

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

Monday, May 22, 2023

2009 Township Drive

Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

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

ROLL CALL: **Present:** Johnny Walker, Chairperson
William Petsch, Vice Chairperson
Krystal Schwartz
Ron Krueger
Laura Waterworth
Absent: Bob Berkheiser (excused)
Barbara Garbutt, Secretary (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 Petsch, seconded by Waterworth, to approve the March 27, 2023, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Walker opened to Public Comments.

Kacey Tulley, 719 Oak Ridge, Brighton, MI – The reason for my attendance at your meeting is to put into public record a complaint I filed with the LCD of Legends travel baseball, or more specifically the black 10U team, in April/May of 2023, regarding alcohol on their field of practice [inaudible] by coaches and fans. For three years, I have progressively watched the situation of consumption of alcohol and talk of alcohol on a team sponsored [inaudible] escalate until I witnessed a dad nearly fall over off a bleacher at Hickory Park at the end of practice when I and my husband returned to pick up my son. I then continued to see, while Legends 10U players were still on the field in uniform, a coach consume an alcoholic beverage. I addressed my concerns by way of placing a phone call privately to the head coach on Friday, April 21st. It was clear by Saturday the 22nd that the coach and I did not see eye-to-eye as he threatened to enforce a ban on me from ever being at Hickory Glen Park, or watching [inaudible] baseball ever again, threatening to remove him from the team if I wouldn't comply. By Monday, April 24th, a lawyer secured by third-party Megan Murphy Matthews, that the coach had shared the situation with, was now trying to enforce this ban on the city park as the threat of me and keeping me away from the 10U event after sharing my concerns about their alcohol and drinking [inaudible] in which he partakes. I've secured evidence.

In light of her bringing legal counsel to try and uphold this premature and overstepping threat, I feel obligated to put into record my complaint. I have been in delayed conversations with the executive board members for the Legends, but this has been ongoing and it wasn't until Friday, May 19th that any sort of attempt at a resolution came about in an email, absolving me of any wrongdoing, that was sent. Also in this email, there was an outline of action items taken by the Legends that say what they either did, or what they were going to do, which is all I was ever hoping for in order to keep this situation from escalating. However, the only thing that was not addressed in the email action by the Legends is that the legal counsel was threatened upon me, which is why I'm seeking to put this into the public record, my parental complaint regarding the drinking on this property, and I want to put into the record that the LCB has sent an email acknowledging my no wrongdoing in the event that legal counsel were to continue to be threatened by this third-party or the Legends.

Chairperson Walker closed to Public Comments.

ITEM 1: EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – RICHARDSON COMMUNITY CENTER

Eagle Scout, Matthew Streets, was in attendance to deliver a PowerPoint presentation.

Matthew Streets – I've attended Walled Lake Central High School for four years. I'm also a member of the Walled Lake Central Cross Country Team and Track and Field. I'm a member of Boy Scout Troop 327. We are located in Farmington Hills.

If not everyone is familiar, an Eagle project must be led by a scout, so myself. Other people can play a helpful role, such as a parent, but I have to be the one to lead it and do meetings. It involves multiple planning phases. There's a proposal, a plan and a report they have to go through. It has to get approved by a council representative. The Eagle project itself has to benefit an organization outside of scouting; this is usually a church, a school, or in this instance, Commerce Township.

For the initial project idea, I knew that I wanted to benefit the Richardson Center / Commerce Township. As I mentioned earlier, I run cross country for Walled Lake Central and we frequently use the facility. The staff there are always super friendly to us. It's very encouraging and it's a really great environment that we're able to practice there. I knew that in some way helping the Richardson Center would be a really great thing. I also wanted it to be a project that could involve my other scouts and teammates as they share the same views of the Richardson Center and their staff, and so other scouts and members of Central's National Honor Society could get service hours for helping with the project. I also wanted it to be something that would be used. Oftentimes people build a bench, or I had a scout in my troop a few years ago who did shrubbery around a church. While those are all great projects, I wanted it to be something unique and that a lot of people would use.

For the pickleball paddle racks, once we figured out that would be something that would help the Richardson Center, we found the design online. For building and planning, you can see here the pictures of both scouts and members of the Walled Lake Central Cross Country Team, as well as some of my friends and family members. We got wooden boards cut down to the size we wanted; a side with the holes and another side that would be affixed to a fence. Those holes were then drilled as you can see in the bottom picture, and then we sanded the boards and used a router as needed.

We added wood so that the pickleball paddle racks would not only be able to hold the paddles, it would also have a wooden wheel that could slide from side to side to indicate

who had the next game. The racks were also painted and stained, the wheel was painted, and the board was stained to give it a nice color and to preserve it. The final product has 11 holes for paddles, it has a sliding wheel and was fixable to the fence. We also had leftover stain that we delivered with that.

I would like to say a few thank-you's for this project. Obviously Commerce Township; namely Ms. Allison Kennedy and Ms. Emily England, for communicating with me about this and getting the project done; members of Walled Lake Central Boys' Cross Country Team were a super big help; as well as members of Walled Lake Central's National Honor Society; the Scouts and parents of Troop 327; and other family, friends and donors who helped out not only in the manual labor, but in giving up garage space, donating funds and bringing supplies.

Chairperson Walker – Is this the last thing you have to do for your Eagle Scout project?

Matthew Streets – This is the last part of the project. I submitted all of the paperwork for it. There is a process of checking documents and then I have to oversee a board of review. But at this point, everything is done.

Chairperson Walker – You have your merit badges already?

Matthew Streets – Yes.

Chairperson Walker – Very good.

Director England – And the paddle racks are very heavily used and appreciated.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – What wood did you use?

Matthew Streets – I believe the wood was pine. They were 1x8 and we got them in 8' lengths and then they were cut for a 4' segment. We got them from Lowe's.

Unidentified Resident – How many courts did you do?

Matthew Streets – We did 8 racks.

Chairperson Walker – Congratulations.

Matthew Streets – Thank you.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Thank you.

ITEM 2: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT

Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz

Karen Schantz shared the following with the Committee.

- We just completed cleanup with Troop 308. They're awesome. They came back this past Sunday to see how pretty the grounds were.
- We also had two Girl Scout troops who participated in planting flowers.

- My daughter and her friends started a 501c3 for the State of Michigan in cleanups of rivers and waterways. She went across with her group and cleaned up all the garbage from Mill Race and also the Byers waterfront.
- I purchased two river birch, donated them and planted them. They're doing really well. They're planted along the fence line. I plan on purchasing a couple more trees. I don't know what species, but I might ask for ideas. When we take down trees, it's time to plant trees.

Director England – Are the two river birch new this year?

Karen Schantz – Yes. The one I purchased last year didn't make it through the winter. These are healthier trees and they're beautiful.

Ms. Waterworth – Have you gone to Oakland County's website for their list of native species?

Karen Schantz – Yes, oaks and ...

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Just make sure that you find out what the maturity of that tree will be before you plant it.

Karen Schantz – I know, 60'.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Yes, you have to make sure you leave room so they don't encroach on the existing.

Karen Schantz – I did. The river birch is important because of the river.

Director England – I would recommend talking with Barb Garbutt. Maybe she can meet you over there and tell you what species would be best. That's kind of her area of expertise.

Karen Schantz – Yes, and then I thought maybe a few flowering trees. I don't know much about what would be better.

Mr. Krueger – I'd be happy to help out.

Director England – And Ron can help too. You're a landscape architect, Ron?

Mr. Krueger – I'm a designer, but I'll put my work up against any architect.

Karen Schantz – Come on down.

- So the trees are doing really well. Dean and I alternate watering several times a week. Our big goal is to do something on the riverfront. We have three trees that we need removed. There's one dead tree that has already been topped by DTE, and there's one leaning against a tree and into the riverbank which is washing away. That's a concern with the power lines.
- Dean and Mike are going to start the front of the barn.

- We're getting ready for the Vintage event, Sunday, August 13th from 10am-5pm. So far, I have 18 vendors returning.
- We are putting out a request to the public for help with the BooBash this year.
- Other than that, it's full speed ahead in maintenance.

Director England – Please send us information to post on Facebook.

Director England noted that the Lakes Athletics report was included in the packet.

Lakes Athletics Association

A report dated May 16, 2023, was submitted in the packet:

- *League Update – Spring 2023 season is running smooth! All-Star Game day was Sunday May 21st. Summer Registration is now open, and Fall Season registration will open late June.*
Jay Fuhs is requesting to walk the park with a park liaison or township P&R rep, to point out some needs below. The Hickory Glen walkthrough was canceled earlier this Spring, but we would like this opportunity to discuss a point of concern. Thank you!
- *Upcoming Dates & Information*
 - *Season Dates – Memorial Weekend Tournament May 26-28*
 - *Lakes Championship Day is Saturday June 10th*
 - *Monthly Meeting – Next scheduled meet was May 15th 2023 for the Board Meeting*
 - *Porto-toilets – The Township porta-potty near the bike head trail (by F1 &F2) has been received, thank you. Can the township add another by F7? We operate and clean our concessions bathroom, but they are only available when concessions is available, and the portable toilets are getting much use from non baseball park visitors (work trucks, bike assoc, dog walkers, and general hikers). Also many families call us about the condition of Township restroom, we direct them to please call township*
 - *Tree Cleanup – We have a few landscape issues that are interfering with baseball play and activities; Jay Fuhs is willing to walk the park with a Township maintenance rep to discuss next steps.*
 - *Park Vandalism – As reported in separate email; the portable toilets and blue pump house were vandalized and suffered damage. A police incident report was made to Oakland County Sheriff. We are in process of damage repair to the door and upgrades.*
 - *Cement Bleacher Pads F1 – The park never received the poured cement bleacher pads and ADA accessible seating area on Field #1; Current teams that allocate there, have family requiring this feature. When will the township be able to complete the cement pad activity.*
 - *Sprinklers – Repaired and renovated after many years of service. Map of the completed system is now in existence for future construction reference. LAA can schedule meeting with P&R to review and discuss next steps, and reimbursement for approved portion share. Please advise meeting availability or process to complete reimbursement.*

Director England reviewed the update submitted by CW3 Soccer as follows:

CW3 Soccer –

- *Saturday, June 3rd, is the CW3 Jamboree from 9am-1pm*
- *Sunday, June 4th, final games for Spring 2023*
- *June 10th-11th, tryouts for the next season*

Director England – They are asking to utilize the pavilion again. We allowed them to do that last year. Obviously they don't tell anybody else that they can't use it, but they can set up under it. I don't have an issue with that as long as you don't.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – I noticed on Sunday when I was at the Library, our upper parking lot is being used a lot by the soccer teams.

Director England – Mark and I met with Chris Haney last week to review the parking. We will be sealing and restriping the parking lots in our Parks and Township buildings. At the Library, there is handicap parking in front along the building, and then there's another part. We're eliminating those additional handicap spots and making those regular spots to open up more parking, and then we will play it by ear. They just tend to be open all the time. We have been having people keep track of different days and times to see how parking is.

Mr. Krueger – When I was in there on a Saturday, I stopped counting at 110 cars that were not parked in the parking lot.

Director England – I believe it.

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

- *Interlakes Girls Softball*
- *Commerce Little League*
- *Lakes Area Hawks*
- ~~*Windmill Farms (Horse Farm)*~~
- *Motor City Mountain Bike Association*

ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Although Mr. Berkheiser was absent, Director England reported that the contract was awarded for the 14 Mile Pathway.

ITEM 4: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Director England discussed the following:

- The majority of everything is in your packet.
- The Senior Center is thriving.
- We're getting a little pressure with the pickleball courts but it has been pretty decent. The courts tend to be busy on Monday and Wednesday mornings, and on those mornings we also have a huge exercise class at the Senior Center; however, the timing has been working out. Pickleball players are leaving about 11:00, which opens up parking for seniors.

- We met with the RCOC about the possibility of putting in a crosswalk on our side of South Commerce. There's already one there that goes to 7-Eleven and crosses, but then people are double crossing and they won't do it. They're reworking that intersection anyway, so we talked about the possibility of putting in an intersection there. We talked to the school about parking also and they have given us permission to allow pickleball players to park over there. That's a great solution for now and that gives us time to see how it will even out before we pave more park.
- Our M-5K was last Saturday. We had 80 people sign up. I believe 66 signed in and ran the race. Allison did good work on redesigning the medals this year. We went with t-shirts instead of long-sleeved shirts. I think that was 3 times the amount of people we had last year. Moving the date was a success.

ITEM 5: PARK LIAISON REPORTS

Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race

- Nothing further to report on Byers.
- At Mill Race, all of the mulch looked great. We didn't put them in further into the pathway like we did last year, so it's a little mucky back there, but that is to be expected in the springtime.
- I noticed the repainting still looked good and there was no new vandalism.

Walker – Maple Glen & Windmill Farm

- We toured Maple Glen today.
- Everything looks really good.
- It was crazy busy there. That is to be expected as it's baseball and softball season.

Petsch – Bicentennial Park

- Not a lot of activity there lately.
- Mark, one of the things that needs to be done is that the volleyball courts need to be rototilled and re-sanded. They look sparse. Are we putting the nets back up?

Mark Schoder – We will have to add sand, and we will do the one at Richardson too. We will do that all at once. We have to clean up the edges and spray them.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – Right, it looks pretty shaggy. Normally that's used quite a bit.

Director England – We did submit the Oakland County grant for Bicentennial Park, but Jason is working on the cost estimate and construction documents so that we are ready to bid that out, whether we get the grant or not.

Also, the Township Hall is due to come down by the end of July. Once that is out, that will open up more grassy area and we will redo the parking lot.

Vice Chairperson Petsch – It will be a better view into the park too.

Krueger – Dodge Park

- I drove through again today.
- Everything is looking great and growing like crazy.

- I have a few minor things that I'll go over with Mark.
- We already discussed the parking over there.
- There's always activity at Scarlet's Playground.
- I'd love to move the trash cans from directly in front of the park off to the side a little bit, by the bike racks.

Director England – They're brought up on garbage day so that the trucks can come in and remove the trash, then they should be put back.

Mark Schoder – Tuesday morning is garbage day. We go in there every day. On the weekends, they bring up both cans so they don't get overfilled and blown everywhere. Then we bring other cans around.

Mr. Krueger – Somebody brought a can out into the parking lot.

Mark Schoder – We leave one out there because they throw diapers and other trash away out there. Otherwise, they just throw it in the parking lot.

Mr. Krueger – Okay.

Director England – Sonitrol is finished working over there installing the new door system. They're on the magnetic system like the Township Hall, so they automatically lock at 8pm and open at 8am. That way, we don't have to have a staff member there at exactly those times to open and close the bathrooms.

Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park

- Hickory Glen is busy with softball and baseball. The trails are busy.
- The park looks good with all of the updates that were made.
- When they did the walk through, did they cover any of the dead trees?

Director England – The MDOT trees are being taken out, the little pine trees. The others are still going to be contractor warrantied. They haven't come back out to do inventory, but they will be. Allison, we need to get ahold of Oakland County because some of those trees did not make it that we received through the Oakland County grant.

Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park

No report in Mr. Berkheiser's absence.

Garbutt – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park

No report in Ms. Garbutt's absence.

ITEM 6: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE

Ms. Waterworth discussed the following with the Committee:

- I wasn't able to attend the meeting last week.
- They had their 5K race this past Saturday.
- They're holding a golf outing in June to raise money for the fireworks.
- The only other thing I know of that's happening is the corn roast and cornhole competition in September.

Mr. Krueger – We're going to do *Taps Across America* on Memorial Day at the Veteran's Memorial at 3pm.

Ms. Waterworth – Regarding the 5-year Parks Master Plan, do we have a QR code?

Director England – Not yet, but we will.

Ms. Waterworth – Okay, I will pass that along and they will put it on the website.

ITEM 7: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mark Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- Ron, there's a bunch of brush at the west end of the parking lot at Scarlet's. You can almost see the whole parking lot to the road. Bob requested that be cleared.
- On the Airline Trails, 22 rails were torn out. We found one post and 10 rails. The others we can't find. They took out a bollard. We will have to get that replaced. We don't know if it was the power company that had to get back there or what.
- There was graffiti on the pavilion at Bicentennial at the back. We will address these issues.
- Ron, we've talked about the trees at the Library and we'll get those out as soon as we can.
- We helped with the setup of art at the Library.
- We helped with the 5K on Saturday.
- At Hickory Glen, we did some work there today and we'll finish up tomorrow. They have their tournament.

ITEM 8: AED POLICY

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- There is a draft in your packet that the attorneys put together for us.
- I think there needs to be a section in here for general public use if there is not an employee there. I think that is the point of having it in the parks.
- I think there should be one at the pickleball courts at the Richardson Center, at Scarlet's, and Interlakes Girls' Softball. Commerce Little League's is outdated so they've asked to be included. And then Lakes Athletics as well.

Mr. Krueger – Will there be any training given?

Director England – Our Fire Department felt it best if it was owned and maintained by the Township, because then we could ensure that it was properly done.

Ms. Schwartz – There are a couple of items in here where they need to report something to someone. Is that going to be you?

Director England – It's typically me and the Supervisor.

Chairperson Walker – Will this be posted at the AED or is this just for Commerce Township internal use?

Director England – It's for Commerce Township internal use, and then obviously the leagues would have access to this as well. I know the Fire Department worked with all of the leagues this year and offered CPR and first-aid training to a limited amount of people. They couldn't offer it to entire leagues, but people who would be present and needed to have that. He would continue to do that once the AED's are in place.

Ms. Schwartz – The one that is at Scarlet's, there are a couple of items that user groups would have to attend to. Are monthly checks done by someone at the Township?

Director England – Maintenance sends somebody there daily to clean up the park because it is a necessity. It would be affixed to the building and it would be an easy walk around to make sure that it's there. It will also be under light and camera surveillance. All AED's will be under light and camera.

Chairperson Walker – What do you need from us?

Director England – If you're okay with this, I'm going to direct the attorneys to add a piece in here to include the general public, then I can take it to the Township Board, or I can bring it back here if you'd like to see the final copy.

Chairperson Walker – So you just need a motion to make the change and take it to the Township Board.

MOTION by Petsch, supported by Krueger, to add the verbiage to the AED Policy as discussed herein, and take the completed document to the Township Board for approval.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM 9: PICKLEBALL GRAND OPENING

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- We just confirmed the date today: Monday, June 12th from 5-7pm.
- Hopefully we will have some paddle reps onsite.
- We're going to have giveaways and food.
- We are going to need help on that day, especially with helping people rotate on and off the courts.
- We are working with one of our pickleball reps who said to expect probably 100 or more people and they're going to be excited to play.

ITEM 10: PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- Leah and I are working on all the details that can be done behind the scenes.
- We are going to have the survey go live next month, and then I'll get you the QR code, Laura. The survey is going to mirror the same questions we've asked for the last two updates. Obviously, if we need to add some or change wording, we can, but that helps us to keep track of those trends.
- They will be present at the summer concerts. We will always have a booth set up. Even when Leah is not there to give a full presentation to people, Parks & Recreation is going to have a table set up to give out information so that we can continue to get community feedback.

- I will keep this as an agenda item so that we can continue to advertise for people to come here as a source for community feedback and keep spreading the word.

Ms. Waterworth – Will we have signs posted in the parks too?

Director England – Yes, with the QR codes, just like we did for the M-5K.

ITEM 11: PARK EVENT UPDATES

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- I don't think there's really a whole lot to update.
- The concerts are ready.
 - We're just waiting for July 7th to come around.
 - All of the bands have been selected. You'll see on the Parks & Recreation update, all of the bands are listed on there.
 - All of the food trucks are set.
 - The face painter will be back for all of the concerts.
 - We will also have the bouncehouse available at a couple of the concerts.
- The date has already been selected for the Christmas Tree Lighting. We're working to get that finalized.
- With the success of the 5K that we had this past weekend, I don't think we will be switching it back to the fall. I'm sure next year, we will continue to have it right around the same time in May.
- I do want to say that Matthew Streets was the first overall finisher at our 5K, with a time of 19:44.

ITEM 12: OTHER MATTERS

None.

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 26th, 2023, at 7:00PM, after visiting Robert Long Park and Snowy Ridge Sledding Hill.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Krueger, supported by Schwartz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Barbara Garbutt, Secretary