

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

*Monday, August 25, 2025*  
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  
Bob Berkheiser  
Laura Waterworth  
Ron Krueger  
Denise Vecellio

**Also Present:** Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks & Recreation  
Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director

**COMMUNICATIONS:**  
None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Walker, seconded by Krueger, to approve the July 28, 2025, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.**

Laura Waterworth, 11100 Egret Lane, Wolverine Lake Village – I just wanted to say thank you to everybody for the amazing, wonderful Dog Park! This is the best thing we could have done for our parks. My dog enjoys it so much! I wanted to make a public announcement to say that not only me, but many residents are extremely happy about the Dog Park.

Chairperson Petsch – Thank you, Laura.

**Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.**

**ITEM 1A: EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

Gavin Showalter of Troop 308 delivered a presentation. He is looking to do an Eagle Scout Project in Dodge Park. Gavin shared the following with the Committee.

- Introduction:
  - My Eagle Project is improving directional signage and accessibility for Field #3 at Dodge Park in Commerce Township.
  - As an active member of the community, and as a soccer referee at this park, I've witnessed firsthand the confusion that parents, players and

visitors have faced when navigating the park during soccer games and other events. I get approached by people asking about field location, layout and other aspects of the park. This is a reoccurring issue that sparked the idea for my Eagle Scout Project. By adding clear, informative signs within the park, my aim is to improve the experience for all who use it, making the park more accessible and enjoyable.

- Identifying problems:
  - Problem #1: Lack of clear signage at the park.
  - Problem #2: Confusion about field numbers and the layout, especially during events.
  - Problem #3: Difficulty walking the trail, particularly for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Why this project matters:
  - One of the main reasons why I wanted to undertake this project is to address questions I receive while refereeing soccer games.
  - Currently, Dodge Park lacks clear and visible signage to direct people. As a result, confusion and frustration often arise, especially during large gatherings.
  - I also realized that providing more information through directional signs could enhance safety. By marking field numbers, visitors would have a much easier time navigating the park and understanding where to go in case of an emergency. This could also be beneficial for new visitors who might not be familiar with the park or its layout. This project seeks to address these concerns.
  - This is one of the clear signs at Dodge park currently.
  - If you observe where the arrow is pointing on Field #3, that is not enough. Visitors could glance over and miss the field they're going to and be late for their event or game.
- Problems #1 & #2: Adding more signage from the Library & Main Entrance:
  - When visitors come to Dodge Park, there are two entrances; the main entrance and the Library entrance. The main entrance has no signs telling where to go. This is a problem.
  - Unless you have been to Dodge Park in the past, it is difficult for first timers to know where to go. Also, when coming from the Library, there is no clear indication of where to go for an event.
  - I am proposing to install 6 signs. Two signs for the main entrance, three to identify the main fields, and one big sign that is an overview of the park which would be near Scarlet's Playground. (reviewed potential locations)
  - Overview; These are the areas I would propose for field number installation for each of the three main field areas. They are in clear view of anyone visiting Dodge Park.
  - Sign ideas; These are signs from prior Eagle projects in Commerce Parks. The sign on the left is in Wise Woods and it helps with trail directions. It also has the longitude and latitude so geocachers can track the signs.
  - Also on the right, here is a mockup of the sign I did for the park. Key locations; bathroom, water fountains, memorial bench, nature garden. Then it says who its by; Commerce Township Parks & Recreation, and it's a bird's eye view of the park.

- Problem #3: Connecting the pre-existing path to a new one for Field #3:
  - I'm proposing to redo the current rail connecting Scarlet's Playground and Pavilion Area to Field #3 at Dodge Park in Commerce Township. In its current state, it presents a challenge for visitors, particularly players and their families. The rough terrain along the trail makes it difficult to navigate.
  - Reworking and upgrading this trail is essential, not only to improve accessibility but also to enhance safety and enjoyment. A smoother path will provide a more inclusive environment, fostering greater community involvement and ensuring that park visitors can safely enjoy the amenities.
  - Here on the left is the unlevel path we have today at Dodge Park. I am proposing to try to lift it up underneath with a pipe or level it with concrete. The trail needs to be redone as it is difficult to navigate. Many visitors to Dodge Park may find the rough terrain challenging and potentially discourage them from watching a soccer match. The uneven surfaces of the second half of the trail are difficult to cross for those with strollers, wheelchairs or walkers. In addition, the trail may become muddy and slippery after rain. When it rains a lot, it slopes the dirt down.
  - Moreover, players who need to access Field #3 for sports activities are often required to make their way through this difficult terrain while carrying equipment or setting up for their games.
- To solve these problems, I propose the installation of several types of signs throughout the park. The signs will serve different purposes, including:
  - Field Identification – This will allow people to quickly locate their assigned field and prevent confusion.
  - Improved Communication – Signs will allow everyone to have a smoother and more organized experience.
  - Park and first-time visitor experience – Signs will create a more welcoming atmosphere in the park. Those unfamiliar with the park will feel more comfortable navigating without having to ask for directions from others.
  - Learning & Leadership – As I work through this Eagle Scout project, I will develop valuable skills in project planning, leadership, and community involvement. I will coordinate with the local organizations and the Township to gather support and ensure that the signs are designed and placed effectively. Additionally, I will recruit fellow Scouts to help with the installation, creating an opportunity for teamwork and leadership growth.
- Conclusion:
  - In conclusion, my Eagle Scout project proposal is to install clear and informative signs, and improve the walkway at Dodge Park. This will have a lasting positive impact on the community.
  - It will not only reduce confusion for visitors, but create a more accessible and welcoming environment for everyone who uses the park.
  - This project reflects my desire to improve the public spaces that I use and enjoy while also contributing to the community in a meaningful way. Through this project, I aim to leave a legacy of positive change and make Dodge Park a better place for everyone in Commerce Township.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Do you have any questions?

Mr. Berkheiser – Good job. We will talk afterwards on a couple things. Who are you working with on this?

Gavin Showalter – I'm working with the Dodge Park people; Chris Haney and Mike Scobie. I'm also working with Dave Ranger, my Eagle Scout representative, and I'm here talking to you for your input.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, as far as with the park, you're coordinating with the soccer guys?

Gavin Showalter – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay. And have you talked with Ms. England about it?

Gavin Showalter – Yes, I have.

Mr. Berkheiser – Do you have the cost?

Gavin Showalter – Right now, I'm waiting to get approved for this. The cost depends on the materials I need. When this gets approved, and if you have any input, I will take that into consideration. The cost will fluctuate based on what materials I will need, and the approval process.

Mr. Berkheiser – So depending on what we say, you're going to come up with a cost. Is that going to change what the project is going to look like? Suppose it comes in with whatever changes, and it comes in more than you thought. Are you just going to raise more money and do it?

Gavin Showalter – Yes, I will raise more money.

Mr. Berkheiser – How old are you?

Gavin Showalter – I just turned 15 in June.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay.

Vice Chairperson Walker – You've got plenty of time. What are you doing to raise money?

Gavin Showalter – Can and bottle drives.

Vice Chairperson Walker – What kind of posts do you plan on using?

Gavin Showalter – It really depends on what is approved. They would probably be wood.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Like a Wolmanized 4x4?

Gavin Showalter – Yes, I had that in the slide show.

Vice Chairperson Walker – A little bit more than 42” down, set in concrete?

Gavin Showalter – Yes, below the frost line.

Vice Chairperson Walker – What’s the frost line? Maybe just said it, maybe 42”?

Gavin Showalter – 42”.

Ms. Waterworth – So did you say that one part of your project is to improve the pathway?

Gavin Showalter – Yes.

Ms. Waterworth – So, it’s a dirt pathway now. You said you’re going to put a pipe under it to level it? How?

Gavin Showalter – What I meant was so that the water could runoff and not slope the path. I would probably do concrete and put a pipe under it so it could run off and still be level.

Ms. Waterworth – How much of the sidewalk are you going to do as concrete, and how are you planning to do all of that?

Gavin Showalter – So, half of it is already done. I would just go up to the grass.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Have you looked at the cost of concrete yet?

Gavin Showalter – Yes, I know it’s expensive, but it takes a lot of leadership and fundraising to do all of this and to give back to the community, and I’m going to do that.

Vice Chairperson Walker – I like your drive.

Ms. Waterworth – I can see that the signs are going to be easy to do. We have had people do that, and you can talk to different resources to get those materials. I’m kind of concerned about the pathway. I understand that as Scouts, you don’t do all of the work; you’re like the project manager trying to run all of this, and you’re paying for it.

Chairperson Petsch – Laura, what we need to do is decide whether we want to let him go ahead. I think then, he will come back to us ...

Ms. Waterworth – Oh, I think it’s a great idea.

Chairperson Petsch - ... with a plan, and he will figure out the cost, if we tell him it’s okay. You’re a little ahead of it here.

Director England – He needs more direction as far as the pathway goes; if you want to see the concrete sidewalk extended, or something like limestone.

Vice Chairperson Walker – I think you'd be better off looking at something like crushed limestone. I like your ambition, but I don't think you realize how expensive that could be.

Chairperson Petsch – Let's have him take a look at it then he can come back with both options.

Ms. Waterworth – Yes, you need more details. I like the idea of a sidewalk there, but it seems like a big project.

Mr. Krueger – I'm the Park Liaison for Dodge Park. I would love to work with you on that to help give you some advice. I looked at the signage. I was there today. I know where Field #3 is, but I wasn't 100% sure which path to take to it. So, just having a sign in Scarlet's Playground pointing down that path would be a big improvement. I'd also like to discuss some of the other ideas too. I have the time, you've got the energy. I think I have some direction I can provide.

Gavin Showalter – Thank you.

Ms. Waterworth – I'm naïve on fundraisers. Do you make enough money off bottle drives to fully fund something like this?

Gavin Showalter – It's not just based on bottle drives. I will probably do other fundraisers.

Chairperson Petsch – They also get donations from places like Home Depot.

Vice Chairperson Walker – You might also be able to reach out to different concrete companies and ask them.

Mr. Berkheiser – Chris, has Gavin coordinated with you?

Chris Haney – Yes. He presented his initial idea to us. I talked with him about it and made a couple of suggestions. I recommended that he get a time to present to the Committee, and talk to Emily because the signage project for all the parks is already in process.

Mr. Berkheiser – We've talked the past about putting up really big signs at the restrooms to direct people.

Chris Haney – He could at least incorporate what Emily already has into his project.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, because that was something that your organization was going to do. Have you talked about helping to support this?

Chris Haney – Yes. My boss gave Gavin a vote of confidence that through this process, some of the funding may come from our organization. Emily already has some of the signage. Gavin will essentially figure out where it would work best and install it. The other parts of the signage he will be working on as to what works with the Scouts, what fits with the Parks, and what needs to happen at Dodge.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay.

Ms. Waterworth – If you design it with cement, and you have a company help you install it, what happens to the maintenance of that cement? There would be a pathway to maintain.

Mr. Berkheiser – It's Commerce Township's project.

Ms. Waterworth – What do you need from us? Do you need a motion that he proceed with this project and get costs and details?

Chairperson Petsch – Do you want a motion or a recommendation?

Director England – I think a motion solidifies that you agree with his project.

Ms. Schwartz – This is a really great project. Finding the smaller things that need to be done to improve these parks is really important. It's great that you're finding solutions.

Gavin Showalter – Thank you.

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Waterworth, to approve that Gavin Showalter move forward to get costs and establish details for his Eagle Scout Project in Dodge Park to improve signage and accessibility to Field #3. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vice Chairperson Walker – I would reach out to some concrete companies and find someone who used to be an Eagle Scout.

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

##### **Friends of Byers – Karen Schantz & Mike Elick**

Mrs. Schantz shared the following with the Committee.

- The Vintage Event was eventful. It was a beautiful day. At the end, Mike was packing up his car and a tree branch fell on his car.
- There is another branch dangling, Mark.
- Also, at the back of the park, on the tree line, there is a tree leaning. The whole bottom of it loaded with black ants. We are having a problem with ants in the barn and in the farmhouse.

Mr. Schoder – I will call Orkin tomorrow.

Mrs. Schantz –

- We placed the stake for the dogwood to be relocated. It's behind the historical marker sign. In the barn on Sunday was a Village of Wolverine resident. She is a horticulture arborist. She was giving us the scoop on her ideas of moving that shallow-rooted tree. However, Ron thought a bit differently. She said the roots are blocked because of the barn and the patio area, and they grow one way, toward the pathway. She thinks we should be careful.
- Eric will be there this week, and he will move all of the plants.

Mr. Schoder – Yes, we can't do anything until Miss Dig comes out.

Mrs. Schantz –

- Yes, we will be ready.
- That plays into doing the back wall of the barn. We were slating for the end of September or beginning of October. We have to be able to get a bucket in there. We can use a scissor lift because of the lean-to and the hill. Mark, when you're ready, we are ready.
- The barn has been very busy with lots of visitors, especially from out of state. We're having a really good summer there.
- We're working on community outreach and letting people know what Byers is really about to get them participating or actively interested.
- The Boo Bash is October 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Silo Ranch – Dawn Raye**

Mrs. Raye shared the following with the Committee.

- We did not have our last camp. There was not enough interest for it.
- We did have the Horses & Horsepower Car Show last weekend. It was small. Our last one was a lot bigger.
- We had a bunch of millings delivered.
- We fixed up the parking lot.
- We have some trees in the front that are dropping branches. They need to be addressed because I think they are just dying. There are wires or cables wrapped around one of the trees.
- We want to put in the propane tank and plumb it through the wall.

Mr. Raye – We will get the tank and we've got the heater.

Discussion continued with Mr. Schoder regarding details of hooking up the propane heater, and getting the insulation done in the ceiling to avoid high monthly electric bills as the weather gets colder.

Mrs. Raye –

- We have SiloFest coming up in a few weeks; Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-10pm. We need some vendors.
- We have a few food trucks. We have a barbecue truck, a taco truck, a snow cone truck and a soda truck which also has unique desserts.

Director England will share SiloFest again on Facebook.

Mr. Berkheiser – I noticed in the mailing that you were in a publication.

Mrs. Raye – That was part of the Chamber of Commerce. They wanted to do a story on Silo Ranch. They came out and took pictures and asked some questions. We gave them some history. We've had a lot of interaction and calls since that magazine went out. People are calling for lessons, rides and events. People don't know the farm is there.



**Lakes Area Hawks – Andy Graham**

Mr. Graham shared the following with the Committee.

- We just kicked our season off last weekend.
- Everything went well with no drama.
- We will be out there practicing and playing games all the time.
- We'll play the National Anthem for Laura.
- Everything is running smoothly.

Mr. Krueger – Where do I find a schedule of your games?

Mr. Graham – You can go on our home page, the Lakes Area Hawks. We have a schedule of all of the home games on there.

**CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney**

Mr. Haney shared the following with the Committee.

- Our official season kicked off this last Saturday.
- We had some of our [MLS boys] teams play ... I don't even know where that team or club is from, but they travelled a distance. You could tell that they played because they tore up the fields. The fields are in the process of recovering.
- Our Rec Program, it includes our Juniors and Cubs Development Program, will be on Saturday mornings. It starts Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Our final match weekend for this Fall will be November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. If there are any games that need to be played after that, we will have a cushion for rescheduled dates.
- This might turn into an ask for forgiveness. On Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, we had special guests training at Dodge Park on Field #2, the Michigan State Men's Team. They trained there for two hours. Something was going on with their home grass fields, and their next game is on natural gas fields so practicing on artificial turf was not optimal. Three of our former players play for them right now, so they suggested the fields in Commerce. They made the road trip from East Lansing to Dodge Park. This place is getting famous. They beat up Field #2.
- We are helping Gavin get his project going. The park could really use the signs.
- Ron will talk about the trees later.

*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**

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- At the most recent Township Board meeting, I'll give you some highlights.
- We did award a contract for Richardson Center parking lot. Do you have any info on when they're going to start?

Director England – Jason was finalizing the construction documents to get signatures.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are we talking Fall or Spring?

Director England – This Fall.

Mr. Berkheiser –

- Okay. So, we will start seeing that over here. I think it's about 50 more parking spaces. Then you will probably have to consider how you want to split things out to designate parking.
- We also authorized the purchase of the Parks & Recreation software.
- The Silo Ranch roof was approved. We will tear it off and put a new roof on.
- We also approved a job description for a communication/community engagement person for the Township. I think some folks' vision for that is more like public relations, to help with social media. That will serve as the point person for the Township. A couple of you have talked about trying to get word out. Keep that in mind. We hope that person will be up and ready by the Fall or Spring. There was quite a bit of discussion on the job description.
- We approved some money to look at Victory Park and figure out what's going on with the old silos. I think we are going to dig one of them up.

Director England – We are planning to start the week after Labor Day.

Mr. Berkheiser – So early Fall we will start work on at least one of them so we can identify the issue and decide how we want to move forward. We approved an initial amount of money that we hope is enough to excavate and investigate.

Discussion continued regarding secure fencing that will be placed around the construction site. It should not interfere with the Dog Park or Wise Woods.

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

Director England discussed the following:

- Everything is in my written report in the packet.
- We are getting ready for our senior luncheon next week.
- Our participation continues to grow.
- We are still battling with pickleballers about parking on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Hopefully the new parking lot will help with that.
- Anything else is on the agenda.

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

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- We're getting ready to get the AED boxes from the Fire Department. We are going to set them up at Scarlet's and Maple Glen.
- We are continuing repairs on the bridges, replacing boards and making them safe.
- The observation decks at Long Park; one needs to be rebuilt. The other needs minor repairs.
- Power washing at Scarlet's is almost complete on the concrete.
- We are going to start mulch for the play structures.
- We're getting quotes for materials for the Silo Ranch restroom.

Director England – That’s for the handicap restroom.

Chairperson Petsch – Have we found anything out about the damage to the mat at Scarlet’s?

Director England – There has been a repair made. I've been working with Lance, our representative. We're pushing back on the company because it should be covered under warranty.

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

##### **Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park**

- I've only heard it. I haven't been there in a while.
- They have definitely been busy.
- Sorry, I've been to the Dog Park every day.
- The only thing I can say is, I saw a tree today and I wondered if it was dead.

Director England – There are some dead pine trees.

Ms. Waterworth – It wasn't a pine tree. It's on the west entrance to the right.

Mr. Schoder – Yes, it's dying. We plan to take that down and a couple others.

##### **Krueger – Dodge Park**

- I read in the minutes last time about the tree. I took a look and it's definitely a huge tree right at the end of the concrete. Leading up to it, there is another one that is leaning pretty badly. It's only a 12" diameter. If not for the poison ivy on it, there would not be any foliage on it at all. Both of those could go.
- As you continue down the path, after the dead tree, it would be a good idea to trim up some of those tree branches.
- Phragmites were brought up, but I think Emily is already working on that.
- The park was really crowded. There were 35 cars in the parking lot. There was also a kid with a motorized wheelchair, and he was having a blast going through there. It was really cool.
- Emily, there was a van selling ice cream.

Director England – When you see that, you need to contact the Sheriff. They are not allowed to sell in the Parks or make money on our property.

Chris Haney – I will let them know.

Director England – It's in the ordinance. When they get their vendor permit, it's part of their packet and they know.

Mr. Krueger –

- So, that's my observation on those trees.
- Mark, the area that you cleared looks really good.
- I went over to the Library. There are white pines growing up through the junipers. Can I dig those out? Do I have to get permission?

Mr. Berkheiser – Yes.

Director England – What are you going to do with them?

Mr. Krueger – I was going to plant them somewhere else. They're about 3' tall, little seedlings.

You cut back that one serviceberry under the sign. The serviceberry is kind of still there, but you've got a box elder and a maple tree that are doing really well.

Discussion continued regarding replanting the white pines. Mr. Krueger would work with Mr. Schoder.

Mr. Krueger – Other than that, the parks are really looking good. People are enjoying themselves. I saw people on the playground by the Library.

**Walker – Maple Glen**

- Maple Glen looked good.
- I went through there last week.
- It was not busy, but it was 8:00am.
- Everything looked good.

Mr. Schoder – It's a little bumpy in that one area.

**Petsch – Bicentennial Park**

- Things have been slow the last few times I've been at Bicentennial.
- Everything seems okay.

Director England – We caught a kid doing burnouts in the parking lot. We were able to catch him on our camera. OCSO was able to identify him, and they have charged him with reckless driving.

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

- No issues at Snowy Ridge.
- At Long Park, Mark, there's paint on the bridge.

Mr. Schoder – We're going to try to clean that first. If not, we will get a stain to match it and go over it.

Vecellio – The pathway that leads to the condos; is that going to grow over?

Director England – Per EGLE, we cannot maintain that. It was never meant to be a path. Unfortunately, that means it can't be mowed any more.

Vecellio – Okay. What is the overlook you're going to fix? Is it the one with the steps?

Mr. Schoder – Yes. It has to be taken down. We have to reset it and rebuild it.

**Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race**

- I already spoke with Emily about my question regarding Byers, specifically the Road Commission's area. She said Mark is going to open that caution tape up this week sometime, by the Byers bridge.
- As far as Mill Race goes, I think I'll have more questions [inaudible] about putting the signage on the other side.

**Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park**

- Access to the park is a little troubling with Wise Road being closed down. You can't get to it very quickly.
- You heard comments regarding Victory Park.
- There's not much on the Wise Woods side.
- I'm unsure of the status of the well.

Director England – We are waiting to hear back from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Berkheiser – We've been waiting a while for that.

Director England – We were waiting on the County, who then went to EGLE, and EGLE went to the Army Corps of Engineers. Now we are waiting for that meeting for them to give us the approval to put the well where they told us we could put it. That developed over the last two weeks.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay. We might want to reach out to our representatives for help. The other thing I didn't mention earlier is that the Board approved a camera system upgrade. You'll see in your packet that we're looking at another camera. I think it's unfortunate we have to put them in our parks to make sure we can catch people doing things. I think as we get electric and everything else in the pavilion over at Victory Park, we will have to put in cameras.

Director England – They were putting the footings in today for that pavilion.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, good. Is the goal with the well that it will service both sides of the park?

Director England – Where they're making us put it, yes, it would.

Mr. Berkheiser – What is the purpose of the well?

Director England – It's for a drinking fountain and a potential future restroom facility.

Chairperson Petsch – Water for the dogs.

Discussion continued regarding the Victory Park well.

**ITEM 6: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE**

Ms. Waterworth discussed the following with the Committee:

- The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Corn Roast Festival is Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 12pm to 5pm. A corn hole competition is at 1pm. Registration is closed.
- At 3:30 there will be a Kids' Pie-Eating Contest.
- The band is 2XL.
- There are \$5 wristbands for kids for the activities, which includes inflatables, pony rides, petting zoo and more.
- They will have hot dogs, chips, snacks and pop.

**ITEM 7: PARK SECURITY CAMERAS**

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- As Bob just discussed, last month we did get approval to upgrade our Sonitrol camera systems within our Township buildings. However, upon further discussion of what Sonitrol can and cannot do, and our experience at Scarlet's, we don't feel that is the best company to put into our Parks' systems. Their software and cameras are not holding up. Ben is developing an RFP to find the best camera system to put in our Parks and stop the vandalism.
- The Parks we identified were Dodge & Scarlet's, Bicentennial Park, Victory Park around the perimeter of the Dog Park, and here at the Richardson Center. Here, we will be able to extend our Sonitrol cameras to the new restroom facility, but getting them to the pickleball courts is a different story. Their wireless systems just don't work well.
- So, this is in here for your review. Do you think there's something missing, or another park we should be focused on?

Ms. Waterworth – Why around the Dog Park?

Director England – The fencing, the vandalism.

Ms. Waterworth – Oh, okay.

Director England – If you are comfortable with this, we will move forward. But, I want to make sure I'm not missing any areas.

Ms. Schwartz – Is the goal to have this expandable if possible?

Director England – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – At the Board meeting, there were comments of trying to keep it consistent throughout the Township. The Sonitrol piece is new since the meeting, yes?

Director England – We had discussion about this.

Mr. Berkheiser – I don't remember you saying that Sonitrol would not work in the Parks.

Director England – Their wireless system software is not good. So, can they submit for our RFP? Sure.

Mr. Berkheiser – Well, anybody can.

Director England – I don't think they work well in the elements. If they can be hardwired in, great. But we don't always have that capability.

Ms. Vecellio – What's at the M-5 ...

Director England – That's a Verkada camera. I really like those.

Ms. Schwartz – Are there several systems throughout the Township?

Director England – It's between those two. With the Verkada cameras, we purchased those. You own them. Sonitrol has been used throughout the Township buildings because it's also our key access and it keeps everything consistent.

Mr. Berkheiser – As I have travelled over the last year or two, I've sent you pictures of different systems, such as ones that have solar panels. Were you able to get any information from those?

Director England – I haven't yet, but we will target those when the RFP is submitted.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are we just putting out an RFP based on Ben, or are we going to see it first? Is there any reason for us to see it first?

Director England – I don't think so. As long as we have the coverage areas. As Krystal said, we can expand upon this if we feel the need to put them somewhere else.

Mr. Berkheiser – So, what are you looking for?

Director England – Just to make sure I didn't miss anything. I did put this in the General Fund budget as a capital outlay improvement. Ben felt \$60,000 was a good number.

Mr. Berkheiser – So all of these parks have electricity. Is there a reason they can't be hardwired?

Director England – It depends on the company. With Sonitrol, if it's not temperature controlled, they won't work.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay. So, it's not just a matter of being hardwired then. Do they require their own cabling, or when you plug it in, is it good to go?

Director England – We don't know. I'm sure we will see all of the differences.

### **ITEM 8: BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- I want to quickly go through what I have down for the General Fund budget.
  - We are going to continue the phragmites treatments.
  - Continue to refresh our woodchips on the play structures.
  - Crushed limestone is always the standard for Long Park.

- It's time to replace the sand in our volleyball courts.
- Wood repairs to bridges and observation decks.
- Install security lighting in the parks as needed. We will find out how that's going to play in with the camera systems. Some cameras may have lighting on them.
- As far as Capital Outlays, I have:
  - Picnic tables; we will need them at the new pavilion at Victory
  - As always, I have signs on here, and then our security cameras
  - Is everybody comfortable with that?

Mr. Berkheiser – Mark, do we bolt down our picnic tables?

Mr. Schoder – We do not. We do chain them together.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, so they are somewhat secure.

Director England –

- Okay, everybody is good with the General Fund.
- Let's discuss the Open Space budget.
  - The projected revenue is what I told you in the email I sent out. It's \$996,825.00. That is what is projected to come in with the millage collection.
  - Our cash balance currently is \$2,778,531.87.
  - Included in your packet are last year's projections. I would ask you to go park by park, and then prioritize.
- Victory Park
  - I'm going to say that Victory Park still needs about \$100,000 for the well, if they make us use copper.
  - Is there anything else you would like to budget for Victory?

Chairperson Petsch – So, we've got the pavilion, the parking lot, the Dog Park. The well is really the only other thing we need there, correct? We've got lighting.

Ms. Waterworth – Where would extra waste cans be placed?

Director England – We would use Priority Waste.

Mr. Schoder – Yes.

Chairperson Petsch – You would like \$100,000 for that?

Director England – I mean, if you want to look at the potential of a restroom facility next year ...

Mr. Berkheiser – Next year. Let's wait and see what we do with this one.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes, let's see where we're at. We can always amend the budget.

Director England – Okay, so \$100,000.



Chairperson Petsch – Yes. Union Lake, we’ve got that covered, don’t we?

Director England –

- The Canoe & Kayak Launch
  - For the kayak launch, we had discussion about putting in a fishing dock so they are not utilizing the kayak launch as a fishing dock.
  - I think \$150,000 is fair. I think that will be over.

Chairperson Petsch – I'm sure that's well over. Everything else is pretty much under control over there.

Mr. Berkheiser – The only thing we had talked about is a pavilion. We did not pour concrete out there, did we?

Director England – No.

Mr. Berkheiser – We are trying to get fishermen and everybody else off of the handicap dock. If I remember, we own all the way on the west side of the lake, toward the road, we own all of that, all the way toward the houses.

Chairperson Petsch – There's no room there.

Mr. Berkheiser – There's some space over there to put a dock.

Chairperson Petsch – Yes, a dock, I'm all for it.

Mr. Berkheiser – Part of my concern is that if you put the dock over from there, you'll just have boats tying up to it.

Chairperson Petsch – If we go down 50 yards to the south, that's a good fishing spot.

Mr. Berkheiser – Correct. I think we look at a floating dock or something out there for fishing.

Director England – So no pavilion, but maybe picnic tables?

Chairperson Petsch – We could put a few picnic tables, but we don't have room for a pavilion.

Mr. Berkheiser – You have room for a pavilion if you put it closer.

Mr. Schoder – At the north end.

Mr. Berkheiser – At the north end.

Discussion continued regarding the dock and a potential pavilion.

Mr. Berkheiser – By putting the \$150,000, there's several options there. And there needs to be signs that say “No Fishing Off The Handicap Dock”

Director England – We'll see what we can do with it. Okay.

Ms. Waterworth – When I mentioned trash cans, I meant dog waste cans, not trash; like extra dog waste bins.

Director England – We will use trash bins.

Discussion continued regarding trash pickup at the Parks.

Chairperson Petsch – All right. Richardson Center. We had \$1 million there.

Director England –

- Richardson Center
  - \$1 million was last year.
  - I think we have completed what we wanted to complete; the restroom facility, overflow parking and the pathway extension.
  - The only thing I would like to consider at some point is replacing the playground out there and making it all-inclusive like Scarlet's.

Mr. Berkheiser – We had talked about the potential for an ice skating rink. Does anybody ever use the sand volleyball court?

Chairperson Petsch – It used to be very busy.

Director England – People do use it. Somebody emails me once a week about it to let me know they'll use it. So how much ...

Mr. Berkheiser – I'm not looking for us to buy it and do it. I was hoping we could find a vendor to provide the service for a time frame to see if it's something that would be used by the Township. If it's not used, then we won't do that.

Discussion continued regarding a potential ice rink at Richardson, third-party vendors, rinks in Detroit and Milford, and available options.

Director England and Ms. Waterworth discussed the 5-year Parks Master Plan. Director England noted that for Richardson, in the 5-year Plan, the following were included: outdoor restrooms, trail extension, signage for trail system, parking expansion, update play equipment, kayak/canoe launch, boardwalk to the lake. She added that funds budgeted for this year were used, but not all of the projects identified in the Plan were done yet.

Director England – As far as bringing in a vendor, there are 2025 funds for that. If the rink were to be a permanent structure, it would be out of the 2026 budget. So, for the 2026 budget, we can look at adding the pathway down and opening it up to Reed Lake.

Chairperson Petsch – So, allocate \$150,000? Or more?

Director England – I'm thinking like \$400,000 to \$500,000 if you want the pathway to go all the way to the lake.

Chairperson Petsch – Are you talking about building a boarded wooden pathway?

Director England – Some of it would be, yes.

Chairperson Petsch – And we still don't know how many feet that would be.

Director England – I don't have that in front of me, but I did look at it.

Ms. Schwartz – We also talked about having it wide enough to possibly be able to run your kayak down.

Vice Chairperson Walker – So, you want \$400,000 to \$500,000 for Richardson Center.

Director England – Yes.

- Mill Race & Byers \$100,000

Chairperson Petsch – Emily, we've got that situation with the bridge taken care of?

Director England – Yes, it's secure. Mark and his guys have gone through and ...

Chairperson Petsch – But we haven't gotten Rousseaux over to ...

Director England – He was reviewing the quotes he gave me and making sure those are still current so we can insert that.

Chairperson Petsch – Are we okay with the budget we have there to leave that alone? If we put that bridge in, I would like to see it give us access to get in there with equipment to defoliate that and get some sunlight in.

Mr. Schoder – That was one of the quotes we got, because we do need access.

Chairperson Petsch – Right, for an ambulance and everything else.

Director England – \$100,000 for Mill Race.

Chairperson Petsch – Will that be adequate to roll that same budget?

Director England – \$100,000 Mill Race and \$25,000 for Byers.

Chairperson Petsch – We can always amend the budget.

Director England –

- Hickory Glen & Maple Glen
  - I would keep these the same at \$100,000 each.

Ms. Waterworth discussed forestry management with Director England. Mr. Krueger noted the trees at Byers. Director England stated that forestry and tree management plan is listed under Mill Race and Byers.

Director England –

- Long Park \$50,000
  - Aquatic Vegetation & Management

Ms. Vecellio – That's essential.

Chairperson Petsch – Is the number still good for that?

Director England – I think so. I messaged that company today.

Chairperson Petsch – Dodge, we have \$25,000 for general use. Is lighting at Snowy Ridge happening?

Director England – We haven't addressed that yet. We can keep that the same, Snowy Ridge \$10,000.

Chairperson Petsch – Wise Woods signage ... we have the new sign up front.

Director England – It would be internal signage to go along with what the Scouts have done. We don't need to specify it, but we can keep Wise Woods at \$10,000. And then how would you rank these as priorities? According to last year's priority list, it would be:

1. Mill Race & Byers
2. Long Park
3. Hickory Glen

Chairperson Petsch – Why don't we have anything for Bicentennial?

Director England – We can budget for Bicentennial, \$25,000.

Chairperson Petsch – I think that is adequate.

Director England – Okay. I have what I need. Does anybody have any questions? I will send a summary to everybody.

Mr. Berkheiser – What does the millage provide each year?

Director England - \$996,825.

Mr. Berkheiser – So we're over budget.

Director England – We have \$2.7 million.

Mr. Berkheiser – I understand, but what we've allotted here is almost \$1.1 million, and we're bringing in \$996,000. So, we are roughly over \$150,000 over. When we plan, we should spend what we have projected coming in. What's in the fund balance?

Director England - \$2.7 million.

Mr. Berkheiser – Less what we have for stuff we've already ...

Director England – \$1.7 million.

Mr. Berkheiser – So, when you pay for the stuff we've already approved, there's still \$1.7 million in the fund balance?

Director England – Yes.

Ms. Waterworth – Is there a minimum to maintain?

Director England – No.

Ms. Waterworth – So in this case, we have a little extra if we go over.

Mr. Berkheiser – So I think this year, we should consider taking a more proactive effort in what we want to see done in each of our parks. We need to get it done. I think we have talked about forestry management plans every year for the last 10 years, and I have yet to see one. We've talked about a lot of stuff on here that we have yet to see get done. I think it is partly our responsibility to try to push that a little bit.

Ms. Schwartz – We've done a lot of big fun stuff. Now, we need to do forestry management. We need to put in the fishing dock at the kayak launch to complete the project and protect our investment. Those are important.

Mr. Berkheiser – Yes, we need to make a little more effort. Not just look at our parks but keep things moving forward.

#### **ITEM 9: PARK IMPROVEMENT UPDATES**

Director England –

- We have discussed the majority.
- The restroom, the parking lot here, and the pathway will be a Fall project we complete this year.
- The roof at Silo Ranch will be a complete redo.
- Victory is a big question mark until we open it and learn what we are dealing with. I'll keep you updated.

**ITEM 10: PARK EVENT UPDATES**

Director England –

- Get ready for our Trail or Treat on October 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have a table set up for you.
- Our next event is the Christmas Tree Lighting.

**ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS**

- Mr. Berkheiser discussed clearing of scrub and brush.
- Mr. Krueger asked if there is a uniform style of signage for the Parks. Chairperson Petsch replied that there is.

**The next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2025, at 7:00PM, after the 6:00PM park visit at Mill Race & Byers.**

**ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Waterworth, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

---

Krystal Schwartz, Secretary