

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

*Monday, November 24, 2025*  
2009 Township Drive  
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

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

**ROLL CALL: Present:** Johnny Walker, Vice Chairperson  
Bob Berkheiser  
Laura Waterworth  
Denise Vecellio  
William Petsch, Chairperson (*arrived at 6:02*)  
**Absent:** Krystal Schwartz, Secretary (excused)  
Ron Krueger (excused)  
**Also Present:** Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks & Rec  
Allison Kennedy, Asst. to Parks & Rec. Director  
Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director

**COMMUNICATIONS:**  
None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Vecellio, seconded by Berkheiser, to approve the October 27, 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 1A: EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT UPDATE**

Gavin Showalter – I'm part of Troop 308. I provided before and after pictures. As shown in the photos, the pathway has been completed, with the exception of compacting. That will be done by the CW3 Soccer Association when they roll the fields. I'm still waiting on a Field #3 sign to be installed as we were waiting for a post to be moved. All other signs have been installed like the one in the picture. I do have a question on directional signage, Ms. England. Do you have an update on that?

Director England – I just finally heard back from the sign company. I don't know when I'm going to have the design to approve, but it will probably be spring.

Gavin Showalter – Okay. That really wraps it up. I just want to say thank you to the CW3 Soccer Association, Rock Bottom Landscaping for the limestone, and to the Commerce Township Parks & Recreation Committee for all of your support related to this project.

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

**CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney**

Mr. Haney shared the following with the Committee.

- Gavin, you're very welcome. And thank you for all of your hard work. You did a fantastic job.
- Dodge Park is wrapped up for the season. The sprinklers are all blown out.
- Mark, I will get with you to do what we can to try to prevent snowmobiles from being on the fields this winter.

**Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz**

Mr. Schantz shared the following with the Committee.

- We are just getting our Christmas event all squared away. We've had a good response.
- We had an Eagle Scout from Troop 308 restore our wagon. He did a beautiful job. It looks fantastic.
- We have received the historical marker. We're just waiting on when to install it and we'll set a date for that.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are we in a rush to install the historical marker?

Director England – I met with Ellen last week. She said they were hoping to install it in June. We were thinking it could be paired with our event in June.

Mr. Berkheiser – I was going to say we should do it with the non-Bicentennial.

Director England – Correct, and Ellen was happy with that.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, good.

Mr. Schantz – I think the original thought was to install it the same day we dedicate it.

Mr. Berkheiser – I think it can be installed before then, but I would do a ribbon-cutting or whatever you want to call it.

Mr. Schantz – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – Lastly, you guys had a fall cleanup?

Mr. Schantz – Well, we were going to have the scouts come out last Saturday.

Mr. Berkheiser – I got a message that said somebody else showed up and did some work. They told the other boys, if you haven't left yet, don't leave.

Mr. Schantz – No, Mark's crew did a bang up job.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, but it got done.

Mr. Schantz – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's all I was looking for. Thanks.

**Silo Ranch – Dawn & Joe Raye**

Ms. Raye shared the following with the Committee.

- I don't have much to report.
- We will try to get the calendar together for the rest of the year in the next month or so.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are you doing Christmas sleigh rides in the snow?

Ms. Raye – I wish. We don't really have a horse to pull it. But, we did have the Boy Scouts out.

Vice Chairperson Walker – That was awesome. They had a good time.

Ms. Raye – They camped out for two nights.

Mr. Berkheiser – Where did they camp?

Vice Chairperson Walker – Right next to the gardens.

Ms. Raye – It looked like they had a good time.

Vice Chairperson Walker – They got their horsemanship merit badge.

Ms. Raye – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – Cool.

**Motor City Mountain Bike Association – Mike Kearney**

Mr. Kearney shared the following with the Committee.

- Nothing new to add today.

**Lakes Area Hawks – Andy Graham**

Mr. Graham shared the following with the Committee.

- The sprinklers and building are winterized.
- We are in the process of breaking down the locker room and setting up our weight room so the boys can lift weights in the winter.

**Lakes Athletics – Jared Stoddard & Shaun Breuer**

Mr. Stoddard, President, shared the following with the Committee.

- I'll keep this as brief as possible because I know our Field Director will have quite a bit to share.
- We've had a bit of a hiatus from some of these meetings, unfortunately, because most of us either coach, or are on the board, have multiple teams, multiple kids. It just has been difficult for us to have ample representation here. So, with that said, we're aware and we're making a conscious effort to have representation here. We've got a bit of a schedule rolling, but I hope some of this information explains kind of what we've been preoccupied with.
- Just a quick recap of the year for us. It was busy. The park was full with lots of baseball being played.

- We had over 1,000 registrations for Lakes Athletics this year across our baseball organization. That includes camps, clinics, spring, summer, and fall seasons, as well as the travel affiliate that we have, the LCB Legends. But it was pretty impressive. I approximated, we're at about 1,500 or so, which is nearly double what we did last year.
- We've actually reached out in search of satellite fields. We were able to acquire three additional fields out of the Village of Milford. We have been having a bit of a focus there as well, but have been very, very busy with baseball and providing that for the youth in the community.
- Just a couple of cool statistics. We had nearly 600 games played within our organization, so incredibly busy.
- We've got a fairly robust board now, which is nice. You know, five or six years ago, there was a handful of us. Now we're able to divide and conquer and really do some cool things. With that said, I'm going to turn it over to Shaun Breuer, our Field Director, and he will fill you guys in.

Chairperson Petsch – Question for you. Did you get Emily a financial report on what you guys did this year?

Mr. Stoddard – Did we not provide that with the last monthly report?

Director England – We usually have that due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Stoddard – Okay. We'll have that.

Chairperson Petsch – Thank you.

Mr. Breuer shared the following with the Committee.

- I am a community member in Commerce Township. I live in Commerce, so being a part of Lakes Athletics as a parent and a coach was something that was very exciting, and now as a board member and getting to meet you guys.
- I wanted to take the opportunity to share some of the things that we've been doing from a field perspective, because obviously it impacts the look of the park.
- How I got started is I showed up as a coach asking, *why is the grass brown? Why do I have a green line going straight in the middle of the field with an irrigation background?* I said, *let's get these things fixed.* That's when I started bothering Jared to let me get involved. So, I've taken on the Field Director role completely at Hickory Glen as well as the three fields in Milford.
- Over the past year and a half since I've been a part of the board:
  - We've replaced every single toilet inside the building with commercial grade flushing toilets that will actually flush. That was \$6,000.
  - We replaced every sprinkler head in every single field, #1 through #6. The outfield is managed there on Field #7 by the Hawks organization.
  - We rebalanced every field last fall in 2024 for the first time ever since the current board that we had. It was always primarily focused on the larger kids or the older kids. So, the younger fields, Fields #2, #3 and #4 were not getting done. We got that done in 2024, and I'm excited to say we did that in 2025 as well, where we added additional materials. Shout out to Suburban Landscape for helping us out with that. That was approximately \$20,000 in 2024 and just shy of \$16,000 this past year.

- We repaired all the foul poles on all the fields, so they're nice bright yellow, so that it really looks like a baseball field when you pull in.
- We increased our mole control to \$3,000 this past year. Field #1 and #6 are really big problems for us with moles. We're getting concerns with safety, rolling of ankles, things like that. But it's a battle for us, because we're responsible for the inside of the fences going inward. Outside of the fence, we're not managing and treating that. They're coming from the outside in and we're trying to create a barrier, but I can't go 10 foot down with a concrete wall to keep them out. So, if there are any creative thoughts there on some support on that from the outside of the park. I'm not saying the whole entire thing, but around these perimeters of some of these fields will definitely help us. If you look at Field #6, it is pretty torn up. It's looking better. If you were to walk on it, you would see some low and high spots; that takes us going out with topsoil, reseeding and fixing these areas so that they are safe and level, and we don't have ankle rollers out there.
- We added something I shared with Emily in our walk-around. We added Roundup to all the infields on a regular basis, three times a year, from a professional contractor, Lush Lawn, as well as all the fence perimeters. So, as we've got weed whacking going on and lawn mowers, they aren't hitting the fences, both from the Township provider on the common areas as well as our provider on the inside. We're protecting those fences down the road.
- We also did a substantial amount of repairs and fences over the past year and a half, approximately \$15,000 worth of fence repairs. We're really proud of those.
- You've probably seen some rebalancing of the infields that I talked about. We are doing all seven fields again this fall.
- We did more fence repairs on Fields #1 and #7, and a little bit on #5 for a cost of \$11,000 this fall.
- We're adding safety netting to our bigger fields with the bigger boys, on Fields #7 and #1. We're adding some spectator netting to help with safety.
- We're replacing home plates on #5 and #7.
- We're going to be redoing the mounds. We're looking at portable mounds in some of these fields to reduce our costs.
- We're also encouraging coaches to do a better job at helping us with field maintenance and cleaning up after themselves in the dugout and around the common areas. One of the things that we're implementing in the spring is signs in the dugout for visitor responsibilities and home responsibilities, so that they encourage the kids to go around picking up trash so it's not just on all of us.
- Emily and Mark, thank you for the opportunity to walk around the park and identify areas that we can work together on fixing. There are two issues that were brought up on Emily's part and Mark's part to us in that walkthrough just a couple of weeks ago.
  - One was a flagpole light. Emily brought it to my attention that we committed to making sure there'd be a light there. We have procured that light. I know Emily, you and Mark had mentioned that we may be able to work together in getting the Fire Department to help install that light.

Director England – Yes, just reach out to us and Mark and I can coordinate that.

Mr. Breuer –

- And the second item was parking. I know there has been some concern about parking on the front lawn there. Jared and I and a few other board members have been talking a great deal on eliminating that parking that's happening. It really should not be happening and we're not encouraging it. We are going to work on a plan to encourage that not to happen. We're going to create a map over the winter that shows, if you're playing a game on said field, here's where we suggest you park.
  - Another thing is to leverage the Milford Fields, so we're not having so much congestion at the Hickory Glen fields to help with the transition from fields.
  - Then we also talked about incorporating some cones during our Memorial Day Classic tournament so they're not parking in that lawn area as well.
- So just wanted to bring that up that those are some concerns that were brought to us. We want to make sure we're addressing them. If there's any questions, I'll answer them.
  - Other than that, as far as winterization, I heard that's a common theme. The building and pump house and all the irrigation has been winterized as well.

Director England – You said that you guys held a tournament with Commerce Little League. Can you touch base on that?

Mr. Breuer – Is Commerce Little League here? No? Okay.

Mr. Stoddard – I wouldn't call it a tournament. It was more of a partnership to have some fun all-star games.

Mr. Breuer – There has been some great collaboration between both organizations over the last four to six months about combining rules to where we can have inner city games or tournaments potentially. That has been great to see both their board as well as our board working together and doing that, because a lot of these kids go to school together.

To Emily's point, this fall we did with our house program, we did our first ever, what we called the Glengary Cup, and we actually made a Stanley Cup. It's for the most games won within the organization. This year, it was the 8U team that won on our side, and the 10U team won on their side. It ended up being a 2-2 tie against all the ages; so 2 games won for Commerce Little League and 2 games for Lakes Athletics. So, the run differential goes to the next person. They had the most runs compared to us, so they got the Cup this year.

We are looking for a place to showcase this Cup for the community to see. I think the Parks & Recreation office would be a great place for it to sit and live. And each year a plaque would get posted with that. This is a tradition that both organizations are excited to be starting, to show that we are working together. The Dairy Twist sponsors both organizations so they might be willing to do that. If you have ideas there, we'd love to hear those as well. So, currently, they have the Cup and hopefully we will get it back next year.

Mr. Berkheiser – Would this drive teams to pummel their other teams with runs? Do you have rules on run differential?

Mr. Breuer – Yes, so good question, Bob. Every age group has a rule specific to mercy. It could be so many runs per inning, which is the most common. It gets more lax as you get closer to high school level. But as far as how that shaped out there, that was run differential across all age groups is how that was calculated.

Mr. Stoddard – And traditionally, just to expand upon his answer, it's no more than 7 or 8 runs per game. You might win by 30, but the maximum that you're allowed to accrue for that tiebreaker would be 7 or 8 runs. That's how most tournaments run. That's presumably what most of our rules read. This was new for us, so we're learning, but this is something that used to take place when I used to play Lakes Athletics in the late 80s and early 90s. We're trying to reignite.

There's an opportunity for us to partner in some aspects, because we are different organizations. In theory, we are competitors, but we're trying to help them where they need help. They're trying to help us where we need help. We may have robust registration numbers at the younger ages where they might struggle, so we can cross over with them and give them extra games. And they may be doing better with the older age groups. This is something that we're exploring right now. It's a bit of a trial run. I was there for about an hour and a half, and it was incredible.

Director England – I think it's a great idea and I love it.

Mr. Stoddard – People were incredibly excited. I believe leadership changed with Commerce Little League, and they kind of extended the olive branch, so to speak, and we all sat down and we went, why not? Let's have some fun.

Mr. Breuer – It has been really good. And not only just that, but also collaboration on the field stuff too. There's a gentleman there, their Field Director, Corey, and he and I collaborate a lot. So, I just want to say that we're a partner with Commerce Township, but also we're working hard, and they are as well, to work together with other organizations. That includes Andy at Hawks as well. He has been great and we've had a few conversations.

Director England – Just to give you an update. Mark and I met and did a site walkthrough with them on some of the brush hogging that they wanted to have done. I don't know if you've started the work yet.

Mr. Breuer – Yes.

Director England – It is, okay. Basically, they will do what they did in the front of the park, and a lot of the growth, especially down by Field #7 where it got extremely overgrown and there was no more baseline for people to even sit. They went through and cut out the underbrush and the scrub trees and opened that up so you can see through the park, better visibility, and kept the good trees. So, it's definitely an improvement to the park.

Mr. Breuer – Yes, as well as at the batting cages. Thank you, Emily.

Mr. Stoddard – I have one question. Years ago, we talked about pavilions. Is that something that's on the docket?

Director England – It is. That is something we have included in our 2026 budget. We will be starting to look at that shortly and we'll have some conversations with you on location and such.

Mr. Stoddard – Awesome. Glad to hear it.

Chairperson Petsch – Thank you.

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

- *Interlakes Girls Softball*
- *Commerce Little League*

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

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- I think I said last month, we've had a big agenda on budget items. We are finally through all of that. I think all of the fine tuning has been done, and the budget will be officially approved at our December meeting. Just as a comment, just because it's in the budget, it doesn't mean that it's approved. It still would be brought to the Board, hopefully early in 2026.
- We had some adoptions of ordinances. Some of these things don't necessarily apply to Parks, but I always like to let you guys know. We have some tightening up of our regulations in our massage parlor type businesses, and we had some fine tuning of our noise ordinance. We had some discrepancies. We've changed it so it is consistent with other areas.
- A lot of time was spent on the agreement and the process with the sheriff's department with Flock cameras. We will have some cameras put up throughout the Township sometime next year. Those cameras capture a picture of the vehicle and license plate, and it's intended for public safety issues. It doesn't get used for anything else. Nobody except the police can access it, and they can only access it when there is an actual case number. There has to be a reason for them to look at it. I know there have been some folks that have issues with it, and some Board members have had questions.

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

Director England discussed the following:

- You have my written report in front of you.
- We are just gearing up for the holiday season.
- We have our Senior Center Thanksgiving luncheon tomorrow. We actually have a wait list for it with over 100 seniors coming to it, so that's exciting, and the same thing with our Christmas luncheon.
- We are excited about the day trips that we put on. Now that we have a full staff, they have taken off and are very popular. We are already planning a lot of those for 2026.
- We are getting ready for all of our community events.

Mr. Berkheiser – How many people does the Richardson Center hold? I thought we could accommodate over 200 people there.

Director England – The building capacity ... I only seat 100 in that room because that is what I can put in there comfortably around the tables that we have for the seniors.

Mr. Berkheiser – So you don't use both rooms when you do stuff like that?

Director England – No.

Ms. Waterworth – Can you remind us when the Tree Lighting starts, and what time the tree is lit?

Allison Kennedy – It's 4:30 to 7:30pm, and the tree is lit at 5:30pm.

#### **ITEM 4: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- Most of the leaves are done from every park and every building. The leaf vac and the blower have really helped out this year.
- The restrooms at Scarlet's and Maple are all winterized.
- We should start clearing Scarlet's Woods now. All the foliage is gone, so we hope to finish that up this fall.
- At Long Park, they've finally started to repair all of their damage.
- At the Dog Park, the small dog area was locked. The lock needed some lubrication in it. I think it is working okay now.

Mr. Berkheiser discussed the Dog Park and field rotation. The big dogs have been in the center area since the park opened and they have torn it up, the first 20 to 30 feet. He suggested next year putting in concrete or gravel there. Discussion took place. Director England has discussed the topic with Mark. They will look into options in the spring. Mr. Schoder would prefer concrete as a solution as rocks or gravel would interfere with grass cutting and damage mowers. Mr. Berkheiser also noted a latch was broken on the gate. Discussion continued regarding concrete or turf as an option to improve the approach of the large dog areas.

#### **ITEM 5: PARK LIAISON REPORTS**

##### **Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park**

- We discussed the Dog Park.
- On the Wise Woods side, is there an update on the well status? I'll just keep asking. We've talked about putting water access on the Wise Woods side, and then also maybe two areas on the Victory Park side, one by the Dog Park and one by the pavilion. All of that would be run off the fresh water well, and I know that has been held up. Any movement on that?

Director England – No. They requested an update from the County last week and the response we got was they will send them a message. We have not heard anything.

Mr. Berkheiser – Have we reached out to our representatives?

Director England – That's a question for Larry. I don't know if he has or not.

Mr. Berkheiser – The only other thing I was hoping for an update on was the silos.

Director England – I have an update.

Chairperson Petsch – It's on the agenda.

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

- Snowy Ridge looks great.
- Long Park; I sent a couple of things to Emily.
- A question about the signage that’s changing in Long Park; do we have a date when that will happen?

Director England – I don't have a date of when I'm going to receive it yet. As soon as I have that, I will coordinate with Mark.

Ms. Vecellio – Okay, so it’s already in process. Great, thank you.

**Petsch – Bicentennial Park**

- Nothing new to report.

**Walker – Maple Glen**

- The park looked good.
- Nothing really going on. It has slowed down a lot.

**Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park**

- You guys provided a big update on Hickory Glen.
- I’ve been over there one time in the last month or so, and things looked normal.
- I’m always at the Dog Park.

**Krueger – Dodge Park**

- No report in Krueger’s absence.

**Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race**

- No report in Schwartz’s absence.

**ITEM 6: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE**

Ms. Waterworth discussed the following with the Committee:

- Tomorrow, I believe the Parks Committee is judging the Holiday Décor Contest. It seems kind of early, but there will be tons of Christmas lights everywhere if you want to drive around the Village.
- The Village Hall is collecting coats until the 30<sup>th</sup>. New or lightly used coats.
- They are also having a peanut butter and jelly drive until December 15<sup>th</sup>. They are collecting that for families in need. It is a staple in the household.

Mr. Berkheiser – So, Christmas lights are being judged before Thanksgiving?

Ms. Waterworth – That’s what the flyer said.

**ITEM 7: COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**MOTION** by Petsch, supported by Vecellio, to continue with the current Committee Officers, with William Petsch as Chairperson, Johnny Walker as Vice Chairperson and Krystal Schwartz as Secretary of the Parks & Recreation Committee for 2026.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM 8: SCARLET'S PLAYGROUND BATHROOM MURAL**

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- Those of you who were on the board when that project was happening know that we left some of that brick on the smooth sides with the idea that we would put some kind of a mural on there. At that point in time, there were a lot of selfie station murals, so something along those lines.
- In your packet, this mural is in the Library. And then there is some other work that this artist has done. I'm bringing it to see if this is something you're interested in before I reach out to her to get a price. I thought it would be a good tie-in to the Library and finally put that art on there like it was intended to be.

Mr. Berkheiser – I don't remember art necessarily being decided. I remember us talking about putting up big signs to indicate where everything is in the park.

Director England – Not on the areas that were left smooth.

Mr. Berkheiser – We will agree to disagree. Personally, I don't have a problem with it, but I would like to see a drawing of the intent. Is the Township paying for it?

Director England – It would be a Township project. So that's the thing, do you like the style? Do you want to see something different? Her style is pretty consistent. When I reach out to her, she will give me a price on the area. I think they did two or three versions for the Library to choose from, but we need to give her guidance of what we would like to see there.

Chairperson Petsch – I would think that we want to have it in a kids' motif in the artwork that's out there. I don't know, Bob, if there's a possibility that we could use part of it to have information.

Director England – There's two sides, so you could use one side for signs.

Mr. Berkheiser – We could put signs elsewhere, but that is what I remember.

Chairperson Petsch – In looking at this modern art that she has, I would like to see more nature and kids that would be consistent with the park and the playground area.

Allison Kennedy – More like this one?

Chairperson Petsch – Yes, instead of the abstract art type thing.

Vice Chairperson Walker – If we're going to do it somewhat like an area for selfies, it should say Commerce Township in it.

Director England – Sure.

Chairperson Petsch – And even if she incorporated the playground stuff in there and some kids ...

Mr. Berkheiser – And the soccer fields, and it's used for other things, so there should be some sports in there. That might be sports done throughout the Township, although not at that field. See how she can work those in. I would like to see some drawings and ideas.

Chairperson Petsch – I agree with Bob. I think that would be more suitable for that. Her talent is great. I'm sure she can come up with something to incorporate the fields and the playground, and maybe even some ballpark. If it says Commerce Township Parks on it, you can do selfies and it would be really nice.

Director England – So, do you just want to focus on one of the areas at this time?

Chairperson Petsch – There's two sides.

Vice Chairperson Walker – It's probably better to do both at the same time.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – And how much?

Director England – I have not even reached out because I wanted to know if you guys like this idea or not.

Chairperson Petsch – I think it's a great idea. Let's get her ideas and see what the costs would be and what type of artwork suggestions she provides.

Vice Chairperson Walker – One of them could be focused on the selfie station saying Commerce Township and some cool stuff, and the other could incorporate the ballpark and soccer part of it.

Director England – That's a good idea.

Ms. Vecellio – Is she an artist from Commerce?

Director England – No. I'm not sure how the Library found her. I just thought it would be good to keep the style similar.

Mr. Berkheiser – Maybe CW3 wants a selfie station for all their soccer there and they can help support it.

#### **ITEM 9: VICTORY PARK MISSILE SILO UPDATE**

Director England – The dig is complete. Nothing was found. We found the silos, we found the walls, but it was actually imploded. What was happening was that because it was imploded, there were large chunks of concrete footings, rebar, et cetera. Over the years, the ground settled creating voids. That has been corrected. The holes have been filled. We do need to grade some of the areas and make sure it is not going to settle anymore. We are going to keep the fence up through the winter months and make sure the ground stays stable, and then we will reopen it in the spring for residents to use. It is good news.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes, good news.

Mr. Berkheiser – What did it end up costing us?

Director England – I don't have the final bill yet.

### **ITEM 10: PARK IMPROVEMENT UPDATES**

Director England – I don't have a lot of updates.

- You will start seeing some of the work for the restroom facility at the Richardson Center getting done.
- The parking lot at the Richardson Center is done. They have to come back and do a few punch list items. We found a few areas; one on the parking lot and one on the pathway to be corrected.
- They will be starting the work over at Byers to make that bridge ADA accessible, and then doing what we're calling the Library Pathway down S. Commerce Road, extending the pathway down to the corner of Commerce and S. Commerce.
- Other than that, we are just gearing up for next year.

Chairperson Petsch – I know we had a situation with pickleball people parking in the senior area. Are we going to enforce that somehow?

Director England – We have signs up. We did start enforcing it this year. Notices were being put on cars. We were keeping track of license plates. The towing sign has been installed. So, if it continues now, then we will be calling for cars to get towed.

Chairperson Petsch – Okay, good.

### **ITEM 11: PARK EVENT UPDATES & 2026 EVENT DATES**

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- Our last event for 2025 will be our Tree Lighting
  - It's coming up on December 6<sup>th</sup>, next Saturday, from 4:30-7:30pm.
  - As we talked about, the tree lighting itself is at 5:30pm, with pictures with Santa starting about 5:45 and going until 7:30pm.
  - We have a character coming in. The Library does story time; they do two different stories.
  - We have our hot cocoa station, cookies and snacks.
  - We are looking forward to that.

Director England – We have extended our walking path around the building. They will be adding some lights on half of the pickleball court.

Ms. Kennedy – Our 2026 event dates were included in the packet. The Easter event, the M5K, the non-Bicentennial in June, and all other regular events are listed on there.

Mr. Berkheiser – On the summer concerts, you have four. I think I remember we started at six, then we had five, now we're at four.

Director England – It is because of the way the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday is falling. Next year there will be five.

Mr. Berkheiser – We don't want to do one in the first week of August?

Director England – Then you're competing with Milford Memories, and we've always had low attendance that weekend.

**ITEM 12: OTHER MATTERS**

Mr. Berkheiser – Any information on the ice skating idea?

Director England – I reached out to several companies about this, and nobody calls me back. I talked to James from JAG and he told me there is a company out there that has a fake ice. I'm trying to get a hold of him to see what that is. My concern is though, I want it to be something that can be used. You might be talking possibly a refrigeration system. I'm still trying to track somebody down who can give me information outside of just building a frame and filling it with water and hoping Mother Nature freezes it for us.

Mr. Berkheiser – Well, I don't know much about fake ice, but we could look at it. At least it would be consistent throughout our inconsistent winters.

Ms. Waterworth – I can tell you, as a user of fake ice, no. I went to Blake's and they have a fake ice rink. It was the worst experience. And you won't want to use your own ice skates on it because it can damage them.

Discussion continued regarding fake ice and options for creating an ice rink.

Mr. Berkheiser – Regarding the cemetery fence, Mark. If we were to just replace the fencing with black fence, do you have a ballpark cost?

Mr. Schoder – No. I would have to look at the quote, and I'll send you a copy.

Mr. Berkheiser – Would we ever reuse the current fencing? I don't want to waste it.

Mr. Schoder – We might.

Chairperson Petsch – How many feet would we have?

Mr. Schoder – I think it's 500 feet.

Chairperson Petsch – You see that kind of stuff on Marketplace all the time.

Mr. Berkheiser – To back up, Ron got some information on putting vines in next spring, and then hopefully over the next couple years it would grow onto the fence and hide some of that. However, there is some concern about the vines taking over. It would have to be a maintenance thing. I don't know how our cemetery guys weed whack or how that is done, but he supposedly touched base with them. There's a lot of different stuff involved. It would take a while for it to fill in. Then the thought was maybe we just replace the fencing. Any idea what the cost was?

Mr. Schoder – I would have to look at the quote Bob. I'll send it to you.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay. That's on my list. The other is, we have talked about putting cameras in our parks, unfortunately, for the damages. It was brought up today about snowmobiles and those types of things. I'm not sure how I feel about the Flock cameras,

but is there an opportunity to place them near the parks where we've had issues so that those vehicles and plates are monitored?

Director England – I guess that would be a Township Board and sheriff decision.

Mr. Berkheiser – We don't decide where they go. That is the sheriff's department. Maybe we can talk with Lt. Hix and incorporate some of our parks where we've had trouble, but we would still need cameras in the parks. Where are we on that?

Director England – So, Ben is working on doing an RFP for cameras. Those will be wireless cameras to put up in our parks. That should be going out in January.

Mr. Berkheiser – When you say wireless, they still need electricity or are they solar?

Director England – They would run off of a data package. They don't need to be hard wired for internet, and they would be solar. He had a draft of the RFP that I saw.

Mr. Berkheiser – I will bring that up to the Board also and see the status. Thank you.

**The next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2025, at 6:00PM at the Township Hall. (No park visits before meetings from November to March)**

**ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Waterworth, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Krystal Schwartz, Secretary