

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE
QUARTERLY DISCUSSION AND SPECIAL
JOINT MEETING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**2009 Township Drive
Commerce Township, MI 48390
Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Zoner called the Township Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: **TOWNSHIP BOARD**
Thomas K. Zoner, Supervisor
Vanessa Magner, Clerk
Susan Gross, Treasurer
Robert J. Long, Trustee
Rick Sovel, Trustee
Bob Berkheiser, Trustee
David Law, Trustee

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

David Schultz, Chairman
Peter Pace, Vice Chairman
Michelle Holmes
Bill Petsch
Tim Wichert
Jennifer Hansen

Also Present: Phillip Adkison, Township Attorney
Emily England, Parks and Recreation Director

Item 1: Discussion with Parks and Recreation Commission

A. Richardson Center Architect

Emily England explained to the board what needs to be done at the Richardson Center. They would like to hire an architect to redesign the center to make it more user friendly for the seniors who use it daily, instead of just fixing things temporarily. Emily has met with Janet Bushey and discussed what CDBG funds could be used for. They are still waiting to find out if the architect could be paid with those funds and if not the money would come from the Parks and Recreation budget.

The board agrees that this is a well overdue project and there is definitely a need for renovation. The board suggested speaking with Chuck Kummer to do an initial walk through and get his opinion on what could be done. Mr. Kummer has a history of working with the township on many different projects and would be a good place for them to start.

B. Wise Road Concept Plan

Emily England stated at the Parks and Recreation meeting last night they recommend Township Board approval to accept the Wise Road Concept Plan submitted by Living Lab in the amount of \$13,900.

Phil Adkison, Township Attorney explained the deed restrictions on the property only allow for 75 acres on the south side of Wise to be used for active recreation which could include sports such as soccer, baseball, tennis etc. The north side of Wise can be used for hunting and possibly a small facility for restrooms or a pavilion.

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed with the Township Board their interest in moving forward with the Open Space millage renewal to be placed on the August 5, 2014 ballot. Ballot language will need to Oakland County Election Division by submitted by May 13, 2014. The Parks and Recreation Commission will need to have another plan ready if the proposal does not pass in August.

Tom Zoner commented on the millage renewal. He feels the voters will want to know what has been done with the Open Space millage money collected so far and will want to know what the plan is for the future if the millage is passed.

Tom spoke regarding the Wise Road concept plan again and asked if Living Lab is aware of the deed restrictions on the property.

Emily England stated Leah Groya is very familiar with the restrictions on the Wise Road property along with all other park land in Commerce Township.

MOTION by Berkheiser, supported by Law, to accept the Wise Road Concept Plan submitted by Living Lab in an amount not to exceed \$13,900.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. CW3

Susan Gross stated the Parks and Recreation or the Township Board should not feel like they have to provide all of CW3's needs and wants. It is a large soccer park they are looking at building. Susan feels the horse farm on Wixom road is a unique asset to the township and would like to see it remain. She also feels there needs to be mechanisms in place to prevent individuals or organizations from benefitting financially from holding tournaments in our parks.

Michelle Holmes stated more soccer fields are needed in the township. There was discussion on the growth of the parks recently and the need for more full time Parks and Recreation positions in the future in order to grow with the community and their needs.

Chris Haney from CW3 was present and explained his organization would prefer Wise Road property over Wixom Road for the location of new soccer fields. He stated currently most of their fields belong to the Walled Lake Schools and if they were to lose access to those fields it would be a big detriment to their organization. One objective of CW3 is to make sure the right information is collected on each property and the Township does their due diligence before making any decisions in relation to the their future in providing the children of Wixom, Walled Lake, Wolverine Lake and Commerce a place to enjoy and play soccer as they have for many years.

D. Forestry Plan

Emily England stated she budgeted \$50,000 which will cover the work that needs to be done in the parks. She is looking for the Township Board to approve the proposal from Mike’s Tree Surgeons Inc. for a detailed site analysis in the amount of \$5,000. Emily England will confirm with Mike’s Tree Surgeons, Inc if the \$5,000 quote includes all four bids and will bring back to the Township Board.

E. Other Discussion Matters

Resident Jim Meenahan asked if the board received any updates on the farm house at Byers.

Tom Zoner stated that Jay James is still waiting on reports.

Item 2: Discussion – BLS Fee Schedule

Bob Berkheiser asked for clarification on how the billing works for BLS runs.

Rick Sovel briefly commented on BLS billing, how it works with insurance companies and if there is a difference on how residents are billed as opposed to non residents.

Susan Gross stated Accumed does the billing for BLS runs, what is not paid by insurance companies is then billed directly to the patient. If the patient fails to pay the remaining balance then Susan sends the bill to a collection agency.

The Board asked of Phil Adkison if can the Township waive the unpaid amounts for residents and collect for non residents.

Phil Adkison stated he would get back to the board with that answer.

Item 3: Other Matters

Vanessa Magner confirmed the board members were still interested in the USDA doing a presentation regarding Goose Round-Up. She also stated all meeting agenda cover sheets are now being put on the townships website prior to meetings.

Item 4: Closed Session – Union Negotiations

MOTION by Sovel, second by Gross to enter into closed session for Union Negotiations.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Sovel, Gross, Zoner, Magner, Long, Berkheiser, Law

NAYES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Entered into Closed Session: 8:24 pm


Returned from Closed Session: 9:15 pm

MOTION by Zoner, second by Magner, to adjourn from closed session and approve the closed session minutes.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Sovel, supported by Berkheiser, to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY


Vanessa Magner,
Clerk, Charter Township of Commerce