

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

Monday, July 28, 2025
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Petsch called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** William Petsch, Chairperson
Johnny Walker, Vice Chairperson
Krystal Schwartz, Secretary
Bob Berkheiser
Denise Vecellio
Absent: Ron Krueger (excused)
Laura Waterworth (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 Vecellio, seconded by Schwartz, to approve the May 19, 2025, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.

ITEM 1: BYERS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Keith Tryson of Troop 308 was present to address the request and give a presentation.

Keith Tryson – I'm part of Troop 308. I'm here to present my Eagle Project for the Byers Homestead, 1800's wagon restoration and the well shed floor replacement. What we have here is the current state of the wagon. We have to replace the wood and the hardware. We will power wash, apply rust treatment and paint the metal frame. It will be a restored wagon for visual representation. The Byers wagon will be painted black metal and natural wood. The board widths will be increased from 2.5 to 4.5 inches. For the well shed floor replacement; the well shed floor has holes and weak spots making it slightly unsafe. We will remove and replace the plywood floors, and review and fix or add floor support beams with pressure treated wood. Any questions?

Mr. Berkheiser – So Keith, is all of the wood going to be pressure treated, or just the support beams? Or is the floor also going to be treated wood?

Keith Tryson – I would think all of the wood would be treated wood.

Mr. Berkheiser – I would agree, especially for the well as it might get wet. So it will be treated wood.

Keith Tryson – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – You're going to take off all of the old wood, then power wash. Is that going to take off all the stuff?

Keith Tryson – It will take off the rust and some of the paints.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are you going to sand it if that's what you need to do? I'm talking about the metal on the wagon. I'm assuming you're taking all of the old wood off.

Keith Tryson – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – And then you'll power wash and get as much rust and paint off of there as possible.

Keith Tryson – We're also going to remove the chains as well.

Chairperson Petsch – Now, they do have a chemical that you can paint on that stops and seals rust. It's not that expensive, but it's made specifically for doing that type of work. It stops the rust, seals the metal, and you can paint right over top of it. It saves you from all of the scraping, wire brushing, et cetera, once you power wash it and get most stuff off. There is a product out there that's very good for that. They use it on a lot of trailers and under bodies.

Vice Chairperson Walker – To get that rust off, you're probably going to have to use a wire brush.

Chairperson Petsch – Or a sand blaster.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Or some sort of sander. The ideal thing would be like a hand grinder, but you can't use that. Actually, you can use it as long as you instruct a parent on how to use it, but you don't use it. I just went through this.

Mr. Berkheiser – So look into that. You can seal it and it will last longer hopefully. And you said the wood on this would be natural wood. What keeps that from falling apart in five years? Is it treated wood?

Keith Tryson – It would be sealed wood.

Vice Chairperson Walker – What are you going to seal it with?

Mr. Berkheiser – Something like Thompson’s water seal to provide protection?

Vice Chairperson Walker – A clear coat?

Chairperson Petsch – I see you listed it as cedar, correct?

Keith Tryson – Yes, cedar.

Mr. Berkheiser – Then you don’t have to treat it.

Vice Chairperson Walker – So when you’re doing the sanding and grinding on the wagon, are you going to put something underneath it, so that everything that falls off does not fall into the grass? Like a tarp to collect the rust?

Chairperson Petsch – To collect the debris?

Keith Tryson – Yes.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Yes, because any chemicals you use will just kill the grass. You don’t want to do that because then Byers Farm won’t be excited about the project.

Karen Schantz – If you’re going to spray something, we would like to move the plants, because we have a garden there.

Keith Tryson – Okay. Yes, we will put a tarp down and move the plants.

Mr. Berkheiser – You’re working with Dean on this?

Keith Tryson – Yes, he’s not here today.

Karen Schantz – I talked to him a little bit about using cedar and not treated, which takes it back historically, and then we’ll clear coat it.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Oh, afterwards you will maintain it, but he will clear coat it initially.

Keith Tryson – As to the timeline; I’m here requesting approval from the Commerce Township Parks & Recreation. I plan to have this project completed by late August or early September. The budget for the wagon project would be \$290, and the well shed would be \$91. The total is \$381.

Vice Chairperson Walker – So, if you use CDX which is pressure treated plywood for the bottom of that well shed, you’re going to find out that your budget numbers are slightly off. If you need three sheets of CDX plywood, you’re going to triple your budget just for the plywood.

Chairperson Petsch – You can try to get it donated.

Vice Chairperson Walker – If you go to Carter's in your uniform and ask them for a deal, or find the manager and tell him you're working on an Eagle Project, they help the Scouts. So will Mans Lumber, which is in Canton. Both are very good about donating, but wear the uniform when you go there, and write them a nice letter. When you're done, send them a picture of what they donated for and they'll appreciate it that much more. My kid stood where you're standing a couple months ago. He just Eagled last month.

MOTION by Berkheiser, supported by Walker, to approve the Eagle Scout Project as presented by Keith Tryson of Troop 308, for the restoration of the Byers 1800's wagon and the well shed floor, and as directed herein by the Committee.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 2: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Silo Ranch – Dawn Raye

Ms. Raye shared the following with the Committee.

- We just finished up our first camp. It went really good. It was really hot. We have another one coming up in August.
- We are getting ready for Silo Fest.
- We have lots of things coming up in our garden. Everyone has a bushel of zucchini, cucumbers, peppers, et cetera.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Are you helping Walled Lake Northern with their fundraiser?

Ms. Raye – Yes.

Friends of Byers – Karen Schantz & Mike Elick

Ms. Schantz shared the following with the Committee.

- We are preparing for the August 10th Vintage Market. It's going well and we have 17 vendors.
- We're talking with Mark about moving the tree so we can finish restoration on the back wall of the barn, which is awful expensive this year. We're contemplating getting that done in September. It's on the west side. That's the only side not completed. We have to move the plants and tree, and then do that wall. That will complete the barn on the outside.

Chairperson Petsch – It looks very nice.

Ms. Schantz – Then we can move to the inside.

- After that, we will look at working on our Halloween event.
- It has been very busy in the barn. A lot of people are coming back in on their summer vacation. They're excited. After the Bicentennial event, a lot of people stopped in at the barn expressing their excitement about that event. We were slammed inside the barn. Dave Decker from the Oakland County Historical Preservation did the tours of the farmhouse. That was a big hit also. He certainly knows his Oakland County and Commerce history, as he is a Decker, as in Decker Road.

Lakes Area Hawks – Andy Graham

Mr. Graham shared the following with the Committee.

- We are wrapping up our youth camp this weekend, our 32nd.
- We had Pete out there to speak to the boys.
- We had coaches from Central and Walled Lake Western there to help out.
- We will be starting our optional week this week, tomorrow, then we will be in full season practice the following week. The season starts August 23rd for us.

CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney

Mr. Haney shared the following with the Committee.

- Our juniors and cubs are continuing through the summer on Mondays and Wednesdays at Dodge Park. That goes until November, but it will switch to Friday & Saturday in late August.
- One of several team camps is at Dodge again this summer. We started this morning and it will go through Thursday. I believe that is 9-11:30am.
- Opening Day at Dodge for the fall season will be August 23rd.
- I will be out there most Fridays and Saturdays from now until then.
- I'm sorry I missed your walk through.
- The paved concrete sidewalk that goes from Scarlet's Smile out onto Field #3; there is a very large, 28-30 inch diameter cherry tree that is completely dead. It's about 10 feet past the end of that sidewalk. When it goes, it will either take out the sidewalk and the brand new building, or a whole bunch of beautiful white pines, and/or part of our soccer field. I can work with you, Mark, to figure out how to best take care of that.

Director England – So, just so you know, Maintenance did put some toilet paper in your maintenance closet that you have access to for the weekends that you have tournaments, so you can refill.

Mr. Schoder – You have a key there too, Chris.

Mr. Berkheiser – As I walked through, I think it looks really nice. The grass looks good. I know we've had a lot of rain, but it is nice and green and it looks nice. There weren't a lot of weeds. You're doing a nice job.

Mr. Haney – The grass is long.

Mr. Berkheiser – It is a little bit, but it's still looking good.

Chairperson Petsch – Any other leagues or reports?

Director England – No.

Chairperson Petsch – One question; the Lakes' fence signs. Are they coming down?

Director England – They typically take them down after their fall ball season.

Chairperson Petsch – Okay.

No representatives were present at the meeting, and no reports were submitted for the following leagues:

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

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- We had a recent quarterly discussion session. Not a whole lot there, but a couple things I thought you should be aware of.
- As you may know, we're moving a lot of our services that the County provides away from the County. Their contracts are becoming unreasonable and without a lot of transparency into where the money is going. So, we are in the process of negotiating the contract, and we approved to move our water services to F&V Operations. They have a long history of providing those types of services throughout the State. They're the only ones that gave us a bid that were in Michigan, and it was half of the County's new contract.
- We're also discussing sewer operations with F&V. Hopefully we will just have one company to handle both.
- We had a pathway discussion. Emily will brief you on that, and what the Board said and what we're doing.
- We received good feedback regarding the Bicentennial event, so we will move forward with making that an annual event. We will come up with a fancy name. Recreation will be in charge, and we'll try to designate one person to make decisions.

ITEM 4: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director England discussed the following:

- Everything is in my written report as far as the Senior Center goes.
- We hired a new full-time and a new part-time person, so I am up to full staff as of last week.
- The rest of the items I'll cover during the Park Improvement Updates.

I want to touch base on this Pathways Plan. (Director England brought up the plan on the overhead)

- We have a Pathways Work Group that has been meeting for a little over a year now. The Group involves elected officials, Township staff, Township Engineer, and we do have residents also that sit on this Committee.
- This is what we've narrowed down. We're calling it Phase I. They're looking at the option of doing a millage for this; it has the potential of a 10-year millage to complete these projects.
- On the screen, the yellow is what the proposed pathways will be. The shaded peach/orange areas are our Parks. The shaded blue areas are our schools and entertainment. So, we tried to pick those destinations that people try to go to, look at the population and see how we can get them there. The purple lines are your existing sidewalks, and blue is the existing pathways; the Michigan Airline Trail and the Lakes Community Trail.

- We presented this to the Township Board at their quarterly meeting to see if they liked the idea of this, and to see if we're moving in the right direction. We need to do some more refining of this and we need to look at options for funding.
- The engineers have been on the ground and walked this. No surveys have been done. We have paid close attention to which side of the road it should be on and where possible crossings should be, so I do believe that the cost estimate is a pretty conservative number in 2025 dollars.

Mr. Berkheiser – To add a Board perspective to it, there were a lot of questions and discussions about whether we need to come from high schools or not, since no high schoolers are really riding bikes to and from school. Those are things we'll look at. The funding of it; if the community wants that, we will put that on as either a millage or SAD. There might be some differences there, but if the community wants to pay for it, we will look at moving forward.

We want to prioritize. If it's an SAD, you get the money once a year. So, this Committee would be looking at prioritizing it. There was also talk of bonding for it; getting all the money at once and then paying that off over the 10-year millage. There's lots of discussion as far as how that's going to happen.

Director England – That option would give us the benefit of being able to construct with more real time numbers, instead of trying to forecast for 10 years.

Mr. Berkheiser – It would put all the money into 2025 or 2026, as opposed to doing it 10 years from now and trying to finish it up.

Director England – I can share the map with anybody who is interested. It allows you to zoom in right on the pathway and see where it connects to the existing. There's obviously more we need to look at, but I'd be happy to share this with you as well as the cost estimates the engineer provided to us.

Ms. Schwartz – When we talk about Phase I, is there an ultimate goal that we are working backwards from? Is there an ultimate pathway goal?

Director England – I think the idea was to divide the Township into quadrants and you want to have a benefit to all residents of the Township. We tried to find a mutual benefit and that was to connect to these key points, mostly parks, recreation and existing trailways.

Chairperson Petsch – We've still got nothing in the S. Commerce, N. Commerce; all that area on Benstein Road.

Director England – This area is Benstein Road. The purple already exists.

Chairperson Petsch – That's all south. I'm looking at north toward the hospital.

Director England – North toward the hospital; this is what we chose to do there.

Chairperson Petsch – There's nothing connecting south besides going all the way around out there.

Director England – That would take you down to S. Commerce Road to connect down south.

Chairperson Petsch – I'm saying nothing from the mile between Oakley Park or Glengary Road ...

Director England – From here?

Chairperson Petsch – North, correct.

Director England – Yes, that's a difficult build.

Chairperson Petsch – To get down to Byers or anything like that, or over to Bicentennial, there's nothing that connects.

Director England – You have to go down to S. Commerce Road, correct.

Mr. Berkheiser – This was not approved. The feedback was, you're moving in the right direction. Keep working on it.

Director England - Yes. And, there's a lot of other areas like you just mentioned that were identified, but you have to look at the challenges, the easements, the wetlands and what your current situation is. We tried to look at where the existing pathways were too, to make the connections, but reduce the cost of the project.

Ms. Vecellio – Does Oakland County have money for this at all?

Director England – No. I mean, we can go after some of the Parks grants for this.

Ms. Vecellio – Yes, like Ralph Wilson ...

Director England – Or even Oakland County Parks offers a grant program.

Mr. Berkheiser – The rough estimate for this in 2025 dollars is about \$15 million.

Director England – Correct, it's about \$1.5 million per mile.

Mr. Berkheiser – Right, for paved pathways.

Discussion took place regarding extended road shoulders. The RCOC will not allow that. Director England noted that the Village of Wolverine did it because they own the roads; but she has met with the RCOC several times and the answer is always no. Chairperson Petsch discussed challenges with riding a bike on Benstein Road.

Director England – I just wanted to give you an update. It was presented to the Township Board, and I thought you needed to see it as well. The intention is not to use any Parks' funds for this, however, it is recreation, so I wanted you to be aware of it. I can reach out and share this with you as we move through these last steps.

Ms. Vecellio – What is the yellow area on the far west, what street is that?

Director England – Duck Lake.

Mr. Berkheiser – Since you brought that up, and with all of the construction going on at the gravel pits ...

Director England – Yes, you have the ability ...

Mr. Berkheiser – What arrangements are made with the developers there?

Director England – I don't have that answer, but Dave Campbell would, so I can get that for you. But yes, if you're doing a new development, then pathways or sidewalks are required. I can get the details from him.

Ms. Vecellio – Any talk with Milford on extending from Duck Lake?

Director England – We have not reached out to Milford.

Chairperson Petsch – Emily, can you go further south, down through the other side of Proud Lake?

Director England – This was talked about as a grant to fund ... This is actually in right here already, it's just not shown.

Chairperson Petsch – Look at the top side of Sleeth Road, before the hospital, where Sleeth goes around off Benstein. Bass Lake Road ...

Director England – The problem with this, as you can see, there are not a lot of residents here. That could be in a Phase II or later. We wanted to hit as many residents as possible. I think we own this piece of land on the corner.

Vice Chairperson Walker – That's owned by the Township?

Mr. Berkheiser – The corner piece is. I think it's about 1.5 acres or something.

ITEM 5: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- It has been hot and rainy. The grass and everything has been growing like crazy. We have been running.
- I got a call from Commerce Little League to address water issues.
- Airline Trail; between Haggerty and the bridge, we have some erosion going on. Between the muskrats and the water being so close to the edge of the trail, it is starting to collapse. I suggested we put up a seawall to stop that.

Mr. Berkheiser – Emily, what's the engineering when they did that trail to begin with?

Director England – The Michigan Airline Trail?

Mr. Berkheiser – Right. I know technically, we own our own maintenance, but that sounds like more of a construction problem that it is eroding, versus a maintenance issue.

Director England – I would have to ask John Hensler.

Mr. Berkheiser – If you think about it and you talk to him, ask what their responsibility is.

Director England – I'll ask him.

Mr. Schoder –

- We have been doing a lot of work at the Commerce Village cemetery on the west side fence. We're putting up the 6-foot fence, and it will be along the entire west side. We will put in a 12-foot gate. We're moving dirt back and leveling it for them so they don't have to make a big turn.
- At Scarlet's, we've got the hardware. We've been going over it and we're nearly caught up with all of the repairs on that. We are still working on the flooring.
- At Maple and Hickory, we have been grading.
- At the Dog Park, we did a lot of work cutting grass and trimming trees so you can see through. It's starting to look really good over there.
- The pavilions, sidewalks and trash cans are going to be power washed in the next few weeks.
- We are starting bridge repairs on all of the bridges. There's some rotted wood. We will seal them up again.

Chairperson Petsch – Mark, what is the status on drinking fountains at Scarlet's?

Mr. Schoder – We are going to order some parts. It's almost obsolete so it's hard to find the right parts. We ordered a valve and a push button. It's all plastic parts inside.

Mr. Berkheiser – Emily, we were going to replace that bridge over in Mill Race. Have we bid that?

Director England – I have not bid it. You and I need to talk some more about the expectation of it, but I have a price.

Mr. Berkheiser – We talked about it and I think the Board even said we want it wide enough for emergency vehicles.

Discussion continued regarding bridge repairs.

ITEM 6: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

- You've heard the details regarding the Dog Park.
- We have been struggling to get the gates and fence done, but I think we're really close.

Director England – Gates are installed. Our latches on the maintenance gates needed adjustment and they will be installed on Wednesday; however, it is secure and it can be used currently.

Mr. Berkheiser – At Wise Woods, we've had issues over there. We had an Eagle Scout project there that had some vandalism. That stuff has been returned. We are working on that with the Sheriff's Department. I think the more we can get that park used, the less

that will happen. We have had people complain. I know during the Bicentennial, there were a lot of people that complained about trying to walk back there and almost getting run over by bikes and dirt bikes.

Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race

- At Byers, I noticed a photographer moving furniture. I hope they put it back after. They were staging for photos.
- As far as Mill Race goes, it's just really buggy out there. Other than that, things look good.

Vecellio – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- Both parks look really good.
- Long Park has no graffiti for once.
- I wondered if we could get rid of some random grills. I think we only need them at the pavilion. There's one by the bridge, and another that is past the pavilion.

Chairperson Petsch – Let me give you some background on that. Back when there was fishing and stuff going on off that bridge, that was the area where people stopped. That's why that was there and it was used.

Ms. Vecellio – Oh.

Director England – I will say too, it actually was removed and we had some very angry residents earlier this year. I was also surprised.

Ms. Vecellio – Those two look abandoned.

Director England – I agree with you, however ...

Chairperson Petsch – That's why they were there. Now that the lake is overgrown and not very fishable until we get that taken care of, but they were used.

Petsch – Bicentennial Park

- All good.
- The park is being used.

Walker – Maple Glen

- The park looked good.
- There was a lot of stuff going on. We stopped by there Sunday.
- It was hot but there were still a ton of people in the park.

Krueger – Dodge Park

- No report in Krueger's absence.

Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park

- No report in Waterworth's absence.

ITEM 7: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Ms. Kennedy – Laura did submit a report.

- Farmer's Market every Tuesday from June until September, 3-7pm at Clara Miller Park.
- Village Festival Corn Roast is September 6th.
- She will provide more details next meeting.

Director England – We want to thank them. Wolverine Village Parks and Recreation allowed us to borrow their cornhole boards for the tournament at the Bicentennial.

ITEM 8: LONG PARK SIGNS

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- There's an updated quote in your packet to have the same size and quantity that are there.
- I've included those signs in here. I was going to keep them the same and update the pictures. I wanted to make sure you didn't want anything else added, such as more signs or information.
- I also included the pictures that were submitted for the photo contest. They're in order of popularity. So, I need to know if there are any pictures in here you want to use.

Chairperson Petsch – All right, do we need a motion to approve the signs?

Director England – Yes.

Chairperson Petsch – Is this going to be the same company that has done all of our other signs?

Director England – They actually did the sign at Byers. How many years ago did you do that?

Ms. Schantz – It was about 15 years ago and it's still beautiful.

Chairperson Petsch – All right, you want one motion to approve the signs, and a second one for the photos?

Director England – That's fine.

Chairperson Petsch – I'd like a motion to approve the bid from Fossil Industries, not to exceed \$620 for the three signs for Long Park.

MOTION by Vecellio, supported by Walker, to approve the bid for three signs for Long Park from Fossil Industries, not to exceed \$620. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chairperson Petsch – All right, let's move onto the second half of this. Now, you said the first three photos are the most popular selected by the community?

Director England – Correct.

Chairperson Petsch – I'll make a motion that we go with the community and use the ones that they selected.

Ms. Vecellio – How many total pictures can we use? There's a lot of pictures on those three signs. Are we going to use the same layout?

Director England discussed the photos and sign layout with the Committee. Vecellio likes the covered bridge photos and the colorful pictures.

Mr. Berkheiser – Can we get someone to look at merging some of these and what the actual sign would look like? I like the covered bridge.

Ms. Vecellio – Is it worth adding a little sign down there, "Please don't feed the birds", and also maybe, "Please pickup after your animals"?

Director England – We're actually doing a big sign order and that will be included.

Mr. Berkheiser – Maybe our Long Park rep can work with you to choose the pictures for the signs.

Director England – Sure, that works. Denise and I can work on the layout.

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Schwartz, to use the three photos selected by the community, and for Director England and Ms. Vecellio to review additional photos to be included, and to work on the layout of the signs. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 9: DISC GOLF

Jeremey Thurston delivered a presentation.

Jeremy Thurston – Good evening. I'm Jeremy Thurston, with Mark Roden and Brad Stetson, and we would like to talk to you guys about putting in a disc golf course at Victory Park. A quick overview about what it is.

- It's golf. The targets are metal baskets, like what's shown right there.
- Instead of a ball, you throw a disc at the target. The low score wins just like a game of golf.
- The courses can vary a lot. You can have courses that blend into the woods, kind of like what's at Kensington. Gilbert Willis Park is another example of a course where it's open, so they use trees to provide obstacles.
- It's successful for all ages and people. The three of us are obviously avid disc golfers. All of our kids play and we've had scouts out to teach them how to play.
- The advantages of putting it into a community park; the entry ticket is pretty low. You can spend \$20-\$30, get a couple of disks and you're ready to play. You don't need much other than that. If you have tennis shoes, you're good to go.
- It's a pretty efficient use of land compared to a golf course, so it's more compact. You can fit more activities into the space that you have available.
- Given the low cost, anybody can get it, so a wide range of people play.
- Brad and I walked the property. We can kind of show an example of how it might fit. This is not by any means what it looks like at the end.

Mark Roden – And just to be clear, this is prior to the dog park. This is not a final plan. Just a concept of how it could exist.

Jeremy Thurston –

- This is 18 holes.
- It's probably comparable to the courses at Kensington, which are a little bit bigger and longer, but it's always flexible and can weave in and around other plans that the Township has for the park.
- You have a concrete tee pad, and then you have posts in the ground for the basket. If the park expands and maybe the course is in the way, it's pretty easy to move the hole.
- Bay Court is in Independence Township. There's a playground there, and there's shelters. The course goes around it. There were 253 rounds played there in July. People put in almost 4,000 steps and it takes about an hour and 20 minutes to play a round.
- Black Locust Blue and Green at Kensington; those are some figures for the bigger, more challenging course. There's a lot of traffic there. It's about 4,000 steps and it takes about an hour and 40 minutes to play a round there.
- As an example of what this might look like in progress, Gilbert Willis over in Wixom, they put a 9-hole course over there in 2021, and they are currently expanding it. There are a lot of activities in that park; a softball field, a playground, pickleball, et cetera. It's a good example of what it might look like.
- If there is an interest, I think the three of us would love to take anyone out there from the Board to show what that looks like and play a round.

Mr. Berkheiser – How do you know there were 253?

Jeremy Thurston – There is an app that keeps score. There might be more rounds than that, but it's called UDisc. It's a download and you can keep score and keep stats. They get the information to try to grow the sport.

Ms. Vecellio – Emily, when we had that survey from the community, was there interest in disc golf at all?

Director England – A lot. This is not the first time that somebody has brought it to this board.

Mark Roden – I just want to mention, right now Victory Park is actually in a black hole of disc golf courses, where there aren't a lot nearby. The bottom right depicts where other disc golf courses are located in the larger scale.

Jeremy Thurston –

- So, why Victory Park? Obviously we live here and we'd like to play close to home.
- It's an activity for the community and there's lots of apartment buildings going up, so it's something that folks can do.
- As I mentioned, it's pretty easy to access for any age. They make discs for little kids. I have a friend that has his little 5 and 6 year olds out there. My nephew plays. It's great for families.
- It's a good mental break from work. I know that's why the three of us love it.

- It brings a lot of traffic and revenue for businesses. That is a picture of Holden's Party Store in Milford, across the street from Kensington. They even sell discs in there, so they get a good revenue stream.
- There's opportunity to generate some leagues, tournaments and community events.
- It is going to draw more people into the park and maybe they can see all of the other things that are planned in there. It's kind of a free neighborhood watch.
- Upfront cost considerations; we're estimating it would be about \$21,000 to cover the equipment.
 - Concrete Tee Pads (\$9,000)
 - Tee Pad Signs (\$3,000)
 - Baskets (\$9,000)
 - There are two big disc golf manufacturer's in Michigan. You have Discraft over in Wixom, and I know that they are helping out with Gilbert Wills. And MVP Discs is out of Marlette. There might be opportunity to target them to offset some of those initial costs. I would mention that we have a contract at Discraft.
 - Land clearance; I have no idea and this is just what UDisc said, so maybe about \$25,000. That obviously depends on how the course gets designed and what we decide to do.
 - Benches and picnic tables so people can stop and rest.
 - Garbage cans
 - Sometimes mulch is used around the baskets.
- We could also offer sponsorships on the tee pad signs to offset costs.
- Volunteer labor; I know the Township partners with Troop 308. There could be opportunities to spread mulch and install signs. Maybe even building the picnic tables.
- Ongoing, there's upkeep of the course, such as mowing, maintenance and trimming the trees.
- Trash removal.
- Replacing parts on the baskets when they break, but they're pretty sturdy. The signs might be a bigger concern.

Mark Roden – Just to be clear on that, disc golf is not maintained like a normal golf course.

Jeremy Thurston –

- In terms of offsetting costs, some courses in the area have donation boxes, including Lyons Den, which is in Milford by 96. People do contribute.
- Then again, volunteers for spring and fall cleanups.

Mr. Berkheiser – So generally the Township partners with an organization. They do a lot of the initial construction. Are there local organizations that are looking at spreading disc golf that are willing or able to do that type of stuff?

Jeremy Thurston – There was a group in White Lake looking to do something, but then they took over the municipal complex land they were looking at. So, there was some online activity I saw a couple years ago. A lot of courses will have clubs that adopt the course. I don't know of any clubs in the area. If a club needs to be started, there might be three members standing here.

Mark Roden – A lot of the clubs that come up are because of the course. Once the course is there, the maintenance happens. They'll create leagues that play at that course, and that helps with maintenance, identifying when stuff happens, and coordinating work days. As far as some of the initial costs, that's where I think some of the manufacturer's jump in, such as Discraft. I've heard that they donated all of the baskets over at Gilbert Willis.

Chairperson Petsch – I think we probably need that information from you guys, if you can bring it back to us, on what can be donated and what our true cost would be. We're looking at mowing and maintenance that we would be putting on our maintenance department. That's an added cost of taxpayers money and we have to be careful how we do these things. As Berkheiser said, most of these things are supported by the organizations who co-sponsor and do the work with the Township. We grant the land, they go out and develop their project through our approvals, and we move on from there. I know you mentioned sponsorships on tee pad signs, but we have policy against that, that we don't advertise. If you heard earlier, the ball fields have signs out there, but they are removed. They're not permanent. I think we need more information from you on what can be donated, and if there are any organizations that contribute to the development of the course. I'm not against it by any means.

Vice Chairperson Walker – It sounds really cool.

Chairperson Petsch – I play softball at Gilbert Willis and I'm very familiar with that park. They're always out there playing disc golf. We did have a group that came in here that wanted to do one through Clara Miller and Hickory Glen, which are more wide open.

Director England – That was actually included in the overall concept for Hickory Glen Park. We have looked at it in this park also. I like the idea of this. I would actually like to meet one of you onsite with Mark, our Maintenance Director, so we can get a better feel of what we're looking at, then maybe we can help you get some more solid numbers.

Vice Chairperson Walker – How big of a concrete pad do they usually put?

Jeremy Thurston – 5x12 is probably the preferred size, but you can go a little bit smaller. Gilbert Willis has smaller pads.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Are the poles cemented into the ground?

Mark Roden – Yes, either cement or the new foam.

Vice Chairperson Walker – So it's somewhat permanent.

Mark Roden – Yes. The actual base is cemented in, and then there's a padlock on the pole to keep it there. That makes it also movable. If you need to move them out, all that's left is a tiny sleeve in the ground.

Mr. Berkheiser – Who designs it?

Mark Roden – It could be designed by an amateur. We're actually working with people at Discraft.

Mr. Berkheiser – Obviously we don't have staff to do stuff like that. Depending on the cost, we have a budget for Wise Woods each year, and there are maintenance issues, which we don't really do a lot of cutting over there, unless there's something special going on. Those are the things we have to consider. We have to look at the Master Plan for what is planned over there, but that stuff could be 10 years away.

Director England – I think the last group that came actually submitted something to us too. I can try to find that and do a comparison.

Mr. Berkheiser – But then they disappeared.

Mark Roden – I think walking the park would be helpful in terms of maintenance, because the more wooded holes on the course, the less maintenance there has to be.

Mr. Berkheiser – Anytime we cut a tree down, social media explodes that we're tearing down the entire woods. So, we're somewhat conscious of that.

Vice Chairperson Walker – What do you want from us, Emily?

Director England – Do you want us to keep looking into this? We don't want to waste their time if the Committee doesn't think this is a good idea.

Vice Chairperson Walker – I think it's a cool idea, but I'm not sure about around the dog park. You can try playing discs across the dog's area-

Chairperson Petsch – But you might lose some discs.

Jeremy Thurston – We can talk about this more offline.

Director England – Sure.

Jeremy Thurston – As I was researching for tonight, I found other courses that set up temporary baskets and used it as a fundraiser. There are a lot of options to deal with the initial costs. It can also be done modular and we can start with 9 holes and expand it.

Mr. Berkheiser – How many people play at a time?

Jeremy Thurston – A typical cart of 4.

Mr. Berkheiser – I'm assuming we could utilize the dog park parking area.

Vice Chairperson Walker – I have a lot of friends that play, and the sport is growing.

Mr. Berkheiser – We have the parking over there. You wouldn't want people pulling off on the side of the road and cutting in the back way. You want to design it accordingly.

Chairperson Petsch – The more people we can get into the park, the better it is, the less vandalism we have.

Jeremy Thurston – People can record and report course conditions too, so that engagement helps with the park.

Vice Chairperson Walker – I like the idea of doing 9 holes, with the expansion opportunity for 18. Do you want a motion?

Director England – I don't think we need a motion. I just want to make sure you want us to bring it back.

Jeremy Thurston – We appreciate the time. We will set up a walk with Emily.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes, with Mark and Emily, and then get back to us.

Jeremy Thurston – Thank you very much.

ITEM 10: RecDesk SOFTWARE

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- This was budgeted for this year.
- I'm at full staff now.
- We have settled on a third party credit card processor, which RecDesk uses, so there are no issues with that. Our Treasurer's Department is happy and everybody is on the same third party processor. This will give us the ability, on both the Senior Center and Parks side, to mainly receive payment online. We did have the ability to do that over the last few months, however, we still had to chase people down.
- This software system will allow them to just pay automatically. We set the price and the limit of how many people can register, and they pay online.
- For the Senior Center classes; our yoga instructor just had a family emergency. At a time like that, we can send a text out to everybody who is participating in the class.
- Overall, it will make our lives a lot easier.
- I included it in the packet. It's a \$7,300 initial fee, and then \$7,300 annually to keep the software updated. That is half of what we budgeted.

Mr. Berkheiser – What happens, since we've changed our software that processes credit cards multiple times?

Director England – We are still in the process.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is that the only one?

Director England – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – So, if we change it again, then we have to do new software?

Director England – That's a Treasurer question. This RecDesk has it's own third party credit card processor. If it came to the point where we had to switch again, we could

always utilize their third party credit card processor, but our Treasurer likes us to stay consistent and just use one.

Mr. Berkheiser – But if we use a different one, would they be able to process through that one?

Director England – Possibly. It would actually depend on the credit card processor.

Mr. Berkheiser – Just ask, I guess.

Discussion continued regarding credit card processing.

Chairperson Petsch – Emily, reading through this, I noticed that this software not only does the limited stuff you're asking it to do for the Senior Center, but also, if we took over and ran leagues, this would handle all of that type of information.

Director England – Correct, yes. Senior Center rentals and any room for growth that we have, which we are in a growth period, and this will handle that for us.

Chairperson Petsch – So we could schedule our tournaments and so forth through that. And it will do the scheduling and layout the parameters for your event.

Director England – Correct.

Chairperson Petsch – That would be a great help.

Director England – So, I would like a blessing from this Board to proceed.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Schwartz, to proceed with RecDesk for administration at the Richardson Senior Center as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 11: PARK IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- I gave you the update about the gates.

Mr. Berkheiser – It says it expires August 15th. Are you going to get that approved before the 15th?

Director England – Yes, he knew the date of the meeting.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, so on the 16th, it's not going to be good?

Director England – I'm sure it will be.

- The gates at the dog park are installed. We are just waiting for the latches to be installed.
- Maintenance has our permanent signs and they're going up. Once that's done, then we will put a post on social media. We want to make sure everything is there and then we will start planning an official grand opening for the dog park, which I will keep you all updated on.

Ms. Schwartz – Do we have the rules signs?

Director England – Yes.

Discussion continued regarding electricity onsite, the pavilion, and security measures.

Mr. Berkheiser – Where are we with the pavilion?

Director England – I signed the change order today to have footings put in. We have the ball rolling on that. We are waiting on the State to finalize our permit so we can get the well in and have a drinking fountain put it.

We also received our report back about our depressions on the other side. I will have an update for you and we will figure out what the best solution is to fix those issues.

Bids are due back for the Richardson Center parking lot, the restroom facility project, and the extension of the pathway on S. Commerce Road.

ITEM 12: PARK EVENT UPDATES

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- We are almost done with our concerts already. This Friday is our last one, Magic Bus. The food truck is the Bavarian Cluck Truck.
- We only had 3 concerts this summer. The first one got cancelled from the weather.
- Our next pickleball tournament is scheduled for August 9th, followed by October 2nd.
- We met with the Library last week and we've started everything for the Trail or Treat, which will be October 24th.
- The Tree Lighting will be on December 6th this year.
- We're already getting started on the annual event for next year, and we will come up with a name.

Mr. Berkheiser – On the cancellation, did we pay them?

Ms. Kennedy – No.

Mr. Berkheiser – I was hoping we could move it to a different week.

Discussion continued regarding next year's concert schedule, rain out dates, and scheduling around 4th of July. The Trail or Treat event was also further discussed. Director England noted she is looking for volunteers to hand out candy at the Parks & Recreation table.

ITEM 13: OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Berkheiser – Mark, with the scrub and brush, after we cut everything are you going to try to mow that down?

Mr. Schoder – Yes, we will take a brush hog back in there.

Mr. Berkheiser – I want to put this on our list to think about regarding the scope of the Canoe & Kayak Launch. Consider putting in a fishing dock. We have folks fishing and

doing stuff off the handicap launch, which defeats the purpose of the handicap launch. It could be a permanent or floating dock.

Chairperson Petsch and Mr. Berkheiser discussed how much land the Township owns in the area of the launch, which includes the parking lot across the street, and where a dock could be located. They also discussed scuba diving activity at the launch and signage at the park.

Director England – Next month's meeting in August is our potluck. I will send out an email so you can sign up for what you're bringing. The meeting will be at the Richardson Center. And, budget season is coming. As soon as I receive that information, I will send some dates out so we can get the meeting scheduled.

Mr. Berkheiser – As the groups are looking at stuff, make sure you provide Emily a wish list.

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2025, at 7:00PM at the Richardson Center, after the 6:00PM park visit at the Richardson Center.

ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Walker, supported by Berkheiser, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Krystal Schwartz, Secretary