

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE  
2009 TOWNSHIP DRIVE  
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP, MI 48390**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**RALPH C RICHARDSON @ 6PM  
MONDAY, August 24, 2015 @ 7:00PM**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE RICHARDSON  
CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 27, 2015**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**ITEM 1:** League and Community Service Organization Report

**ITEM 2:** Parks and Recreation Department Report

**ITEM 3:** Township Board Report

**ITEM 4:** Park Liaison Updates

**ITEM 5:** Village of Wolverine Update

**ITEM 6:** ITC Corridor Pathways

**ITEM 7:** Byers Barn Siding

**ITEM 8:** Maple Glen Update

**ITEM 9:** Byers House Update

**ITEM 10:** CW3 Soccer vandalism update

**ITEM 11:** Revenue & Expenditure Report

**ITEM 12:** Agenda Requests

**ITEM 13:** Other Matters

**FINAL**  
**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*Monday, August 24, 2015*  
2009 Township Drive  
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Wichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Ralph C. Richardson Center.

**ROLL CALL:** **Present:** Tim Wichert, Chairperson  
Peter Pace, Vice Chairperson  
Michelle Holmes, Secretary  
William Petsch  
Barbara Garbutt  
Linda Champagne  
**Absent:** Bob Berkheiser (excused)  
**Also Present:** Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks and Recreation

**COMMUNICATIONS:**  
None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Petsch, supported by Holmes, to approve the July 27, 2015 Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Eagle Scout, Carter McMillan, 7634 Park Meadow Lane, Commerce Township, was present to provide an update on the bridge project at Mill Race. He reported that it was a good weekend and the project is 85% done. He had a lot of assistance from kids at his church, family, friends and Bob Berkheiser. They removed railings, reused what could be repurposed, took up the old floors and put down the new. He is still deciding on paint colors and painting remains to be done. He will be present at the next meeting with photos after the project is complete.

Mr. Wichert discussed the other bridge at Mill Race with Ms. England. She stated that Tim Emery would be going out tomorrow to inspect the bridge and get rid of the debris.

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

**Friends of Byers – Cheryl Quinn and Karen Schantz**

Ms. Quinn discussed the following with the Committee:

- The Vintage Market event was a success with 165 in attendance.
- DTE and Louie's Tree Service will be trimming trees.

Mr. Petsch suggested that DTE be asked to trim enough of the branches away so that when the trees are taken down, they don't hit the power lines. Ms. Quinn would work accordingly with DTE in an attempt to have them do extensive trimming and possibly

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None.

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even remove some of the trees. Ms. England also discussed Louie's Tree Service and their scheduling. They are currently working at Bicentennial, then Richardson, and she believes they are moving on to Byers next.

Ms. Garbutt brought up an incident that occurred at the Vintage Market event. It was a dispute with an adjacent property owner, and it was one of many that have occurred over the years according to Ms. Quinn and Ms. England. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the need for a survey to be conducted to define the property line for Byers. The Committee also discussed eminent domain and ownership of the adjacent roads.

**MOTION** by Holmes, supported by Garbutt, to recommend that the Committee requests, from the Township Board, a formal certified survey to clarify the boundaries at Byers Park.

Discussion continued regarding the lot line in question, the need to define the boundaries of the entire Park, a clothing donation box that was left on the site, parking areas, and brush cutting alongside the river.

**Abstain: Pace**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

- **Interlakes Girls Softball**
- **Lakes Athletics**
- **Soccer - CW3 (see other matters)**
- **Commerce Little League**
- **Lakes Area Hawks**
- **Michigan Mountain Bike Association**

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

Ms. England shared the following with the Committee:

- The tree work has been started. They've taken trees down at Dodge which has made a big difference, and they are also working at Bicentennial. The tree is down at Maple Glen which was behind the concession stand. They are planning on coming to Richardson Center next, and then over to Byers.
- The Long Park decks were approved.
- Newsletters were sent out.
- Darota, the new employee at the Senior Center, is working out very well. She's doing great.

**ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT**

Although Mr. Berkheiser was not present, Ms. Garbutt mentioned the recent letter from Supervisor Zoner regarding a woman and her children trying to cross the street at Dodge Park and the need for a crosswalk. There was a lot of discussion on the topic at the Township Board meeting about this and she thought there was also an article in the Spinal Column about it. Ms. England noted that she had an update on this item under Other Matters.

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**ITEM 4: PARK LIAISON UPDATES**

**Champagne - Hickory Glen Park**

- The park is very busy.
- I went through with my dog about 2 weeks ago and I didn't see anything to be concerned with on the trails.

Ms. England stated that football would be starting soon.

**Pace - Dodge Park**

- Nothing much to report.
- They are moving the pavilion soon.

Ms. England stated there will be a meeting regarding the pavilion and she anticipates it will be moved in about 30 days or so.

**Wichert - Maple Glen**

- No report, as it is on the agenda under Item 8.

**Petsch - Bicentennial Park**

- They are chopping some trees down and getting rid of some of the pines. The neighbors have been a little upset, but the trees that are being removed are already dead.
- It will be nice after the cleanup when the changes occur.

Discussion took place regarding pickle ball, roller hockey and other activities that could take place once the cleanup and improvements are made.

**Holmes - Byers and Mill Race**

- We've had updates already in the minutes tonight.

**Garbutt - Long Park**

- There are still lots of things overgrown, but we're trying to get the deck done which was approved by Township Board.
- Lots of people are at the park and there's always lots of activity there..

Ms. England added that the play structure was removed for safety reasons because it was literally rotted.

**Wise Road Park - Ms. England**

- I spoke to the architects and they have the plans which were presented to the Committee at the last meeting.
- This will be going out for bids soon.

Ms. Holmes discussed recent Facebook posts regarding Commerce Township and references to Wise Road Park. Discussions continued regarding issues with four-wheeling, trailways at the park, et cetera.

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**ITEM 5: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE**

Ms. Champagne discussed the following with the Committee:

- I sent out some information on the activities going on at the parks.
- The Inside Out Program is underway in conjunction with the DIA.
- The Vita Trail workout stations have been up for several months, and they just held the grand opening. It's really cool.
- The Village offices exterior renovation is now complete
- The pickle ball joint court was also discussed.

Mike Powell added that Council approved resurfacing and repainting of the tennis courts in the Village.

**ITEM 6: ITC CORRIDOR PATHWAYS**

Mike Powell delivered a presentation regarding the ITC Corridor Multi-Jurisdictional Pathways. ITC stands for the International Transmission Company and they own the power lines. He met with them recently and they have lifted their moratorium. They are now accepting applications for potential pathways to be placed within the corridors. Mr. Powell addressed the conceptual plan, reviewed the map of the proposed north/south corridor pathway, discussed the numerous communities that would be asked to participate in the project to create the connections, options for high traffic areas, such as M-59 and Bogie Lake Roads, and spoke to budgeting, funding and grants.

Mr. Petsch felt that this concept was already in the Master Plan and making the connection from north to south has been addressed. Ms. England stated that this could be included in an amendment. Mr. Pace felt it was a great idea. Ms. Champagne discussed funding options, including Tri-Party funds. Mr. Petsch noted that last year, discussions took place and it was stated that pathways are about \$1 million per mile. Ms. Holmes inquired about ADA compliance. Mr. Powell discussed specifications and requirements for the pathways, and the inability to make them ADA compliant due to the terrain and other issues. Discussions continued regarding the benefits this project would bring to all of the surrounding communities. Mr. Powell would return next month with an update on the proposal and feedback from other communities as well.

**MOTION** by Pace, supported by Petsch, to support the ITC Corridor Multi-Jurisdictional Pathways as suggested by Mike Powell and proceed to the next step to working with him on the project.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Champagne inquired about completion of the pathway on South Commerce and Walled Lake. It is a spot that is very dangerous, going from Central High School toward Decker Road. Discussion ensued regarding the overlapping communities at this location and ways to achieve this goal for safety purposes. This item warranted further review and discussion and would be included on the next agenda.

**ITEM 7: BYERS BARN SIDING**

This item was requested on the agenda by Jim Meenahan. As he was not present, the item would be carried over to the next agenda.

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**ITEM 8: MAPLE GLEN UPDATE**

Ms. England stated that the paving and hardscape work has been completed. There's still signage and some other items to be installed. The landscaping is almost complete. It's absolutely beautiful. Supervisor Zoner sent out an aerial photograph and it is amazing to see.

Discussion took place regarding addressing the issue of the trees that were removed in error.

**ITEM 9: BYERS HOUSE UPDATE**

Ms. England stated that Jay James had reviewed this with Supervisor Zoner. They are now awaiting his direction, which will make a difference as to how this is bid out. The purpose needs to be determined, whether it be keeping it safe the way it is, or to enable opening it up to more than 10 people.

Discussion took place and Ms. Quinn and Ms. Schantz both expressed their preference to have it open to the public and the need to add a restroom, plumbing, wheelchair ramps, et cetera. Discussions continued regarding the historical and/or museum designation, funding, structural concerns, safety, and having the Township take care of this investment at the Park.

**ITEM 10: CW3 SOCCER VANDALISM UPDATE**

Ms. England discussed the three bids, one of which was an actual invoice. The insurance companies will not cover the cost of the damage to the turf. They covered the sprinklers, the gates, and they would have covered the lost box which reappeared intact after the incident. She added that Chris Haney was trying to make it to the meeting to share the slides of the damage with the Committee. The discussion of reimbursing the league had been addressed at the Township Board meeting. It is the Township's park and technically, the responsibility lies with the Township.

**MOTION** by Petsch, supported by Pace, to recommend reimbursing CW3, for their repairs to the turf/soccer fields that were recently damaged at Dodge Park, in the amount of \$5,590.30 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM 11: REVENUE & EXPENDITURE REPORT**

Ms. England distributed the report. The Committee had no questions or comments at this time.

**ITEM 12: AGENDA REQUESTS**

- Byers Barn Siding
- ITC Corridor Multi-Jurisdictional Pathways
- South Commerce Pathway
- Crosswalks

**ITEM 13: OTHER MATTERS**

- Ms. Schantz noted that the storm door for the farmhouse is now stored in Granny's Pantry as a new screen door was purchased. She wanted to make

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sure that this was included in the record so that others knew about it and it would not be forgotten.


- Ms. England initiated discussion regarding the need for a crosswalk in the Dodge Park area. She and the Committee discussed options for push button activated crosswalks, and inexpensive large signage to alert motorists well in advance of the upcoming crosswalk. Public safety was addressed at length with regard to the traffic issues. Mr. Pace felt that costs should be reviewed in detail and compared for the crosswalk options that are available.
- The update on the Library was addressed. Ms. England stated that the bids were due August 6th, but she's not sure what has taken place since then.
- Chris Haney arrived and shared photos with the Committee members of the recent damage that occurred to the soccer fields in Dodge Park.

**The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be Monday, September 28, 2015 at 7:00pm, after visiting Mill Race and Byers Farm.**

**ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Champagne, supported by Pace, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

  
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Michelle Holmes, Secretary