

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

*Monday, February 24, 2020*

2009 Township Drive  
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Kast called the meeting to order at 6:00pm at the Township Hall.

**ROLL CALL: Present:**

- Rachel Kast, Chairperson
- Tim Wichert, Vice Chairperson
- Michelle Holmes, Secretary
- Bob Berkheiser
- Linda Champagne
- Barbara Garbutt
- William Petsch

**Also Present:** Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks and Recreation

James Thurston, Boy Scout Troop 308, was present to observe the meeting as he works towards a merit badge to become an Eagle Scout.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Champagne, seconded by Berkheiser, to approve the January 27, 2020, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes, as submitted.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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

**Interlakes Girls Softball – Tim Bailey**

Mr. Bailey reported on the following:

- There are 250+ girls that registered for softball, the same as last year.
- Practice is scheduled to begin on March 14, 2020.
- They are contemplating getting a storage container to hold equipment. He will report back to the committee on the type of container and location.
- Clean up day is scheduled for April 11, 2020.
- There are two trees at the island near the south side of the parking lot that needs to be cut down.

**ITEM 1: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT**  
**(continued)****Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz, Janice Buchanan**

Mr. Schantz reported on the following:

- There were approximately 35 people enjoying the park yesterday.
- They had their first young person (18 years old) from Walled Lake Northern High School sign up to be a member of Friends of Byers.
- Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society will hold the Oakland County Bicentennial Celebration on March 28, 2020. They are coordinating activities and celebrations with communities and other organizations. They will pass out oak tree seedlings and every community will get an oak tree to plant to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. He would like to see Commerce Township take part in the celebration.
- A calendar will be for sale featuring images from the 1916 Centennial celebration.
- Clean up day will be in May, 2020.

**CW3 Soccer – Todd Lamb**

Mr. Lamb reported on the following:

- Registration is slow.
- Waiting for the snow to melt so they can begin work on the fields.
- They would like to put up a sign during the summer to advertise field 4.
- They may have an issue with some trees this Fall. There are some branches that are beginning to get low and will need to be trimmed.
- Clean up is not yet scheduled.

Cary Hancock, Windmill Farms, said the Township Board approved extending her contract through the end of the 2020 year. She has partnerships with local student equestrian groups from area schools. There is a citizen group that is helping to promote the farm. She will look into funding through grants to keep the farm going, but will need a long-term commitment from the Township in order to do this.

Mr. Berkheiser said they will receive cost estimates on what it will take to bring the barn/farm up to code at the March 2020 Township Board meeting.

Ms. England said public areas need to be ADA accessible.

Chairperson Kast asked if Jay James will obtain estimates from different vendors. Mr. Berkheiser said they will most likely go out for bid.

There were no representatives present from the following leagues:

- Commerce Little League
- Lakes Area Hawks
- Lakes Athletics
- MMBA

**ITEM 2: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Ms. England said she is working on new programs.

**ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Berkheiser reported on the following:

- They are looking at building proposals and design for the new Fire Department Building that will be built on Welch Road.
- There was no action taken on Michigan Search and Rescue because they did not want to provide an insurance rider naming Commerce Township as additional insured.
- The Board approved trash cans for the parks but not dumpsters. Dumpsters would have to be enclosed and the expense would be too high.

**ITEM 4: PARK LIAISON UPDATES**

**Berkheiser - Wise Woods & Victory Park**

- There is nothing new to report.

**Petsch - Bicentennial Park**

- There is nothing new to report. They are waiting for the snow to melt.

**Holmes - Byers and Mill Race**

- Keeping an eye on the water situation. Erosion is starting to occur at the trail. The Road Commission for Oakland County placed new dirt at the erosion.

**Kast - Dodge Park**

- There is nothing new to report.

**Garbutt - Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park**

There were a lot of people at the park and someone even tried to sled down a hill yesterday (snow was melting and the temp was in the 50's).

**Wichert - Maple Glen**

- There are two trees that need to be taken care of.

**Champagne - Hickory Glen Park**

- There is nothing new to report.

**ITEM 5: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE**

There is nothing new to report.

**ITEM 6: BYERS 2020 EVENTS/DATES**

1. Easter Event – Sunday, April 5, 2020 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
2. Antique Event – Sunday, August 9, 2020 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
3. “Boo Bash” Halloween Event Saturday, October 24, 2020 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
4. “Visit with Santa” Christmas Event Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

**ITEM 6: BYERS 2020 EVENTS/DATES (continued)**

**MOTION** by Petsch, supported by Holmes, to approve the Byers 2020 Events/Dates as follows:

1. Easter Event – Sunday, April 5, 2020 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
2. Antique Event – Sunday, August 9, 2020 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
3. “Boo Bash” Halloween Event Saturday, October 24, 2020 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
4. “Visit with Santa” Christmas Event Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM 7: WINDSCREENS ON BACKSTOPS**

Ms. England said the Township Board has concerns about placing sponsor logos on the windscreens. They felt this is advertising a business. They would like to see the Township logo on the windscreens in place of a business logo.

Mr. Petsch asked Mr. Josh Springer to provide a cost for windscreens with and without logos.

Mr. Berkheiser is concerned that if the Township has their logo on the windscreens and the screen gets ruined, who will pay for it to be repaired.

Ms. England said if we do this then we have to be consistent in allowing all leagues the same opportunity, if they request it. She said Mr. Springer was looking for sponsors to pay the entire price of the windscreens.

Ms. Champagne said it would be nice to have the Township logo on the screen and said maybe the leagues could split the cost with the Township.

Mr. Berkheiser feels the Township Board should pay for their logo and pay for half of the windscreens.

Ms. England will determine the costs and report back to the Committee at the next scheduled meeting.

**ITEM 8: PUBLIC PARK USE POLICY**

Ms. England recommends forming a sub-committee to work on the policy.  
Ms. Champagne and Mr. Wichert volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

**ITEM 9: CONCERT IN THE PARK 2020**

Ms. England said bands are booked to play music (Magic Boss is scheduled for July 24, 2020), food trucks are booked and the bounce house is secured. She is reviewing the possibility of having a beer tent.

Chairperson Kast asked league representatives that were present if they have interest in running the beer tent as a fundraiser. They said it is a possibility but would have to investigate it further.

**ITEM 10: AGENDA REQUESTS**

There were no new agenda requests.

**ITEM 11: OTHER MATTERS**

Ms. Champagne said she and Ms. England received an email from Carl Gianotti of Sponsorship Solutions, LLC saying he signed up with two other cities for "Movies in the Park", therefore he has no other available dates left. Mr. Petsch asked Ms. England if she would find out where the other "Movies in the Park" will be so he can attend it to see how it is run.

Karen Schantz, Friends of Byers, said there are no pet waste stations at Byers and they would like to have one.

Mr. Berkheiser asked for an update on graffiti at Mill Race Park. Ms. England said it is her understanding they caught the girls who said they were trying to beautify the park and their intent was not malicious.

**ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Petsch, supported by Champagne, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Michelle Holmes, Secretary

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be Monday, April 27, 2020, at 6:00PM.