing on the playground equipment on the north side, as well as all the new, great stuff on the south side.

Mr. Berkheiser – Emily, how are we on the bathrooms, parking and that type of stuff? How far along?

Ms. England – They will definitely be complete this year. Actually I have some updated pictures I can send out to everybody as far as how the building looks. They did get the concrete poured. That company did come in and do their service project and donated all the landscaping and all the irrigation. All that work has been completed. I think we're ahead of schedule.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is the full parking lot open?

Ms. England – No, not yet.

Mr. Berkheiser – I'm just curious when you say it has been full and really busy, how full the parking lot is, I mean the new full parking lot. We did have, I'll call it Phase II, about parking lot type stuff and I didn't know where we were with that.

Ms. England – We talked about it last month with the soccer games. The soccer organization has expressed the need for more parking. I think we need to give it a full year with an open parking lot to see how it goes. It could get worse or better. I know Scarlet's Smile is still seen as a novelty and people are home now. There's more people venturing out to the parks that we may not see in a normal world. I still think we need a solid, somewhat normal year to determine if we want to spend that kind of money on parking.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is the trash any better than it was?

Mr. Schoder – It's getting better, Bob. It's getting colder out. People aren't using it as much, but there's still trash. Not nearly as bad as it was.

ITEM 5: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Ms. Champagne discussed the following with the Committee:

- We had our election. We've got a couple new council members.
- Our new administrator starts on November 30th.
- If you haven't gone by the Veteran's Memorial at night, it's lit up, it's beautiful. They're still selling bricks if you have somebody you want to pay tribute to.

ITEM 6: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- We had that windstorm last week. I think we counted about 11 trees down. We had a few on the paths, 3-4 good size trees. The others were smaller trees.
- We went through the paths the last couple weeks clearing all the leaves. I know they get slippery and it's a little dangerous for people to walk on, so the paths are clear. We're going to keep an eye on those until no more leaves are dropping.
- I don't know if we can do anything about this. Off S. Commerce, we have residents raking their leaves from their yard and putting them between the pathway and the road. Two residents there, we noticed their yards were clean, and there's piles of leaves right there. I know we have oak trees there. I don't know if that's acceptable to put big piles there.

Mr. Berkheiser – I would let Jay know. That's an ordinance thing. They're responsible technically to the center of the street. Let Jay know if you think there's an issue and he can stop by to politely tell them they need to take care of it.

Mr. Schoder – Will do.

- Mill Race and Bicentennial both have graffiti. Mill Race looked pretty good for a while, but there's a little bit over there now. We're going to get over there. I noticed some pretty bad words. We'll get rid of that before the end of the week.
- Bicentennial was along the back of the pavilion so you can't see it from the road. We have a little bit of time. Hopefully it will warm up enough to get paint on that.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is that new paint working or no?

Mr. Schoder – We haven't gotten any yet. I'm still waiting for this guy to respond to me. I think I have to go to Sherwin Williams and get some of theirs. We were fine when we painted that and caught all those kids, but I guess we have new kids. I know Dave had some field cameras in his office that we wouldn't mind putting up to see if we can catch the kids at Bicentennial and Mill Race.

At Byers, I'm going to winterize the well there for their outside water. That's about it.

ITEM 7: MEMORIAL BENCH-COLY PUCKOFF

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- I believe that she is on. She would be one of the callers.
- She sent me an email requesting to put a bench in honor and memory of one of her friends.
- She's interested in putting this bench around Scarlet's Smile. The first picture included in your packet was an example of a bench that she sent me. I replied to her that normally when we have something like this, we like to stick to a smaller plaque like we allowed to be put on the playground equipment, and what's currently on the benches over there.
- The next pictures in your packet are the benches that are actually around Scarlet's Smile right now. If it's to go around Scarlet's Smile, it is my recommendation that those benches stay the same.
- I did send her over the price that I have which is from when those benches were ordered in 2019. I would need to confirm that's the price today for those benches if that's the road she wanted to go down.
- I did ask if maybe there was another location that she wanted to consider, putting the bench in a different park. If she's on, I'll let her speak more to that. Does she have to raise her hand?

Rob Widdis – Press *9 if you're on the line and you'd like to address the board.

Ms. Champagne – Emily, do those bench prices include fees for installation by our people?

Ms. England – They would be installed by our staff.

Ms. Champagne – We add a little bit when we do them to offset the cost of our DPW installing, like if there has to be a cement pad or some kind of time involved in putting the bench down.

Ms. England – If it needed a cement pad, I think that's something the Parks Committee and then the Township Board would look at being a total project. I do think there's some areas within the Township that we could install a bench that wouldn't need a cement pad. If she's not on, I can definitely relay the message to her as far as the road the Parks Committee would like to go down.

It's my feelings that around Scarlet's Smile, we want that to all stay the same. I know there's opportunity maybe over at Maple Glen where there's already cement pads. Even over at Long Park, where there would be an opportunity to put another bench in.

The final design of the bench and the plaque would come back through the Parks Committee for approval, and then obviously the Township Board for final approval. I just wanted to start the conversation to see if it's something you would be interested in pursuing with her and make sure you're on the same page as me as far as the plaque goes.

Rob Widdis – No one from the public has raised their hand.

Ms. England – Okay, thank you.

Mr. Berkheiser – I agree that certainly if it is around Scarlet's Smile, it needs to be the same. I think if we're starting to get requests to put benches in other parks and other areas, maybe trailways, like the Michigan Airline Trail, you may even want to reach out to them and coordinate if they have a preferred style just so that we're being consistent throughout our parks.

Ms. England – I agree with that. There needs to be consistency.

Mr. Petsch – I'm with Bob that we need to stay consistent. If it's the little plaque, which I think is what it should be, it should remain the same throughout.

Ms. England – As silly as it sounds, it just a bench, but a bench speaks words. If it's consistent through all of our parks and we have the opportunity to do that, I think now is the time to start. This bench was obviously a pricey bench that is in over at Scarlet's Smile. Maybe we could find something that is the same style that the Parks could approve.

We do get these requests a lot, and when we do get a request we can say, here is the information, here is the company and here is the approved plaque size. Then that just leaves us to approve the location. I will reach back out to her and we will do work within our office on finding some benches that are similar. Obviously we want a bench that's going to be durable also. I'll bring back a few options so that we can select what bench we want to see.

Mr. Berkheiser – Do we do it as a policy? That would go the Township Board for blessing.

Ms. England – Yes, I think so. It's kind of the same thing as a picnic table. You and I have had that discussion.

Mr. Berkheiser – Right, I know.

ITEM 8: HICKORY GLEN CONCEPT PLAN REVIEW

Ms. England discussed the following with the Committee:

- I did send the concept plan out to the leagues.
- I did get some feedback from Josh which we still need to work through. I know that he is on so I'll ask him to chime in.
- He did have concerns on Fields 4, 5 and 6, not including the overflow parking. You can see, there's dashed lines out toward Glengary Road. That would be considered the overflow parking and then that would also be considered an

emergency entrance only. That entrance/exit way would not be open all the time. It would be chained and the league would have the ability to open that up if need be, as well as open up that parking area up in the front for special events.

- We went into this park and we didn't want to make a lot of changes, but we needed to address issues. We don't want to cut down a bunch of trees or put down a bunch of pavement. We want to keep the small town park feel. It has a lot of maturity to it.
- He's telling me for Fields 4, 5 and 6, that the parking that's listed on here would not be enough to accommodate them at their normal league play. We will continue those conversations with them to see if we can come up with some kind of solution. Even if we just develop some sort of a drop off point, and then identify areas by those fields that would be handicap parking areas. Ideally, if you have a grandparent or someone who is not able to walk a distance, then they could park and watch their grandchild play.
- I know they also had concerns about the electrical and water lines by the batting cages. This is not there yet. When we go to do the work, obviously we would survey and make adjustments to accommodate that. This is just a concept.
- Does anybody have any feedback on that?

Mr. Petsch – Once again, everybody wants to park right next to the field where their kids are playing. Sorry, it doesn't work that way. We're providing them with directed parking areas to prevent what goes on now. That's the way it is, that's where the parking is. I agree with maybe at least down on the end, a few handicap spots for grandparents, and maybe a drop off, but you have to walk. It's 100 yards.

Ms. England – That's the way we went into this. We wanted to making parking pods, more than parking lots.

Josh Springer – The biggest thing for us, I just want to let people understand how much parking is going to be needed. Typically our teams have anywhere between 12-14 players. Assuming that we don't have any player and/or parent carpooling, you're looking at about 25-35 cars per game. Where our concern is, for 4, 5 and 6, which are those three fields in the middle, and then you've got Field 7 over to the right, just in those four fields, you're talking about 130 parking spots, and they've got to walk 10 minutes across all the diamonds from Field 1 out to Field 7.

Mr. Petsch – You also have the parking over there at the football field.

Mr. Berkheiser – And between the football field, further towards baseball, all that is open for potential parking too.

Ms. England – Even along the drive in.

Josh Springer – I guess the question is, *What does the grand scheme look like?* That's where we're coming to you. This is a great start and it's fantastic. Is this the end goal, to make some more lined parking over by the football stadium so that baseball can utilize it? What do we want?

Ms. England – The end goal is to eliminate what I feel is a safety concern, with people just parking anywhere and everywhere. It's the way it has always been, people have been parking up and down Glengary Road. There is no designation whatsoever, other than in front of the concession building. The idea is to give some kind of formality throughout the park to identify parking areas so you don't have cars darting in and out, or parking in a way that eliminates potential parking spots, but still keeping the park feel. Maybe we do add a drop off point. Josh, how many cars come through on a league day? It was like 300 wasn't it?

Josh Springer – We fill every field on league day, Monday through Friday, and even again on Saturdays. It's basically 7 fields times roughly 30-40 cars per field is how many parking spots we need for every session of games. Now we also have the whole issue, like everyone else, when one game ends and there's a game right behind it, you get this weird overlap where you now have twice as many people parking for not that many spots. If you're doubling up games, people aren't leaving. There's overlap.

Ms. England – Are you taking into consideration the parking along the drive in? people are going to have to walk, yes, but ...

Josh Springer – For sure. The biggest thing for us is going to be that we're going to want to put some sort of signage. If you're playing on Field 7, you need to have parking spots from Field 7 and then those two sections coming into Field 6 on the right hand side. I think people are walking 10 minutes, and then we get into the safety concern of you have a kid just sprinting from the far left side of the park, through the parking lot so he can get to his game on Field 7.

Ms. England – It's not illustrated on here as far as parking up by the football field, but when we go to do the work, it's not going to be difficult to add that in. That's more of an organized parking area. If we put in some kind of trail ways, a pathway from that area to where the playground is, you're cutting the walk in half.

Mr. Petsch – Even going down by diamond #7, which is think is furthest east, is that correct?

Josh Springer – Yes.

Mr. Petsch – There's a pathway there, that's the water line from that park. There's already an area there that goes to that back parking lot, and that lot is against the fence of #6.

Ms. England – We had a lot of discussion about that area. There's actually a lot of wetland over there. That is a huge challenge so we would actually have to do a survey. You're not wrong, it's just we were trying to keep this cost effective.

Mr. Petsch – Behind Field #6 are just some trees. That is almost at the parking lot.

Ms. England – I see where you're saying. Along that fence line, we actually saw a car driving there. Then are we concerned about fly balls?

Mr. Petsch – No, not if you're parking in the Hawk's parking lot.

Ms. England – All the way back, I get what you're saying.

Mr. Petsch – That's only the length of a ball field. They're 200' fences. It's not that deep if we organize that to bring a pathway along, from north to south, between 6 and 7. A walkway, not a parking way. That would eliminate the problem of a kid darting all the way across the parking lot.

Ms. England – Absolutely, and then maybe it's just education for the league. We identify parking pods that are specific for fields. I understand too. My kid plays and they want them to be there an hour and half early before a game. It's hard to eliminate cross over, and we definitely don't want to hinder them. I think this is a better solution that what they're currently dealing with. And it allows them to open up an area that will deal with tournament play.

Josh Springer – I think the drop off would also be beneficial. If a parent can drop their kid off right at Field 7, or at 4, 5 and 6, where they can drop and then go park themselves that would be hugely beneficial. Maybe that is what we make the old driveway is a drop off. There's definitely not going to be enough parking for all the players on Fields 7 and 6 without squeezing into 4 and 5, and then you're pushing those kids onto Field 3. It's a domino effect.

Ms. England – Okay, I'm going to set up a meeting with you, Bob, Linda and George who were on this committee. We will invite Pete and the MMBA onto that call. This is a concept. It's really easy to take an aerial and lay something out, but obviously when you get out there and start working you can tweak some things around.

Ms. Champagne – I'm still confused as to why we are not having two entrances at this park. So many times I've driven by there and there's cars backed up. Why would we bother to put in an egress and not just pave it and open it up so people can get in and out more freely?

Ms. England – Cost is one thing, and then we do would have to have further discussion with the RCOC.

Mr. Petsch – We would have to put down accel/decel lanes on either side of that. It would be very expensive. I think we went through that discussion.

Ms. England – This was reviewed by Mike Powell over at the Village. We looked at putting the permanent entrance in down further by the bike path, to go back to the Hawk's stadium. This location is not ideal for a permanent entrance, but it does address safety concerns. Now, if there was inclement weather or an emergency situation, we could get people out of the park. I don't disagree with what you're saying, it just comes down to cost, wetlands and more survey work. Where we're at right now, it's a \$200,000 project which is very doable.

Josh Springer – When we install these things for the parking, we are not planning on doing any sort of lighting or walkway lights, or anything like that within the park at this time?

Ms. England – That is correct. If any of the Parks members have more concerns, please send those to me. I will set up that meeting with the league reps and our subcommittee to further our discussion so we can get this back to Living Lab, and hopefully get this project going the first of the year.

ITEM 9: RICHARDSON CENTER CONCEPT PLAN REVIEW

Ms. England – I thought I was going to be further along with this one than I am. This is on here as a placeholder. We're still in the process of getting community feedback before we bring it to present.

ITEM 10: 2021 CONCERTS & EVENTS

Ms. England – Again, this is a placeholder. I added events on there just because we saw how quickly things can change. I want to have a better plan in case things change on us again next year so that we can still offer the community something.

We purchased a transmitter for the Richardson Center so that we can start doing bingo from their cars. We've had a lot of requests and other centers have had a lot of success doing that. We could also purchase our own equipment to do a movie and we could plan on hosting a movie in the park, just so that our residents aren't left with nothing. I think we're going to plan on going ahead with the M-5K. I know they did Outrun Hunger and it was a huge success, and they abided by the guidelines.

Discussions took place regarding the success of Outrun Hunger, potential drive-in movies in the park with the transmitter and equipment, scheduling for movies, screen pricing and movie licensing.

ITEM 11: AGENDA REQUESTS

- None.

ITEM 12: OTHER MATTERS

- None.

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be **Monday, December 14, 2020, at 6:00PM.**

ITEM 16: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Wichert, to adjourn the meeting at 6:59pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Petsch, Wichert, Henderson, Garbutt, Champagne, Berkheiser, Kast

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sarah Henderson, Secretary