

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

*Monday, March 23, 2026*  
2009 Township Drive  
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

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

**ROLL CALL: Present:** William Petsch, Chairperson  
Krystal Schwartz, Secretary  
Bob Berkheiser  
Ron Krueger  
Denise Vecellio

**Absent:** Laura Waterworth (excused)  
Johnny Walker, Vice Chairperson (excused)

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Krueger, seconded by Vecellio, to approve the February 23, 2026, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.**

Edward Cale, 2340 Ventura Dr., Wolverine Lake – I was wondering if there were any more improvements going to be done to the Dog Park.

Chairperson Petsch – Any more improvements?

Edward Cale – Yes.

Chairperson Petsch – Well, yes, in the aspect that we're waiting to put the well in for the water. Are we going to do something with the area in front of the fence down the road?

Director England – As far as landscaping?

Chairperson Petsch – Landscaping, and I thought we talked about some ...

Mr. Berkheiser – There's some landscaping. We've talked about putting in a cement pad at the entrance so you're not in mud as soon as you walk in if it's wet. And no offense, it's not a question and answer session, unless you have suggestions. I mean I don't what you mean by improvements.

Edward Cale – I would like to make a couple of suggestions.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay.

Edward Cale – A boot scraper in the park area, where you take the dogs in and unleash them before you let them into the dog park, one for people just like you have outside here.

And then, in the small dog park, there's a culvert there that they put a screen over with a metal strap around it with a bolt about this long sticking straight up. All the sharp edges around the screening, it's like a large hardware cloth, and I appreciate that they put that on there to keep the small dogs from going into the pipe, but it's quite a hazard, especially when it's snow covered and the dogs are running around, that long bolt could impale the stomach of a dog. Even just a few weeks ago, a dog was impaled by a stick that was there. I did send a couple emails back in December and in January to Parks & Rec with a picture, but I never got a response.

And then, there's a bunch of stumps still in the park that have not been ground down, and they're quite a tripping hazard. There have been more than one or two people that have tripped.

I really like the new latches they put on the gates. Those are really good. Also, the dog parks, are you going to alternate those?

Chairperson Petsch – Yes.

Edward Cale – Okay, thank you.

Mr. Berkheiser – It depends on what you mean, so yes and no. The two large ones will be alternated. With the small one, we don't think it will get torn up as much.

Edward Cale – Yes, it won't wear out as much. So that's it I guess, just the boot scraper, the stumps and the culvert with the sharp edges.

Chairperson Petsch – Mark, can you take a look at that over there when you get a chance?

Mr. Schoder – Yes, I'm just wondering where the stumps are because the ones around the tree area, that's where we put thick mulch down, and the others should be below ground unless they were digging them up.

Edward Cale – Yes, there's quite a bit that's worn down, and somebody spray painted one of them with blue paint. I would even be willing to take some of markers from my invisible fence at home and put them in the ground there if you'd like.

Mr. Schoder – We go over there on Wednesdays and walk through, and we can mark the ones that we need to dig up or cut below ground.

Edward Cale – Thank you.

Chairperson Petsch – Thank you.

**Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.**

**ITEM 1: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT**

**Silo Ranch – Dawn & Joe Raye**

Ms. Raye – The roof is finished. The only thing is that under the soffits, they're all now completely falling off. They are hanging and the wind that's coming underneath there is starting to lift the roof already. Is that something you guys are doing, or was it something the roofers were supposed to do?

Director England – It was not. I checked.

Ms. Raye – We have our camps out already. We've got registration signing up.

Mr. Berkheiser – Can they do that online, or do they call in?

Ms. Raye – They register online through our website and email.

Mr. Raye – It's through email.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, where I was going with that was registration, but then also paying online. Are you still looking at doing that?

Ms. Raye – It's not open all the time. It's only certain days for trail rides.

Mr. Berkheiser – Well, for anything, for whatever, you could bring the calendar up and see the dates and events.

Ms. Raye – He's working on that.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, good.

**CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney**

Mr. Haney shared the following with the Committee.

- I will be at Dodge Park on Friday to begin the layout.
- The week after, we have the sprinklers scheduled to turn on. Last year, I think it was the end of May before we got them out there.
- I think I gave you the start dates.

Director England – Yes.

Mr. Haney – Thank you.

**Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz, Mike Elick**

Ms. Schantz shared the following with the Committee.

- We are gearing up for the Easter event this Sunday. We're nearly full.
- We are working for Byers at the Oakland County 250, so we will be participating with the historical center and the Oakland County Historical Society as a vendor at that event on Saturday and Sunday.
- Our group was wondering if we had any idea of setting the marker, because I am getting Mike and Jim Walrod both there that day. One lives in Fowlerville and the other is in Hartland. Jim especially, he's more into the family history and he'd like to attend.

Director England – Okay. So, the idea was to bring it to this Committee next month to get final approval of the location. We have the dedication planned as part of the Heart of the Lakes Festival in June. Are you thinking you want it installed ...

Ms. Schantz – Before.

Director England – How soon before?

Ms. Schantz – Dean could work with Mark. They could set it and we could cover it.

Director England – So end of May or beginning of June we would set it? You don't want to leave it covered for too long.

Mr. Schantz – We don't necessarily have to cover it. That's just ceremonial.

Director England – Okay, so it will come here next month for the location.

Ms. Schantz – I could just tell Jim June 13<sup>th</sup>?

Director England – Correct, that's when the ceremony will be.

Ms. Schantz – That would be good because I would like to see the Walrod boys there. Then, speaking of the 13<sup>th</sup>, do we have any idea of what we're doing?

Director England – I will be sending you the vendor link. We are still working out some issues we have had with it. So, any vendors you have would have to fill out the form at that link. I know you want to open the barn, so we need to figure that out so that there's no fee for that. I'll be in touch this week.

Ms. Schantz – Okay. A vendor like a candlemaker ...

Director England – They still have to sign up.

Ms. Schantz – Would they pay? They're not making money, they're just doing historical activities.

Director England – We need to get their information and that's a Committee decision and they still need to have contact with us.

Ms. Schantz – Okay, there will be three vendors that don't really do anything to make money.

Mr. Schantz – Emily, I've got one other thing. There's a pile of brush before the bridge above the sign, extending all the way to the farmhouse.

Director England – So they know when our event is. Is it caused by the building of the bridge?

Mr. Schantz – Yes. It has been there for weeks, and we've had photographers not even show up.

Director England – Well, unfortunately that's the cost of doing construction, but we will make sure it gets cleaned up.

Ms. Schantz – There is no fence around it and people are trying to climb on it.

### **Lakes Athletics – Carlos Bosch**

Mr. Bosch shared the following with the Committee.

- Shaun Breuer sends his regards. He could not be here tonight.
- An update on a couple of things that I know you've been discussing.
- Our Opening Day is April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- We have an Easter egg hunt free to the public happening on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Currently we have 517 registrations for our house league, and 226 players for our travel organization. That's the largest we have ever been in our history.
- Additionally, I know there was some concern about the flagpole. We have purchased the lighting. We actually went with something a little bit larger than what was discussed before and it can be hooked up from the bottom. So, we can do it ourselves and we no longer need the Fire Department to come out and help us. That will also make it easier for any future maintenance. We should be able to handle everything ourselves in-house.
- I know about the parking plan. We have a managers meeting on Wednesday afternoon and that will be discussed with all the head coaches. They will contact the entire league through their individual teams, and we will do our best to make sure that nobody is parking on the grass, and that they're using the overflow parking near Fields #1 and #2.

### **Lakes Area Hawks – Andy Graham**

Mr. Graham shared the following with the Committee.

- We opened up our registration and we're just getting going.
- I'm not as brave as Chris and I'm not going to turn the water on yet.
- We will start picking up more in April as it warms up and we'll see some activity out there.

*No report and no representatives present at the meeting for the following leagues:*

- *Motor City Mountain Bike Association*
- *Interlakes Girls Softball*
- *Commerce Little League*

## **ITEM 2: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- It's not that I think it affects us that much in Parks, but just so folks are aware. The Township has a sidewalk ordinance. We are evaluating and inspecting sections of the Township. The first one was this past Summer/Fall. The sidewalks are inspected, and if there are repairs that have to be done, it gets written up and submitted to the homeowner, or it gets put into an SAD.
- So right now, we're in the process of approving the SAD. So, you don't have to take care of it, but you'll either receive it as an SAD, so it would be on your tax bill, or you can pay for it up front, or you can fix it yourself. More than likely, the cheaper option is having the Township do it because we contract all of it out at one time.

Director England – If they do it themselves, they still have to pull a permit from the Building Department.

Mr. Berkheiser –

- Yes. You get all that stuff in the mail, and I only say that because a lot of places back up to or are connected to parks and pathways. So, just so you know, there's stuff going on. Apparently, my neighborhood is part of the section that will get looked at this year, and depending on what needs to be done, that will start coming. We are doing roughly 20% of the Township each year.
- It's not a true Parks function, but we've had a lot of discussion on the Pathway Millage, to the point of talking with bond counselors for recommendations. On the November ballot there will be a millage question to the residents. If it passes, the plan is to bond for it so we can get it all done at once, and then there will be an SAD to pay the bond.

Director England – The idea is that all of the proposed pathways will be built within three years of the approval of the millage, and then it will be a 10-year collection to pay the bonds back.

Mr. Berkheiser –

- So, you'll probably hear more about that, and while that's not a true Parks issue, a lot of our pathways in the parks will connect up with the Township's proposed pathway projects.
- That's the stuff that's going on at Byers right now. You may have also seen flags over by the Library. All of that is part of the pathway project, and that portion is funded through a grant.

### **ITEM 3: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Director England discussed the following:

- I know we've already touched base on the bridge and the railing at Byers. We are working with the contractor still. He's going to get us some options. He has not given me a final price yet. We're looking at what we can do to soften the look of that and make it match the existing bridge. We will also be looking at the proposed bridges that are going in along South Commerce in that project and see how we can make those look aesthetically pleasing.
- Other than that, everything else is in my board report.
- Seniors are active and going on trips.
- We're nearing the end of our tax season and getting ready to gear up for summer.
- The Richardson restroom facility is scheduled to begin at the beginning of April as long as the frost laws are lifted. All permits have been pulled. They project it will take a month to complete that project.
- We are still working on incorporating RecDesk into our programming so people can sign up and pay online, and schedule rooms online.

**ITEM 4: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- We've been working at Maple Glen and Hickory Glen, taking care of all the fencelines, baseball fields and outfields to clean up brush. We cleaned that one ball diamond at Hickory so you can see all the way through now. It looks really good now and we put some mulch down.
- Maple and Scarlet's restrooms are scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> to be opened, weather permitting. Hopefully it will warm up.
- We're cleaning at Scarlet's woods.
- We have started Spring cleanups and inspections throughout the Township.
- Preen has been put in all the flower beds and landscaping around the Township to control the weeds.
- Power washing the trash cans at the Dog Park and Wise Woods is scheduled this week. They need it from the Winter.
- We had a lot of downed trees from 10 days of high winds, mostly choke cherry trees. That's all cleaned up.
- Maple and Hickory; we're starting to grade those roads every week until we get them back into shape from the Winter. They're pretty bad. Once they're smooth, we do them every other week.
- We have been asked to trench the pathway at the end of Oakley Park, where Newton Road is. It's a wet area. I will meet with the guy tomorrow.

Mr. Berkheiser – Who asked?

Director England – So, on each side of the pathway, there's a berm. Jason sent his engineer out there and we just need to cut a swale to allow the water to drain from that area into the wetland.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay.

Mr. Schoder – And last but not least, the ADA restroom at Silo Ranch should be ready to go next week. It looks pretty good.

Director England – Mark, before you open the bathrooms at Scarlet's, please touch base with me so that we can let the public know.

Mr. Krueger – Mark, do they do a Spring cleanup at the offices? Did they do it already?

Mr. Schoder – Yes, they do.

Mr. Krueger – When do they cut back all the grasses? You put the Preen down.

Mr. Schoder – That should be coming up. We got all the trees and limbs down, and we cleaned up the trash. We will trim in a few days.

Mr. Krueger – If you get a chance, trim the hydrangeas.

Mr. Schoder – Yes, okay.

**ITEM 5: PARK LIAISON REPORTS**

**Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park**

- We've heard about some of it at Wise Woods and Victory Park.
- I'm hoping we will get a well drilled here shortly. I think we have permission, correct?

Director England – No, they took back permission. Jason has sent over the other information that they were looking for. It looks like it's going in the right direction, but we haven't received sealed approval yet.

Mr. Berkheiser – So, it's moving along slowly. Then the only thing is we've had some dirt bike issues with neighbors at the Wise Woods side.

Director England – We have a new lieutenant, so it has been brought to his attention.

**Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race**

- Nothing to report.
- You said that the entire project is hopefully going to be done by the Heart of the Lakes Festival?

Director England – You're talking about the current project at Byers?

Ms. Schwartz – Yes, that path and the Library portion?

Director England – Yes.

**Vecellio – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park**

- For Long Park, I'm going to add to your list, Mark. I sent an email to Emily with the list so she will pass it onto you.
- We also need more dog bags.
- And, the pathway stone is going to need replenishing.
- One newer thing this month that I saw is the farthest northwest bridge is not accessible. There's water in front of it.

Mr. Schoder – The water is building up there around the pond because they're not accepting water under the road until they're done working on the lines. It's the highest I've ever seen it.

Ms. Vecellio – When is the new sign going to be in?

Director England – The Long Park signs are in production. They should be in by next month.

Ms. Vecellio – And then Snowy Ridge; along the side, in between the fencing, there's a few old sleds and trash. Is there any way to get in between that?

Mr. Schoder – Yes, we have a key for the lot and we clean it up once a year. Also, dog bags were added today at all the parks.

**Petsch – Bicentennial Park**

- Nothing new to report.

**Krueger – Dodge Park**

- I drove through park. Things are looking pretty good.
- Lots of trees are leaning from the wind.
- There's only one that I'm concerned about and I mentioned it to Chris. On the north field by the goal, there's a good size tree that appears to be leaning toward the goal.
- I will eventually walk or ride the park.

**Walker – Maple Glen**

- No report in Walker's absence.

**Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park**

- No report in Waterworth's absence.

**ITEM 6: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE**

Ms. Waterworth discussed the following with the Committee:

- No report in Waterworth's absence.

**ITEM 7: BYERS FLAGPOLE**

Mr. Krueger discussed the following with the Committee:

- I provided several different proposals that need to be looked at to determine which flagpole you'd be interested in, but then it would be up to you guys to determine where you want to put it. Then we will get approval and everything, and what you want to do around it.
- All the other questions you've mentioned as far as who is paying for it, and who is going to maintain it; my personal feeling is, when you have a committee and you want to have a flagpole, there's a lot of responsibility that goes along with it; from my personal experience with the Veteran's Memorial, I take care of that stuff myself. Those are all things that are going to have to be determined.
- Part of it goes back on you to decide what you want, then you'll be able to come to us with the proposal. Then I believe we have to take it to counsel, correct?

Director England – Correct.

Mr. Berkheiser – So Karen, in general, what are you trying to do?

Ms. Schantz – Well, it was just a thought that since the marker was going up, and I asked Ron when he came, because Ron walks our Park. When he was there, I asked what he would think. He did the Veteran's Memorial for Wolverine. I asked what he thought if we propose a flagpole in the setting of the marker. Because it is a historical park, I thought it would be nice to have the flagpole out there, somewhere in the same area/setting as the marker, that would illuminate down, and maybe it would even help to see the marker a little bit more as you're driving by. But also, to be able to fly both flags, the American flag and the historical flag, showing it is a historical site.

Mr. Berkheiser – I would suggest that Friends of Byers needs to decide what it is you're looking for, and then you can include Emily so it can be brought back to the board. From my perspective, what I always ask, especially with flags is, one, there is the payment of the flagpole. We had the same thing with Lakes and took care of that, but then it's who is responsible for raising it, who is lowering it, lighting it, and replacing flags every 4-6 months. It becomes part of the Township at that point, and with all the flagpoles we have, we have to consider, if it has to go to half mast, then who does it? It's probably going to be Mark and Maintenance going around to all of these different flagpoles. Those are the questions I will ask when you bring the project back as far as what you think it would look like and those types of things. We sort of jumped the gun with getting bids.

Mr. Schantz – I think it's contingent on getting power up to that location.

Mr. Berkheiser – To me, that becomes a Friends of Byers project.

Mr. Schantz – Exactly. So, the park sign should be on a photocell and illuminated at night. If that's the case, the flagpole can come into play.

Mr. Krueger – I can tell you that the light system that Lakes got for their flag is a good system. One of the things that I've learned, primarily because of the light I have on my flagpole, is those batteries have to be replaced and they're 25-feet in the air. And these are only 10-feet up in the air and they're really easy to access, so changing the batteries is pretty good.

Mr. Berkheiser – Work up what you want and present it back to Emily so it can go back on our agenda.

Discussions continued regarding speculation on placement of the marker, the signage, the flagpole, potential fencing and seating, along with setback rules. Ms. Schantz also discussed moving of farm equipment. Chairperson Petsch and Mr. Krueger encouraged all items to be organized and put into a plan by Friends of Byers. Ms. Schantz explained that the marker location needs to be determined first, which Ms. Schwartz noted will be decided at next month's meeting. Mr. Schantz also discussed getting County permission to bring power to the site through the existing conduit under the bridge.

Chairperson Petsch – Thank you, and thank you for your hard work on that, Ron.

#### **ITEM 8: PARK SECURITY CAMERA RFP**

Director England – The Park Security Camera RFP is out. We have five walk-throughs scheduled this week with vendors. The bids are due April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ben and I have been going through those proposals, and we will make a recommendation to the Township Board. So far we have two very viable companies.

#### **ITEM 9: PARK SIGNAGE RFP**

Director England – I'm still working with Jay to make sure that we have all wording correct with the setbacks and such. That will come back to you.

**ITEM 10: FISHING DOCK AT KAYAK LAUNCH**

Director England – This is something that we've talked about. I think Bob has brought it up a few times, that we see that the kayak launch is used more as a fishing dock as opposed to a kayak launch, and there's people leaving stuff on the kayak launch. So, we talked about the potential of getting them an actual fishing dock to use.

This is the same company that put in the kayak launch. We do have some CDBG money that I can look into reprogramming, but before I did that I wanted to bring this to you just so you can kind of get an idea of what we're looking at cost-wise and size-wise and how it would fit at that location.

Mr. Berkheiser – So on the picture that's got the location, is that your superimposed proposal?

Director England – Yes, this one? What you see is actually the kayak launch. I wanted to show you the parcels that we own, so what's in red are the parcels the Township owns.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, so that's the kayak launch over on the right side of the concrete. Where is the proposal?

Director England – Well, that's why it's here. I think it should almost go to the right of the kayak launch. I think the grade over the boat launch would be too steep to make it an ADA accessible fishing dock.

Mr. Berkheiser – Mark, do you put this in?

Director England – Mark will put it in.

Mr. Berkheiser – Can it go over top of the concrete launch area?

Director England – No. Again, it would be too steep. It was designed with the walkway leading up to the kayak launch. You could not get it deep enough. If you see how far out that concrete pad goes, the kayak launch would be out too far.

Chairperson Petsch – I just have something to say about going to the south of the kayak launch; that's not very good fishing over there.

Mr. Berkheiser – It's the same fishing-

Chairperson Petsch – Not really. I've fished it to the left.

Mr. Berkheiser – But they are currently fishing off the kayak launch.

Chairperson Petsch – Well, if we go further to the right, it gets weedier and shallower. That's not very good fishing.

Discussions continued regarding the potential location for the fishing dock.

Mr. Berkheiser – My bigger question was going to be is, won't we have boats pulling up to it and tying up to it?

Chairperson Petsch – It's a waste of money to put the fishing dock in to the right. It's lily pads and weeds. It's not where you're going to fish. Why would we put a fishing dock there?

Mr. Berkheiser – How far would it extend out?

Director England – 28 feet?

Mr. Berkheiser – So it's another 20 feet out ... 80x10.

Ms. Kennedy – It says it creates a 13-foot x 20-foot space.

Director England – So Bill, you're saying we should put it to the left of the launch?

Chairperson Petsch – Yes.

Director England – I can have Jason look at it to see what's involved.

Chairperson Petsch – We're not using the boat launch as a boat launch anymore, so by moving that... Encroaching on the pad there doesn't matter – it's a floating dock. To the left of the old boat launch, in that area there, if you notice, the width of the kayak launch pathway is basically the same as the width for the dock. So, if you put the dock up against the west side, it would be a better fishing area. You would be able to cast out and drop off the edge of the weed bed, if you're looking at fishing.

Ms. Schwartz – What park do we visit next month?

Director England – Hickory and Bicentennial.

Ms. Schwartz – I think we need a field trip.

Chairperson Petsch – Right now, you're not going to see what I'm talking about. The weeds grow up by the summer, and then it's covered by lily pads. It's shallow.

Discussion continued regarding the size of the space at the old boat launch and the kayak launch.

Director England – Are you interested in pursuing the idea?

Chairperson Petsch – Yes.

Director England – If you are, I can have Jason look it over and superimpose the image of it on here.

Discussion continued regarding property boundaries and rights, consulting the DNR, permitting, and floating docks. Mr. Berkheiser recommended continuing to pursue the idea and having Jason look at it. He also recommends "no fishing" signs on the kayak launch. He also noted that people are still launching boats there, and the fishing dock will help prevent that. The Committee would coordinate on a date to visit the site soon. CDBG funds were discussed. Chairperson Petsch inquired about maintenance of the

fishing dock. Director England replied that it would be the responsibility of the Maintenance Department to pull the dock out and store it.

#### **ITEM 11: SCARLET'S PLAYGROUND MURAL**

Director England – So Wolverine Village did the program through the DIA with their muralist. So, we're keeping this on here as a placeholder, but we're waiting to see how that turns out for them and how happy they are with it. It sounded like they got to choose their artist. I will keep you posted.

Mr. Berkheiser – Did you talk to the Library muralist?

Director England – I have not. I did originally, but it seemed to be the consensus of the board that it really wasn't the style we were looking for at that park. We can continue the conversation.

Mr. Krueger – How big is the area?

Director England – It's not a very big area. If you go look at the restrooms, you'll see the smooth side of the brick, it's white. There's one on each side of the restroom.

#### **ITEM 12: DISC GOLF**

Director England – I met with the gentlemen that were here for disc golf out at the site, and then we had our whole issue with the sinkholes at Victory. It looks like that is coming to an end. So, we will evaluate the ground and make sure it has stabilized. They have reached back out to me. They have a few ideas. Originally they wanted to take over the whole park and only have disc golf. I told them that's not something that we want to do. It can exist along the perimeter, but we're not going to make it unsafe for residents to walk the park and take that natural trail system. I will meet with them. If you are still interested in pursuing that, then I will bring that back.

Mr. Berkheiser – This is the same group that came in and I told them to show up at budget season, and they didn't show up?

Director England – Yes, that is correct.

Mr. Krueger – This is going to be part of Victory Park?

Director England – Yes, it would be along the side where the silos were.

Chairperson Petsch – Over by the soccer fields.

Director England – Well around the proposed soccer fields.

#### **ITEM 13: PARK EVENT UPDATES**

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- This past Saturday was our Easter egg hunt.
  - We switched it over to the Richardson Center this year. It allowed us to increase our registration in each age group.
  - I would say 180 kids registered and of that, 160 showed up, which was pretty good considering it was a little chilly that morning.

- In all, with parents and kids, we probably had close to 300 people attend. Things went pretty smoothly.
- We had pictures with the Easter Bunny and the egg hunt, which was separated into different age groups.
- Next up is our 5K. Registration has been open for about 2 weeks.
- After that, we have the Heart of the Lakes Festival, which is coming along nicely.
  - We have 12 or 13 vendors registered.
  - Lots of interest from food trucks. We will definitely have more food truck options this year.
  - That will look pretty similar to what it was last year with street vendors.
  - We have a band starting from 4-6pm, and then the main band will be from 7-10pm this year.
  - We are still doing the cornhole tournament.
- For our Summer Concerts in the Park, we did get our bands on Friday. We will get all of that information updated and posted online. Our food trucks are confirmed for all of those events as well.
- Going into the fall, we will have our Trail or Treat, and the Howl-O-Ween event at Mickey's Dog Park.
- Then our Tree Lighting event in December.
- You'll see in our Department's report our sponsorships for each of those events that we've had come in so far this season.

Chairperson Petsch – Thanks, Allison.

Mr. Berkheiser – For the Festival, are we doing alcohol, a beer tent?

Ms. Kennedy – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is that being coordinated with Multilakes?

Director England – Yes, they confirmed.

Mr. Berkheiser – So registrations; I'll back up to the Byers report. Karen, you said that you were almost full for the Easter event. Is that done only by reservation? So, if somebody walks up, they wouldn't be able to get in?

Ms. Schantz – We get them in.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay.

#### **ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS**

Mr. Berkheiser – I just have one. I told Emily already. I reached out to a vendor. It's a guy that advertises on the radio. I thought it might be a good idea for brush cleanup and mulching. I thought if they could just get all the brush clearing done, then it would be much easier for Maintenance to keep up with it, as opposed to piecemealing it.

Director England – That was Michigan Stump Demolition.

Mr. Berkheiser – Yes. I talked to the guy and asked him to reach out to Emily. Other than that, are we still looking at doing something with the fence that goes around the cemetery?

Director England – That is a Missy question.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay. Did she take it back?

Director England – I don't know. She was taking it to the Township Board.

Mr. Berkheiser – Last I know, I talked with you and Mark about it.

Director England – It was not discussed at the last Township Board meeting.

Mr. Berkheiser – I know, because I thought it was here.

Director England – I was told that was a Missy question.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's fine. I will forward it to her. You were told by who?

Director England – Missy.

Mr. Krueger – I joined the Bluebird Society. I want to put up some bluebird houses. I just need to know the process of how to get permission and how I would put it together. I would love to put bluebird houses around Dodge Park, and of course keeping them out of the way of the soccer fields.

Chairperson Petsch – Talk to the Boy Scouts. They go through this all the time.

Mr. Krueger – Okay. Well, yeah, it's something I would like to pursue, and I just wanted to know how.

Chairperson Petsch – I would say you'd probably use the same process. Give us a picture of what you want to do and where you want to do it.

Mr. Krueger – Oh, you're putting it in my court now. All right. I have an aerial view.

Chairperson Petsch – The bat house project would be a very good one to follow.

Mr. Berkheiser – Ron, if you're interested in working with a Boy Scout for an Eagle Scout project, I'm sure Johnny and I can put someone in touch. But keep in mind, when you're trying to work with teenagers, it could be a long drawn out thing.

Discussion continued regarding details of Mr. Krueger's bluebird house project.

Ms. Schantz – We do have a leaning tree behind Granny's Pantry. Sorry, Mark. In addition, we are having groundhog issues.

Mr. Schoder and Ms. Schantz discussed the groundhog issues further. Ms. Schantz inquired about additional rocks to help close off the area under and around the farmhouse.

**The next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2026, at 7:00PM at the Township Hall, with park visits at 6:00PM at Hickory Glen & Bicentennial.**

**ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Krueger, supported by Vecellio, to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Krystal Schwartz, Secretary