FINAL
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, August 24, 2026
2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

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

ROLL CALL: **Present**: William Petsch, Chairperson
Johnny Walker, Vice Chairperson
Krystal Schwartz, Secretary
Ron Krueger
Denise Vecellio
Mark Giromini
Absent: Bob Berkheiser (excused)
Also Present: Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks & Recreation
Allison Kennedy, Asst. to Parks & Recreation Director

COMMUNICATIONS:
None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
MOTION by Vecellio, seconded by Walker, to approve the Parks and Recreation Committee Regular meeting minutes of July 27, 2026, and the Special meeting minutes of August 3, 2026, with one correction to the August 3rd minutes, to remove Steve Vercellino from the attendance list. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.

ITEM 1: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT
Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz, Mike Elick
Mr. Schantz shared the following with the Committee.

- Our summer event went really well. There were 60 people for farmhouse tours and a lot of positive feedback and great comments from local residents. It was pretty amazing. I couldn't keep up with them. They like the story of Commerce.
- Byers Homestead recently won the Commerce Township Community Library 2026 Summer Reading Challenge charity vote. We were selected by the residents and Library staff. So, we're really proud of that.
- Keith and his crew did the bench at Byers. They did an excellent job. The pad and the bench look really good.

Ms. Schantz – And the family loved it. They came in to see it.

Silo Ranch – Dawn & Joe Raye
Ms. Raye shared the following with the Committee.

- We are gearing up for Silo Fest.
- Not much else to report.

Lakes Area Hawks – Andy Graham
Mr. Graham shared the following with the Committee.

- We started our season last Saturday in Pontiac.
- We will be having our first game here at the field this Saturday and we will be set up for the camp.
- We're going to be busy. The kids are going to be there all during the week.
- We're excited for the season.

Chairperson Petsch – How is that going without a varsity?

Mr. Graham – It's going. It's heartbreaking.

Chairperson Petsch – I just meant with the younger group of kids out there.

Mr. Graham – You can't please everyone. We had some people that weren't in it for the right reasons, and I had to ask them to leave, and other people followed. I think it's just going to be an off year with that. I have enough kids coming up, so I'll be able to field four teams again.

Chairperson Petsch – Good luck.

Mr. Graham – Thank you.

CW3 Soccer
Director England shared the report submitted from CW3.

- Juniors and cubs are Saturday mornings from September through October.
- CW3 and Michigan Jaguar matches will begin on September 12th.
- They are prepping the fields.

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

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

ITEM 2: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT
Director England – It was a very short meeting.

ITEM 3: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT
Director England discussed the following:

- The majority is in my report in the packet.
- The restrooms here are open.
- The Township Board approved us to do the restoration of the pathways, so we will start the engineering process for that.
- Budgets were turned in today, so we will start that whole process.

ITEM 4: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race

- I noticed two things.
- Emily, I did not send you the email about the wasps nest.

Director England – I need to double check. Did you guys see a wasps nest?

Ms. Schantz – Yes. He took care of it.

Ms. Schwartz – Thank you. And then the pathway maybe isn't directly connected to Byers and Mill Race, but the new bridge at Commerce and S. Commerce, with the wiring, there's still caution tape all around that.

Ms. Kennedy – You're talking about the one on the corner, not by Byers?

Ms. Schwartz – Correct. Is there something to be cautious of?

Director England – No. I just need to have them go there and take it down.

Ms. Schwartz – Other than that, nothing to report.

Mr. Krueger – Is there any consideration … I was watching kids on their bikes at the Library going down that hill and going into that turn. If they're not prepared, they're going to end up in the street. Is there any kind of idea …

Director England – I can send a police officer out there to sit.

Mr. Krueger – No, I mean …

Ms. Kennedy – Do you mean you to have a stop sign?

Mr. Krueger – No, I mean if those kids lose control going down that hill, almost like on freeways where they have those barrels of water. Just something that they could fall into. Because right now, they were going down that hill at a pretty good clip on bicycles.

Director England – Bikes are not supposed to be on the pathways. It's leading into another issue. If we put something there to protect the people on e-bikes …

Mr. Krueger – No, not e-bikes, regular bikes.

Director England – We can't put something up to protect what's not supposed to be there. E-bikes are not allowed on the pathways, but they're all over the Township.

Vecellio – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

- Emily has a couple things.
- There was a wasp nest at Long Park too.
- For the new signs; if we put in a couple of extra pylons, we can mount a couple more signs.
- The landing is wobbly in front on one of the docks. This is after the bridge, straight back behind the bridge.

- There is another one before the bridge that has caution tape on it and I don't know why. It's not wobbly, but maybe they just fixed something on it and they didn't want people up there until it settled.

Director England – I will find out.

Ms. Vecellio – Okay. And then the railings on the side of the covered bridge, some have to be hammered back in. That's it, and nothing for Snowy Ridge.

Petsch – Bicentennial Park
- Nothing to report.

Krueger – Dodge Park
- Over at Dodge Park and Scarlets Playground, I sent you an email today, Emily.
- I forgot; am I supposed to call the police or contact you?

Director England – You send it to me and I will forward it to the sheriffs.

Mr. Krueger –
- All right. That same guy was out there trying to sell ice cream.
- I can't remember where things were at as far as the number handicap spots versus regular parking. That was something we were studying.

Director England – No decisions have been made to remove any spots. We will keep an eye on it.

Mr. Krueger – Other than that, there were a lot of people there and a lot of kids playing there today. On the Library side, I'm always seeing kids playing on the little playground too. They use all the playgrounds quite a bit. It looks good.

Walker – Maple Glen
- Maple Glen looked good.
- I was there on the weekend and there were definitely a lot of people there.
- Everything looks clean. They're doing a good job taking care of it.

Giromini – Hickory Glen Park
- One of the split rail fences looks like it got hit. I have a photo I will send to you.
- There is a random birdhouse leaning against a tree. I don't remember it.
- There is a sign when you're walking in. It says, "You are responsible for your pet. Keep pets on a leash. Clean up your pets *liter*." Litter is misspelled *liter*. I don't know who put it there, but it has been there a while and it drives me crazy.
- On the first bridge, one of the runners on the railing is falling apart.
- Thank you for cleaning up those two trees that I had mentioned. The paths look really good.

Wise Woods & Victory Park
Chairperson Petsch – Anything to report on the well?

Director England – The well is in. We're waiting for the drinking fountain.

Chairperson Petsch – Okay, so that's all we have for Victory. Just thought I would bring up Bob's park in there.

ITEM 5: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Mr. Giromini discussed the following with the Committee:

- We had the fishing tournament a couple weeks ago.
  - We had 79 participants, which was better than last year.
  - The weather held up nicely.
  - We will announce the winners at the Corn Roast, but I think the biggest fish was nearly a 3 pound bass caught by an 8 or 9 year old. I don't know how he did it, but it was a very nice catch.
  - The grossest fish was the catfish. I haven't touched a catfish in years.

Ms. Kennedy – Is that a category, the grossest fish?

Mr. Giromini – No, it should be though. I had been handling bass and panfish, and then all of a sudden I grabbed the catfish and it was sliding.

Chairperson Petsch – Oh, yeah, very slimy.

Mr. Giromini –

- That was like one of 50 fish I handled at that event.
- We had our blood drive on August 3rd. We hit our target for units.
- The next blood drive is September 28th.
- We just had our last Tuesdays in the Park. It went really well. Oakland County provided these really cool inflatables.
- The Corn Roast is on September 12th.
- The Farmer's Market is still ongoing.
- We had some new benches installed at the pickleball courts.
- At the Veteran's Memorial, we're adding some picnic tables that are wheelchair accessible.

ITEM 6: BERRY LAKE TREATMENT PLAN

Director England – I wanted to give you an update. I spoke to the company. They said this will be a spring project, and it's coming down to permitting. We're still waiting to hear back from the State on the type of permit we need to get based on the type of lily pads that are in the lake. We will keep you updated.

ITEM 7: CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH SIGNAGE

Director England – Did we have something to add to that?

Ms. Kennedy – I think as part of it, we said to do a visit over there and we were talking about the other signs.

Director England – Did anybody have a chance to visit the kayak launch?

Ms. Vecellio – I did.

Mr. Krueger – I did, but are we talking about signage?

Director England – Signage, fishing dock and pavilion location.

Mr. Krueger – Okay, when I was there, the first thing I noticed is there is a path. I don't know if it leads to an established path …

Ms. Kennedy – Are you talking about through the woods?

Mr. Krueger – Yes. I saw people walking back and forth through there.

Ms. Kennedy – Yes, I noticed it.

Director England – Toward the Dairy Queen?

Ms. Kennedy – Yes.

Mr. Krueger – And I don't mean to repeat myself, but also on the neighbor's property, there's that large cement pad. Is that theirs, or is that something that used to be part of the original boat launch? It's a fence with a gate in it.

Director England – It's not ours.

Mr. Krueger – Okay. Because I noticed the gate has a lock on the neighbor's side of the fence.

Chairperson Petsch – At the launch itself?

Mr. Krueger – Yes. Is it a situation where we should probably put a lock on our side of it, or don't we care if people come in through that gate?

Director England – We don't, if it's not our property.

Mr. Krueger – Then, as far as the signage goes, we've got that nice sign where bulletin boards were, and it would be nice to fix that up. Regarding the fishing dock, I happened to be there when there were two people fishing, a father with his son, and he was telling me how it's their first fishing trip. I kind of mentioned to him, that's really cool, but I don't think you're supposed to be fishing off this because there's no railing or anything so it's not very safe. Is that a permanent kayak launch, or is it something that is taken in at the end of the year and put back?

Director England – Correct.

Mr. Krueger – You've probably talked about this, but is it possible to move it over?

Chairperson Petsch – No.

Mr. Krueger – Okay, because one of the things too would be is if it was possible to put a fishing dock next to it.

Director England – So that's what we're thinking, but not one that is going to extend out. It will be similar to what's at Long Park. It will be like a fishing platform, and it would be to the south.

Mr. Krueger – I was wondering too, I drive by there all the time and I have yet to see anybody launch a kayak.

Director England – They do. It depends on what time of day you go. We were there and somebody pulled their pontoon boat up, anchored it and got out and went to Dairy Queen.

Ms. Kennedy – They literally just pulled right up on the shore.

Director England – So that's another thing that we need to add to our sign.

Ms. Kennedy – Yes, no shore docking.

Mr. Krueger – You might have to put up a rope or something to keep them from using that concrete pad, because right now it's wide open.

Director England – I think if we put the fishing dock there, I think it will help.

Mr. Krueger – I think the fishing dock is a good idea.

Ms. Vecellio – Most people anchor to the dock.

Mr. Krueger – I was even thinking as far as the canoe launch, if it was only there on one side, the problem would be on the side where the fishing dock would be, depending on how good you are at casting, you don't want to end up ...

Director England – It's a good length though.

Mr. Krueger – Does any of that have to be dredged?

Chairperson Petsch – No, but there are lily pads in that area pretty thick.

Mr. Krueger – The water is really shallow there. It would depend on how far out we'd be able to go.

Director England – Well, I will get a price on that if everybody is okay with that location.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes.

Director England – And then we looked at the possibility of the pavilion there, in the same area to the south of the kayak, or north of the parking lot toward the Dairy Queen.

Vice Chairperson Walker – If you put a pavilion there, that's just going to encourage people to dock to get ice cream and hang out.

Ms. Kennedy – Yes, and I think it would be too much over there.

Director England – It's not a big area.

Ms. Kennedy – It could only be 10x18 over there I think, whereas on the other side of the parking lot it could be 15x20.

Vice Chairperson Walker – The more you put there, the more you have a chance of people docking. They're not just going to come in to go have a picnic. They're going to dock.

Director England – Yes, and swim.

Mr. Krueger – You could actually put some kind of cover over the fishing dock. Do you want people to picnic there?

Director England – I think the idea was to get a sitting area, which you can still do without the pavilion. I just think it's too close to the road.

Vice Chairperson Walker – The water is right there. If we're going to put a dock there, we might want to put some kind of pole there to stop a car from rolling up onto the dock.

Ms. Schwartz – Are we going to do an immediate platform walkout, or is there going to be …

Director England – A platform. We could make a walkway to the platform, but not like the kayak launch.

Vice Chairperson Walker – You could put one bench near there.

Ms. Schwartz – A couple benches, a table.

Mr. Krueger – You could put a wide railing.

Director England – And then we can put the no fishing signs on the kayak launch.

Mr. Krueger – I was walking on the kayak launch. I'm not the most stable anyway, but when you're walking on that …

Ms. Kennedy – Yes, because it's just a floating dock.

Mr. Kreuger – It was a different experience.

Director England – We will keep working on that.

ITEM 8: BRUSH HOGGING

Director England – So I was able to have a couple companies meet me over at Dodge on the Scarlets side to finish the area that's not cleared out. You have the section that's closest to the soccer field where the under bush is cleared out and you can see through. We want to do that from that point to the entrance and take the vines down.
I do have three quotes. Two of them were in your packet, and then we had another company come out. Basically, he walked it and said that if he was to give me a lump sum price, it was going to be $35,000, or I can just pay him by the day at $225 per hour and see where it gets us. That was Jerry Eagle.

Ms. Schwartz – And these three quotes are apples to apples?

Director England – Yes.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Three days, 8 hours a day is 24 hours. What's 24 x $225? $5400. And this one guy is saying 3 days. Is that $225 per person?

Director England – Yes, per hour.

Vice Chairperson Walker – How many people is he thinking he's going to need?

Mr. Krueger – $225 per person.

Director England – Per hour.

Mr. Krueger – Per hour.

Vice Chairperson Walker – That's not unusual, not for brush hogging. That's equipment cost. Just driving the truck there is $200.

Mr. Krueger – Do you know who did all that brush hogging along the road?

Director England – Louie's Tree Service; they're not around anymore. Our guys have been able to maintain it. They have equipment to maintain it once it's done.

Vice Chairperson Walker – This Pro Trees Unlimited, he's saying they will brush hog it all. I can't read the gibberish, but …

Director England – 3 days, a total of $10,000. He will go in and take as much of the vines down as he can and clean up the dead trees. Anything 4 inches and bigger and all the underbrush.

Vice Chairperson Walker – What if it takes longer than 3 days?

Director England – $10,000, the job is done. He actually was concerned the other way, that he would have to give us money back.

Ms. Kennedy – Yes, the other guy, when I met him over there, he's like there is no way. This cannot be done the way you guys want it to be done. He said he wouldn't even be able to pull the trees out of there.

Chairperson Petsch – Which guy is that?

Ms. Kennedy – The $35,000 guy.

Director England – Jerry.

Chairperson Petsch – So he's blowing it out of proportion.

Director England – They have different equipment too, that's the hardest part. You have somebody come out there and meet you, and they all have different equipment.

Ms. Schwartz – Do you know how much we spent last time?

Director England – It was very cheap.

Ms. Schwartz – I just wondered for a baseline.

Director England – I want to say it was like $4,000 to have that section done.

Vice Chairperson Walker – So this other guy for $15,000, he's not giving a day amount. He's just saying he will do the job.

Director England – Yes, for the job.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes, that's the guy that's on the radio.

Director England – Yes, Bob found him on the radio.

Chairperson Petsch – I considered calling them to do my property at 14 Mile and Decker.

Ms. Kennedy – I thought they were $5,000 an acre.

Director England – That's what they say on the commercial.

Chairperson Petsch – To do what he said he would do is very reasonable, compared to some of the quotes I got to do.

Director England – It has taken me months to even get somebody to come out and look at it. I've had one quote for a while. They don't want to touch it. I think it's the vines.

Mr. Giromini – This quote is still good?

Director England – Yes.

Vice Chairperson Walker – The $10,000 guy for 3 days; if he's not done in 3 days, he's going to charge us more.

Director England – We can have him guarantee job done in 3 days.

Vice Chairperson Walker – That would be the thing.

Director England – I agree with you. We don't want to be shocked with 3 more days and now you're at $20,000.

Discussion continued regarding comparison of the quotes.

Director England – So if he guarantees the job done at $10,000?

Vice Chairperson Walker – Either that, or the $15,000 guy for the job. I would prefer that.

Director England – You can make that motion, and if they don't agree to that, then we take the other quote.

Ms. Vecellio – I don't know about that $10,000 one because the way he describes it on here.

Director England – I really don't have a concern about that. Mark Rousseaux and I met with him over there.

Chairperson Petsch – So Mark was with you, okay. So, do you feel he is capable?

Director England – Yes.

Ms. Vecellio – The $15,000 one lists everything. It's very detailed.

Director England – I would be comfortable with either one of these, but I do not have concern that they're not understanding, or that they can't do the job.

Vice Chairperson Walker – He's charging you more because his estimate is nicer looking and he typed it.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Krueger, to accept the quote by Pro Trees Unlimited, as long as he changes it from "3 days' worth of work" to "completing the job" and to provide more detail on what completing the job actually involves. That quote is for $10,000. If he wants to adjust it to completing the job, as long as it does not exceed $15,125, it is acceptable. If it exceeds $15,125, then award the project to Stump Demolition instead. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

ITEM 9: 2027 BUDGET

Director England – I have some updated numbers for you. I spoke with Giffels about the restroom facility at Victory. He's estimating for budget purposes only that it should be right around $250,000 with the septic field. I'm leaving that budget number at $300,000 because it will be next year.

Chairperson Petsch – We don't have sewer over there?

Director England – No. The other one is Wise Woods. We budgeted $30,000 for the water bottle fill station. He estimated it at $110,000. It has to be all copper.

Chairperson Petsch – It has to be copper with no other well all that way?

Director England – I think we're not doing that.

Chairperson Petsch – No, we're not doing that.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Just put it next to the well.

Director England – The well is in the middle of the woods. Those were my budget discussion items. Do you have any more discussions for me?

Ms. Schwartz – I noted the bridge for Mill Race. I think that was it.

ITEM 10: PARK EVENT UPDATES

Ms. Kennedy – We have Silo Fest as the next event coming up with Silo Ranch.

- We're all set for the stage and everything. We will figure that out.
- You guys booked Cottage Inn pizza.
- We will still try to get another burger one too.
- Registration for cornhole is open.
- We have everything set for the mechanical bull.
- We met out there last week.
- Everything should be set with the bands.

Director England – The tent, and what else is he putting up on Wednesday?

Ms. Kennedy – Tent and the porta-potty.

Director England – Yes, and then the stage will be there Friday morning. Multi Lakes is doing the beer tent.

Discussion took place regarding cornhole and competitive versus backyard fun.

Ms. Kennedy –

- Stargazing in Victory Park on October 16th.
    - We have 2 astronomy groups coming.
    - They bring everything with them.
    - That's really just the public coming out and using their telescopes, and they usually just talk about what's in the sky that night.
- Registration is open for Trail-or-Treat on October 23rd
- Howl-O-Ween at Mickey's Dog Park on October 24th
- Tree Lighting December 5th.
- Then we're already looking at activities and options for 2027.
    - We're hoping next year to do more in the month of July, which is National Parks & Recreation month.
    - We're looking at trying to set something up to have a different daytime activity to draw people into the parks; a "meet me in the park" type of activity.
    - We might have the Oakland County Nature Program come out. They have different options you could do with them.
    - We can come up with different activities for the month to go to a different park each week.
    - We're working with the Library currently about possibly offering yoga. They don't have the space in the Library to do it anymore, so we're looking at seeing if that can become a Parks & Recreation event to expand our programming.

Discussion took place regarding use of a vehicle at the Trail-or-Treat event; a gator or golf cart. Director England noted that something reliable will be acquired.

Ms. Schwartz – I can't remember where we landed at the end of the season regarding the ice skating rink.

Director England – I don't have the answer.

Ms. Schwartz – We never said absolutely not.

Director England – It's coming up quick and our problem is, if you want to get the fake ice, the synthetic, first it's very expensive. And, you want something for the season, and that's not feasible. So, then you rely on Mother Nature.

Ms. Kennedy – I can tell you, Milford just has one with the boards and they're like a foot high, and it's just plastic.

Chairperson Petsch – And you just fill it with water and when it's frozen, it's frozen.

Ms. Kennedy – Last year, it might have been usable one week out of the whole winter.

Mr. Krueger – I used to put one in my backyard with Visqueen. It was 40x110 feet.

Director England – I think it's a great idea, but we need to find a company that is willing to come in and set it up, and maintain it.

ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Krueger – Can I ask where the mural for Scarlet's is at?

Director England – I heard back from the DIA, and they asked if we would consider doing a 2028 project. I said we'd really like to be considered for a 2027 project, but we're not going to turn down the opportunity. I'm waiting to hear more.

Discussion continued regarding local and nearby artists to do the mural project.

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2026, at 7:00PM at the Township Hall, with a park visit at 6:00PM at Mill Race & Byers Farm.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Krueger, supported by Walker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Krystal Schwartz, Secretary