

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

Monday, July 26, 2021
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Petsch called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

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

Absent: Sarah Henderson, Secretary (excused)

Also Present: Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks & Recreation
Allison Kennedy, Asst. to Parks & Recreation Director
Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director
Larry Gray, Township Supervisor

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Garbutt, seconded by Walker, to approve the June 28, 2021, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.

Joe Sweden, 4472 Lynn Lane, Commerce Township – I'm here to say a few things about the possibility of a splash pad going into Dodge Park. I just became aware of that in the last month or so. I have lived and worked in Commerce Township for almost 50 years. I think Commerce Township has done a great job of preserving greenspace. We have a crown jewel compared to nearby communities. The pines planted in Dodge Park have been there for decades. I hate to see any more of those cut down. It's a beautiful park. If a splash pad is put in they will need more parking lot, concessions, and the splash pad itself.

I have the utmost sympathy for Jessica Starr's family and I admire them for trying to do something, but I think there's other things that they could do that would honor her. There's three nearby splash pads, Bloomer Park, Indian Springs and Kensington. To commemorate Jessica, they could do a butterfly garden, cross country ski trails, memorial benches, memorial trees, and college scholarships for Township residents in Jessica's name.

Mr. Berkheiser – There have been at least two or three messages sent to Board members with the same intent as Mr. Sweden.

Chairperson Petsch – Thank you.

Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.

ITEM 1A: BATTING CAGES

Ryan Hoppe – I came in earlier today, not knowing I would be here tonight. I'm looking into the Copper Mug batting cages in Walled Lake. It looks like this could possibly be the last year of them. I have an opportunity to take the physical cages, and I'm looking for a home for them.

In going over things with Commerce Township, we thought maybe one of the parks with baseball fields might have an open space to set something like this up at. I didn't know all of the logistics of it, but I thought I'd come tonight to get your opinion to see if it could be done. I'm looking for about a 100x100 area. Most ball fields have quite a bit of parking, and I know some are looking to add more. Maybe it's something we can work together on. I do have some drawings.

Chairperson Petsch – Ryan, are you talking about both slow pitch and baseball?

Ryan Hoppe – Yes.

Chairperson Petsch – Okay, I would say what you would probably want to do on the next step of this is talk to the Interlakes Girls Softball and Commerce Little League, since both of those teams play out of the same park, Maple Glen. We've looked at some areas, behind to the right of the girls' softball area, that's undeveloped. It's all parks land. We talked about other projects back there, but there might be spots there we can look at. It would be a great addition for the girls and boys slow pitch, and fast pitch softball, everything. That's where I would start to see if they have interest in it.

Mr. Berkheiser – Did you talk with Emily at all?

Ryan Hoppe – I did and she said come to the meeting tonight.

Mr. Berkheiser – Give her a call and she will give you the contacts for the leagues.

Director England – You're not thinking about having this as something that people would come and pay to use.

Ryan Hoppe – I think that would be part of the goal. It's not free to operate this, and it won't be free to set up either.

Mr. Berkheiser – We partner with our ball clubs. If that is something they're interested in, then they need to discuss that. We don't charge admission. Now whether there is a method to put coins in a machine and then it operates, that's different, but we don't charge admission to the parks.

Ryan Hoppe – I definitely would give back. I'm not looking for a profit.

Chairperson Petsch – That's what we're talking about, if you partner with the leagues, we would expect that somehow, something is contributed back to them. That's where the conversation starts with the directors of those two leagues, and Lakes Athletics might be interested also. I guess I would say, it's not a concession. We don't allow

someone to strictly make profit in the parks. But I do understand that running something of that nature would take effort. It does cost money to man it and maintain it. We don't expect that to come out of your pocket. As long as it is benefitting more than just you, that's what we're looking for.

Ryan Hoppe – Right, and I think I've got some great ideas. I'll set up a meeting with them and get with Emily.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes, and we do have spots that could be ideal.

Mr. Berkheiser – This is not in our master plan and it's not anything we've ever discussed, but that doesn't mean it can't change.

>Mr. Berkheiser and Chairperson Petsch discussed moving agenda Item 10 down to the last item.

ITEM 1B: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Friends of Byers – Karen Schantz

Mr. Schantz shared the following with the Committee:

- I did send in my report.
- We're working hard on the upcoming Ugly Duckling Vintage Event, August 15th from 10am-6pm.
 - I'll bring in a handicap porta-potty.
 - The event is going really well in only 8 weeks. We're pulling it off.
- We're already working on Boo-Bash and reaching out to the community to get more involvement. Bob, let us know if you have any Eagle Scouts or Boy Scouts interested in running a station.

Mr. Berkheiser – Dean has the name. There is a volunteer coordinator for one of the troops, and there are several other troops in Commerce also.

Mr. Walker – What day do you need help?

Ms. Schantz – Saturday, October 23rd. We usually run it from 6:30 to 8:30pm, and last time was 6-8pm.

Mr. Walker – That would count toward their community service hours.

Mr. Berkheiser – They usually dress up in costumes.

Mr. Walker – I'll see who we have available.

Ms. Schantz –

- We're doing our first annual golf outing.
 - Not getting much participation from Commerce Township golf courses, Dean went to Highland Hills Golf Course.
 - So far we have about 15 teams.
 - That will be October 2nd.
 - I will have flyers to you tomorrow.
 - I believe it's \$340 for a foursome.
 - Tee off is at 10am.

- You get a hot dog and drink at the turn, and a steak dinner following.
- We're getting a lot of people on the grounds. My question to you is regarding photographers. They come in and move things all over the place, leave benches in the middle of pathways from taking pictures, and that could be an issue. Can I post something, rules for photographers?

Ms. England – We can address it in our park use policy.

Mr. Berkheiser – I don't think it's unreasonable to put a sign out that says, "If you move something, please put it back".

Discussion continued regarding issues with antiques, benches and other items being moved at Byers, bolting things down, Maintenance Department coverage of the parks on weekends, and creating guidelines for photographers in the parks. Ms. England added that calls are often received from photographers inquiring about guidelines, so it may help to provide them, but not all of them call in advance. She also suggested that Ms. Schantz put a box outside the barn with these guidelines.

Ms. Schantz – We're having major issues with the split rail fence falling over. It's rotting at the bottom. I don't know how long those posts have been in the ground.

Mr. Schoder – Quite a while. We've replaced quite a few posts, and we'll go through and replace what needs to be done.

Chairperson Petsch – In the river, we talked about moving stuff where we had that sand island. With all the rain, has it moved that or washed it away?

Ms. Schantz – We moved the little island and now it's underwater. We might get in the water and move more sand.

Chairperson Petsch – Once you change the course, it will continue to change, so it might be a good idea.

Ms. Schantz – We want to get that one big tree out too. The next Boy Scout event, hopefully we can do that this fall.

Dean and I were on the property Sunday, and he brought our chainsaw down. We got all the trees cleaned up, and helped one guy behind Byers who was devastated by the tree falls. Other than that, Byers looks really good.

Motor City Mountain Biking Association – Mike Kearney

The MMBA submitted a report:

- *The trail is currently impassable due to down trees. I took out a dozen in the first mile of trail.*
- *It will certainly be at least a few more days before it is remotely rideable, and possibly weeks before we can clear some of the largest fallen trees off the trail and create features over them.*
- *I expect more trees to continue to come down as many are leaning against other trees and will come down in the next storm or two.*
- *Overall, it is going to be slow and laborious to get it back into the shape that it was before Saturday's storm. I'm sure Mark and his team will have their hands full in the rest of the parks.*

- *I hope infrastructure for the ball sports, et cetera, are undamaged.*

Lakes Athletics Association – Josh Springer

A report was submitted in the packet:

- *League Update – The Summer season for 5U and 7U is under way and will last through mid August. Our Fall registration for all age divisions is now open and enrollments are coming in strong. Fall will have 1 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 – Summer Season through mid August; Fall Ball in September and October.*
 - *Tournament Dates – September 18-19*
 - *Monthly Meeting – Next scheduled is August 11th*
 - *2022 Capital Improvements – In the next coming board meeting we will vote and select some capital improvements for the 2022 season; and look to budget and complete those projects before next spring season.*
- *Needs From Township*
 - *Bleacher Pads – Work ongoing for poured cement permanent pads for the field bleachers.*
 - *Parking Lot Construction – Please update us on the latest schedule for the parking lot improvement construction plan.*
 - *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 the 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.*

Ms. Kennedy – Winterization has been on the Lakes report every month. Do you want to address that?

Ms. England – We just need to address it with Josh. We will do that. We already addressed it here with the Committee.

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

- Interlakes Girls Softball
- Commerce Little League
- CW3
- Windmill Farms (Horse Farm)

Chairperson Petsch – I just want to make on comment on Hickory Glen, with baseball. They're doing a great job keeping that open along Glengary Road so you can see in there. Because we did brush it, and now they're mowing it now, it's starting to grow grass and it continues to look really good. Kudos to them for keeping up on that.

ITEM 2: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. England discussed the following:

- The Senior Center is running at about 80% right now as far as activities go. It was a very smooth transition with the seniors coming back in. Everybody is very happy to be back in. It was a long 16 months for them. We will continue to get back to full capacity hopefully by September as far as programming goes.
- We're still working on league agreements. We have some questions about insurance and we're working with Rick Sovel on that.
- We've had 3 concerts. One was cancelled due to rain. We had a great turn out at the first concert. Last week wasn't as good of a turn out. Please remember, we have concerts every Friday through August 13th.
- Both the Wise Road and Dodge Park pathway projects came in. We will discuss that later, both came in over bid.
- We had some vandals in Mill Race that Larry did capture on camera, and it sounds like they did catch those people. It also looks like the anti-graffiti paint is working well.

Chairperson Petsch – Can they just wipe it right off?

Mr. Schoder – It takes some elbow grease, but you just use water and a rag.

Chairperson Petsch – They did a nice job.

Ms. England – I think the anti-graffiti paint was a good investment.

Mr. Berkheiser – Mr. Gray, do we get the person who committed the offense to do the scrubbing off? Or do we do it?

Supervisor Gray – No, we do it. Lt. Reyes issued tickets to both of them. One of the young ladies emailed me. Just like the tunnel, I don't know how much involvement we are going to be able to have in the case when it goes to County juvenile court.

Mr. Berkheiser – Have we had any recent issues in the Dodge restrooms?

Ms. England – Yes, we did. We had another backup. The engineers may have figured out a problem, and it had to do with the size of the pipe. I think it was a 6" going into a 4" into the grinder pump. Now they're going to keep it as 6" all the way through. If that doesn't help, then Mark got us prices on getting it vacuumed out every 2-3 weeks. We have signs up, we have wastebaskets, and we've done public education.

Discussion continued regarding the plumbing design for the Dodge Park restroom facilities.

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- We appointed Kathryn Duff as our Wolverine Lake representative.
- We discussed some ordinances.
- The Township has purchased the old boat launch. The boat launch part will remain and probably fall into parks as a pocket park. A couple cars can park there. There's an outhouse that we will have to maintain. People can launch kayaks, canoes, that type of stuff, and fish. It's not catch-and-release.

- The other side of the boat launch property is where the parking used to be. I think there was space there for up to 9 houses or something. The Township really wanted the property for potential expansion of the Union Lake corridor. That area is really tough, so having that property allows us to use it or trade it. We were not able to come to any agreements with the State regarding a long-term lease. We were hoping to get a nice rate on it, but the State has to sell it for its value.
- There was a subcommittee of the Board that was looking at all Township owned property, and whether it was park property, or would be offered to a neighbor, or if it could be developed. There are 100+ properties that have been reviewed and categorized. There was a big presentation. We're in the process of selling and get more property on the tax rolls. Some encroachments are occurring, so maybe the neighbors will purchase the property, or remove their items from the property.
- We're moving forward on the Byers Farmhouse restoration that you recommended to the Board.
- Multi-Lakes is having some parties this summer, and we approved some of their alcohol permits.

ITEM 4: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Walker – Maple Glen & Windmill Farms (Horse Farm)

- Things are great at Windmill Farms.
- The Horse Farm update is on the agenda.

Garbutt – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- They're still doing some work at Long Park, and of course we have some issues to take care of. We will coordinate with the Sheriff on those.
- The road and parking lot are still not done.

Discussion took place regarding issues in the park, as addressed last month, and Ms. Taylor stated that the issues do continue.

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

- Nothing new to report.

Petsch – Bicentennial Park

- I have not been by the park recently.
- Any trees down in my park?

Mr. Schoder – Yes, and we have the first coat of paint on the pavilion.

Chairperson Petsch – I saw that.

Ms. England – Hickory Glen Park

- Mark and I were there today. The park was hit pretty bad with some trees coming down.
- We only saw one spot that was really damaged. Mark thinks that his guys can fix the fence, but they're going to be busy clearing some trees.

Mr. Walker – I have not been to Maple Glen yet after the storm. Did they get hit there at all?

Mr. Schoder – No, it's pretty good actually.

Chairperson Petsch – Looking at the corridor where that came through, it came through my street.

Mr. Berkheiser – Dodge Park has trees down.

Mr. Schoder – Yes, Hickory is the worst so make sure the leagues know.

Ms. England – The league was out doing clean up when I went by.

Henderson – Byers and Mill Race

- No report in Henderson's absence; however, Ms. Schantz provided report earlier on Byers.

Dodge Park

- The park was discussed herein, and Park Assignments is on the agenda this evening.

ITEM 5: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Ms. Duff discussed the following with the Committee:

- August 13th, Wolverine Lake Parks & Recreation is hosting a fishing tournament. It is catch-and-release. It's open to everybody and it's very fun for the little kids to catch little tiny fish and do a weigh in for prizes.
- Prizes are given out at the Corn Roast event which is the Saturday after Labor Day.

ITEM 6: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- Long Park – I know Keith did crushed stone around the bridges. We still have to get to the platforms and bridges. There are some trees down and we'll take care of those.
- We need more trash cans at Scarlet's if we can get them. There's a lot of trash.
- If anybody sees anything at the parks that we don't, please reach out to me.
- We cleared a lot of trees on Sunday for about 5 hours, and today, all day.
- As we said, Hickory Glen was hit the worst. You can't even go down the trails.

Mr. Berkheiser – Mark, do you have routine maintenance for the Richardson Center? I noticed when I was sitting at the concert Friday night, the gutters look full of pine needles. Is that something you do routinely before winter hits?

Mr. Schoder – That was done today because of the storm, but we usually do it a couple times per year, and clean off the AC units.

ITEM 7: KAYLA – EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT UPDATE

Kayla Jewett, Eagle Scout, Troop 201, delivered a PowerPoint presentation. Back in January, she had presented her Eagle Scout project proposal for a butterfly garden at Byers Park. She reviewed her bottle drive fundraiser, which went well as the community was generous, use of Facebook, et cetera to raise \$1,632.95. She discussed the project construction of the fence, painting, planting, restoration of the 100-year old gate, and details of the final garden and perennial plantings.

In addition, Alyson Lobert, Library Director, contacted Ms. Jewett. She had milkweed left over from a project at the Library, so that was planted behind the Byers outhouse. This will draw monarch butterflies.

Ms. Jewett thanked the Committee for approving the project and stated that it was an amazing opportunity. She will be earning Eagle Scout on August 6th.

Chairperson Petsch – Congratulations. It's a wonderful project and it came out very nice.

Ms. Jewett – Yes, thank you to everyone, to all the volunteers, and thank you to Byers. They were awesome to work with.

We had 500 service hours to plan the garden, do the fundraising, construction and everything to do with the project, with 30 volunteers from Troop 201.

Mr. Berkheiser – What was your most challenging leadership issue?

Ms. Jewett – My most challenging leadership part was when we arrived on the site, it wasn't how I thought it was going to be. I didn't even know what to tell the volunteers. I had them start raking, and stood back, letting them do what they needed to do. I like to do everything myself.

Mr. Berkheiser – Who is doing the maintenance? Have you arranged for follow-up? Who volunteered? Is that a troop thing or is that Friends of Byers?

Ms. Jewett – Friends of Byers said they would water it. I can help weed it out.

Mr. Berkheiser – So, Commerce Township is not taking care of it. You guys are. It's not our Maintenance guys.

Ms. Jewett – Friends of Byers. Everything in the garden is perennial. It just needs water and weeding out.

ITEM 7A: ART WALK PRESENTATION

Cheryl Popow delivered a detailed presentation for her Art in the Park proposal. She stated that she has been a Commerce resident since 1997. The idea came from her son who is a graduate of Walled Lake Northern and he's more of an artsy type of person versus math and science. He wanted to build some recognition for the art students, similar to athletics.

Mr. Berkheiser asked if this is different than the competitions when art is displayed in local banks or libraries. Ms. Popow replied that this is slightly different. She has seen it out west. It's mostly broken out into two types of art, and the first is sculpture. The second part would be art pieces that could be installed into some type of showcase, as seen at parks where maps are enclosed in showcases. In addition to artwork, short essays could be showcased next to park benches. There's multiple different types of art being discussed. In addition to working with the high schools, they would also involve Oakland Community College art students.

The mission is to promote artistic expression and appreciation for creative arts in the community. They will be filing for a 501c3, and looking for financial support from the community with corporate sponsors, grants, and working with the National Endowment for the Arts, membership dues from local businesses, and possibly having their name

on a plaque when they provide support, and sponsorship of the art installation in particular areas.

The value is that this provides a conduit for artists, paraprofessionals and teachers to be recognized. They would help with further enriching the art programs and showcasing this in the community, so the talents of the students would be on display in the community. It would bring people together. When people go to a concert in Dodge Park, they'd also see art. It could go along the Airline Trail and bikers would see it.

Eventually, the showcases would be filled up, and then rotating them out of the community and into people's back yards. The art could be auctioned off.

This would also be a cooperation with OTC students who would build showcases. The timeline would take up to a couple years to design and build. When installed, there could be a kickoff party and a celebration of the artists that are selected to put art up in the park. Additionally, special needs students and students in transition would be invited to participate in the program. No prior art is required, but they have to be willing to work with a group. They have to sign an agreement that their art can be displayed and be photographed for advertisements.

They will be meeting with the school district and teachers regarding their support and commitment. There will be an effort to integrate the program into the school as an extra-curricular activity. Projects could be built on school property and students could work on it after class, or sometimes during class, and support would be provided by the teachers. Students could get credit for what they're doing, and they could put it on their resumes.

Ms. Popow discussed the timeline of about 2 years for a sculpture and challenges of the design and build. Other artwork could be on a faster rotation schedule. As part of the nonprofit board, high school alumni and current students could be included, along with OCC and OTC students. This will be an opportunity to build leadership and build the program in the community.

The proposal has received good reception from artists in the community who want to be a part of this and help mentor. This will build a bond between the graduating students and people who possibly could be employers for them in the future, and even providing places for art to be constructed outside of the school system.

Ms. Popow approached and presented photos to the Committee of sculptures she has seen in other states.

Mr. Berkheiser – Who would be maintaining all of this? In general, we partner with organizations. I know you said you're applying for a 501c3, so it sounds like this would be a partnership agreement which would have to go to the Township Board.

Ms. England – Correct.

Mr. Berkheiser – As I address with everybody, whether it's a splash park or anything else, the Township owns it so there's stuff that's different, but then it becomes maintenance if you're putting things in the park.

Ms. Popow – I think we have to think about it this way, the artist is donating the artwork to be on display in the Township, and the 501c3, part of the funding of that would go toward maintenance. You're on a circular rotating schedule.

Chairperson Petsch – They wouldn't be permanent. They would go up for sale and then a new one would come in.

Ms. Popow – The bases would all be universal which would be interchangeable. It's a piece of cement with 4-studs or bolts coming up. It's bolted down, and then it's just mix and match. After it has been on display, it can be auctioned off or taken home by the artist themselves, or it can be moved somewhere else. It's not forever, but the mounting locations within the Township would stay there. The artwork would rotate around those.

Ms. England – Larry and I met with them and had the discussion. The idea was, maybe every year could be a different type of theme, or maybe the theme is associated to the location. They're looking at putting these into parks, but also the DDA and Martin Parkway, and the Airline Trail would be somebody different. They're looking at expanding these trail systems that would show off the artwork. I support it. If you stand behind this, our next step is to allow them to make the same presentation to the Township Board at their August meeting.

Ms. Garbutt – I think the really nice part about that is when you consider the art projects that go into Grand Rapids, they get a lot of publicity and it does draw a lot of people to the community. This is a good thing to show off a lot of art for the students in our community.

Ms. Popow – Yes, I could see this being a big event every year.

Ms. Garbutt – Like the DIA puts things out.

Mr. Walker – It's definitely really cool, and I love the arts. I did a lot downtown with the arts. However, as we've talked about, how do we prevent it from being vandalized?

Ms. England – We brought that up and it would be part of the agreement. That's just an understanding that the artist is going to have to have. They will need to try to choose materials that are vandal proof, or put in high traffic areas, such as at the Library. Discussions continued regarding potential locations, high traffic areas, and the partnership agreement.

MOTION by Garbutt, supported by Walker, that the Committee supports The CAP program moving forward with the Art in the Parks proposal to be in Commerce Township Parks and Pathways. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 8: PARK OFFICERS

Ms. England – Rachel was our Vice Chair, so obviously we need a new Vice Chair.

Mr. Berkheiser – We have two really new members, so I will make a motion to appoint John Walker as our Vice Chair.

Mr. Walker accepted the nomination.

MOTION by Berkheiser, seconded by Garbutt, to appoint John Walker as Vice Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee, for the remainder of the term. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 9: PARK LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Ms. England suggested that Sarah Henderson be assigned to Dodge Park, Krystal Schwartz could take over Byers and Mill Race, and Ms. Duff would be assigned to Hickory Glen. The Committee agreed.

ITEM 10: TOWNSHIP BOARD ITEM DISCUSSION

This item was moved down to Item 13C.

ITEM 11: PARK USE POLICY

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- We've looked at this a few times. I'm just coming back to see if there are any further suggestions and the direction you would like to see this go in.
- We've been getting calls about people wanting to have bounce houses and food trucks, and people wanting to host 5K races on the pathways, and not all have been from nonprofit community groups. For-profit companies that plan 5Ks have inquired. They give a percentage of what they make to a local community group, but they determine who the recipient is. What would you like to see, as far as strictly excluding that, or trying to set up something for that?

Ms. England – Our policy for community groups for the Richardson Center is that the group has to be located in Commerce Township and it has to serve the needs of the Township as a whole, not just individuals.

Chairperson Petsch – I think that's a very good policy. I don't think we need to invite outside entities in to make profit in our parks. That's not a direction I want to see us go in. My feeling is that we stay consistent with the Richardson policy and keep our parks for our community.

Mr. Berkheiser – I mean our parks are open to anyone, but I think when people are looking to rent pavilions or to organize events, it needs to be to the benefit of the Township.

Ms. Schwartz – It's not abnormal for other municipalities. That's pretty common.

Mr. Berkheiser – I don't like the idea that they're going to pick who they want to give it to.

Ms. England – We would have an application. They would have to fill it out with all of those details ahead of time, and they would be held accountable.

Discussion continued regarding past events, nonprofit organizations, causes needing to be those that benefit the Township, policies in other communities and on other pathways, and upcoming 5K races. Mr. Berkheiser added that we want to see parks and trails being able to be used, not being shut down every weekend because there is a race or an event. Ms. England suggested that it could be limited with only X amount of races held during the season. The policy needs to be set and clear regarding the number of runs per year, and they need to benefit 501c3's in Commerce Township.

Mr. Berkheiser suggested that the photography guidelines discussed earlier could be included in the Park Use Policy. Ms. Kennedy made a note of it.

Mr. Berkheiser discussed the “No Hunting, Fishing or Removing Animals” policy. Ms. England noted that this would be addressed through signage and there is a Township ordinance. Proper signage being posted allows for enforcement.

Ms. England also discussed pavilion rentals. Scarlet was pulled from the pavilion rental policy as there are just too many requests and it is such a highly used park. It’s not the right time to limit the availability of that pavilion. A sign was put up to limit people to one table per group to prevent people attempting to reserve the entire pavilion.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Schwartz, to move the Park Use Policy forward to the Attorneys.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 12: HORSE FARM UPDATE

Mr. Walker discussed the following with the Committee:

- We met over there and looked at quite a few things.
- We had a very in-depth discussion with Carrie about some of the stuff that has to be done in the next 2-3 weeks.
- She is having some posts put in over the next two weeks, and we want the ones up front done first. We’re pushing hard to have those done within the next three weeks, along with getting the trailers out of there.

Ms. England – The Township Board, at their July meeting, did approve the moving of the well bladder, the building of that room in the barn, as well as the heater and all of the electrical that the well will need to operate. That does not include movement or replacement of the water lines to the hydrants. That is just getting everything out of the house so we can deal with the house and not affect the water at the barn. In August, the Board will be looking at bids for replacement of the roof over the observation room. Once the roof is repaired, we can repair the electrical, and Carrie can do improvements in the observation room to help promote her activities.

Mr. Berkheiser – We also had discussion, and I feel strongly about this, that Concerts in the Park is a great opportunity to advertise, but she has not attended one yet.

Mr. Walker – We also broke it down a little bit in dollars and cents, with holding a couple birthday parties over the weekend, it could be \$800. It’s easy money that should be brought in. She will look into it and we will continue to strongly encourage.

Mr. Berkheiser – She needs help. There's no web page or email capability. Whether it's a Facebook thing, she needs help with that. It’s not something she routinely uses.

Ms. England – She is used to dealing with State Land and agreements. This is completely different for her.

Ms. Schwartz – For the project where the Township is taking everything out of the house, is there anything we need from her, or is she hands-off for that?

Ms. England – She’s hands-off for that. The house has gotten really bad.

Mr. Berkheiser – Once the bladder and well is setup and running, the house will probably be coming down.

ITEM 13A: OKTOBERFEST

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- Saturday, October 9th is the date for both events.
- I think everybody knows, that morning is the M-5K, which starts at On the Dunes. We use the Michigan Airline Trail, which we have approval for.
- In the afternoon, we are doing an Oktoberfest type event, where we would like to have art and craft vendors, kids events, music and if you're in agreement, we will have a beer tent and a food tent.
- We have to have agreement if you would like to see us move forward so we can go to the Township Board. There are necessary permits.

Discussion took place regarding details of the event, to be held at the Richardson Center, vendors, local brewers and having a band.

MOTION by Petsch, seconded by Walker, to move forward with the Oktoberfest event on Saturday, October 9th, at the Richardson Center, to include a beer tent, food vendors, music and activities. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 13B: LONG PARK SIGNAGE

Ms. England – The Attorneys spent a lot of time looking into this. He doesn't feel that we need to change the ordinance. We just need to put the proper signage up. He is recommending, *The hunting, removal or killing of any animal in the park is prohibited. Catch-and-release fishing only. Violators will be prosecuted.*

This allows the authorities to take action if anyone is violating one of these rules. There is an ordinance that this in reference to, found in Section 34-A.2. where it says, *It shall be unlawful for any person to kill or injure, or to attempt to kill, injure or ensnare, any wild bird or animal in any fashion whatsoever, with, but not limited to, a firearm, bow and arrow, slingshot, trap, live trap, stone, stick or snare.* This meets the DNR guidelines.

Mr. Berkheiser – I would reference the Township ordinance on the sign at the bottom in parentheses. Get it done, printed and mounted.

Mr. Walker – And this will allow the Sheriffs to make arrests.

Ms. England – Yes, once it posted.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Garbutt, to hang the signs in Long Park, prohibiting removal and killing of animals, per the ordinance.

Extensive discussion took place regarding other parks that might benefit from similar signage, which parks allow fishing, requests to bow-fish which is not permissible, hunting deer is prohibited throughout the Township, wildlife issues at Byers, and how the ordinance will impact the Union Lake boat launch. Ms. England suggested that issues should be dealt with on a park by park basis as they arise, and signs could be purchased as needed. The Committee decided that this particular action and these signs would only apply to Long Park at this time.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 13C: TOWNSHIP BOARD ITEM DISCUSSION

Previously Item 10 on the agenda, moved down to Item 13C.

Ms. England reviewed the items on the Township Board Quarterly meeting agenda, scheduled for Tuesday, July 27th.

- **Scarlet's Smile Splash Pad Discussion**
 - Ms. England reviewed a detailed PowerPoint of splash pad information that she and Ms. Kennedy had compiled by going out to other communities, including year established, square footages, capacity limitations, ADA compliance, water source of city versus well water, quantity of water used, and related costs with circulating systems and chemical treatments or filtration systems. Well water presents odor and rust issues.
 - She also reviewed and compared admission charges for residents and non-residents, construction costs, number of water features, hours and seasons of operation, maintenance issues, fencing, staffing attendants, concessions, pavilions, rules, and companies that manufacture and install splash pads.
 - The biggest questions were city water versus well water, recirculating versus pump and dump, and location for the splash pad. Those would all be topics of discussion tomorrow night. She supports the project, but suggested that other sites could be considered.

Discussion took place regarding costs of attendants, water quality in the existing well, drilling to varying depths to test the water quality, damage to pumps by well water, and making the connection to city water. Ms. England noted that recirculating systems have additional guidelines and require additional amenities, testing, reporting and training, along with licensing and permits from the County and State. However, the systems are very easy and maintenance friendly. If a recirculating system is not used, then she believes the Committee is steering toward a well. Mr. Walker stated that city water could be used and not recirculated. Chairperson Petsch encouraged a more shallow well which might not be rusty or hard water. Mr. Berkheiser discussed alternative locations, possibly at the Richardson Center. In relation to potential locations, Ms. England added that in every community, they all ended up fencing, staffing and monitoring the splash pads. Those factors, along with available space and design, need to be considered when choosing a site. It was also noted that the Starr family is establishing their 501c3, and fundraising for purchase, installation and maintenance of the splash pad for up to two years.

- **Dodge Park South End Parking**
 - Ms. England explained the impacts that Scarlet's Smile had on parking at Dodge Park, and it needs to be addressed.
 - Giffels had reviewed options, and they noted that establishing the exact cost is difficult to do without a topographic survey. She reviewed the options with the Committee, number of parking spaces, issues onsite, retention ponds and related costs, varying from \$275,000 to \$1.6 million.

Chairperson Petsch encouraged creating a water feature with a fountain in the storm water retention, in looking at Option #1 at \$275,000. He also discussed issues with

people parking up and down the road, and clearing the brush to create more visibility from the road.

Ms. England explained that at the Township Board, the Committee would need to provide their recommendation for one of the options presented, and then the Board would need to approve that option for Giffels to prepare the design. Then Giffels can put together the cost for the August meeting. The Committee was in favor of Option #1 and the suggested water feature.

- Dodge Park North Pathways CDBG
 - Ms. England explained that the bids came in over the original estimate. The estimate was \$37,000. The lowest bid was \$54,000. That's roughly \$17,000 over. Funds could either be reprogrammed, or the recommendation could be that the Township fund the additional \$17,000.

Mr. Berkheiser suggested using \$17,000 of millage money to cover the additional.

Chairperson Petsch asked for an update on the millage fund. Ms. England stated that the fund balance is at \$2.3 million.

- Richardson Center Concept Plan
 - Ms. England stated that the Committee had already reviewed and approved the Richardson Center Concept Plan. It is being presented to the Township Board for support, and to allow looking into funding sources for the extended parking and the pickleball courts. The project will be phased out.
- Richardson Center Catering
 - Ms. England stated that Catering is on the agenda for discussion. The Township Board needs to approve or deny moving forward. Currently, any renter has to use the preferred caterer for food and alcohol. It may change so that they only have to use the preferred caterer if they want alcohol, and otherwise, they could choose to bring in their own food.
- Hickory Glen Park Concept Plan
 - Ms. England reviewed the Hickory Glen Concept Plan, which was reviewed and approved by the Committee previously. She had discussed it with Living Lab regarding how to bid this out and make it more cost effective for the Township, without having to do complete design and construction documents. They thought the best thing was to let Giffels take the lead on this and meet with a local contractor.
 - Living Lab and Giffels met onsite last week with a contractor. We can do this pretty inexpensively. A tree survey will also need to be done. It is recommended that the Township Board approve up to \$5,000 to be spent to move forward with the tree survey and tagging of the trees to get an accurate price on removal of the trees to create parking paths. Asphalt millings are suggested to cut down on dust.
- Hickory Glen Park Wind Screens
 - At one point in time, the Township Board wanted the Township logo on the wind screens. That's up for discussion.

- Wise Road - South Side Improvements, Wise Road Phase II & Wise Road Parking Lot
 - This also came in above budget. That was originally estimated at \$214,203. It came in at \$295,778, so it's \$81,500 over budget.
 - This is on the south side and we went for a grant 4 years ago. I just want to go after that grant again. I also want to add the dog park in.
- Horse Farm Discussion
 - This is the discussion that we've already had here tonight.

Mr. Berkheiser – My suggestion for tomorrow night is read through your packet and have a good conversation with the Board. They want the Committee to make recommendations to them.

Ms. England would forward the Township Board Quarterly meeting agenda to the Committee, and she would also meet with Kathryn and Krystal to prepare them for the Board meeting.

ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS

None.

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be Monday, August 23rd, 2021, at 7:00PM, with a park tour at the Richardson Center at 6:00PM.

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Garbutt, supported by Duff, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sarah Henderson, Secretary