

**PROCEEDINGS OF
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
West Bloomfield Township Hall Boardroom
4550 Walnut Lake Road
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48323
Thursday, July 27, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Green

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Joseph Green
Treasurer Merv Aronoff
Acting Secretary Margie Fiszman-Kirsch
Commissioner Michele Hembree
Commissioner Sally Wenczel

Staff Present: Jennifer Tucker, Executive Director
Joe Ketchum, Parks Superintendent

Absent: Secretary Robert Brooks
Commissioner Gerald Sukenic

Public: 12

PUBLIC FORUM

Chairman Green stated there were three letters received from Mary McPherson, Delores Dean and Kay Gallagher, none of which the Commission had a chance to read at this time. The Commission will take those letters under advisement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Aronoff, second by Wenczel, to approve the agenda as presented.

**Ayes: All
Nays: None
Absent: Brooks, Sukenic
Motion Carried, 5 to 0**

CONSENT AGENDA

Items A through C are Consent Agenda matters considered to be routine by the Commission and enacted by one motion unless a member of the Commission wishes to discuss one of the topics.

- A. Approval of Minutes from the June 22, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting
- B. Approval of the January Financial Reports.
- C. Approval of Prepaid Expenditures in the amount of \$403,299.14. Expenditures in the amount of \$125,447.25 and credit card refunds totaling \$4,643.00 for the month of June 2017.

Motion by Fizman-Kirsch, second by Aronoff to approve the Items A through C on the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Absent: Brooks, Sukenic
Motion Carried, 5-0

STAFF REPORT

Parks Superintendent Ketchum reported the park staff had been busy with normal rentals with over 100 shelter rentals so far this year. Little League has ended; there are a couple of corporations that play softball on the fields through July and August. Cricket has started in full force on Saturday and Sundays at Drake Park and Keith Road Sports Park.

The new roof at the recreation activity center was installed and completed from July 3 through 5, 2017. Seventy tons of stone was removed from the existing roof and the new system was installed on the old membrane. Photos were shown of the roof during and after installation of the roof.

After some heavy storms, some damaged trees were reported by the residents and removed from the trail by the park staff.

New windows were installed at the Drake Maintenance Garage. The original windows were 21 years old and were plexi-glass which were faded and not energy efficient. Staff did a great job in replacing the windows. Photos were shown of the finished product.

During early spring, there were a lot of washouts along the nature preserve trail. Staff repaired the trail. Trustee Rosenberg walked the trail and was delighted with the repairs that had been made. Crushed limestone was installed topped off with 3/8 mix to blend in. Grading is finished and looks great.

The Commission approved the purchase of new signs for all of the park entrance signs. Approvals for rebranding were done and staff is now preparing the entrance ways for the new signs. Staff will be installing foundations, signs will be installed, then new landscaping. This project should be completed by mid-September.

The Commission approved the renovation of the walking path at Drake Sports Park in June. Photos were shown to the Commission of the damage including cracks on the walking path and driveway where the cell companies drive on a constant basis to the cell towers to work. ADA accessibility requirements is the number one reason to redo the path. There are grade issues along the trail as well.

Commissioner Wenczel commented she took her stroller back on the path a couple of days ago and it was nice and smooth. Great job on the trails and nature preserve.

Director Tucker reported and updated the Commission regarding the family aquatic center. The staff reached out to the community to bridge the gap so that the residents that use the aquatics can have another facility with a warm pool. Aqua Tots located in West Bloomfield and the Costick Center in Farmington Hills are partnerships for residents that wish to use aquatics.

The Fall/Winter brochure will be in mailboxes in mid-August and will appear online before this date.

July was Parks and Recreation month. Megan, the marketing coordinator, put together a calendar of events which is also available online or in the office.

Last year at the strategic planning public meeting, residents indicated they were interested in pickle ball and staff was able to have turnaround time for them to reinstate the safety town pad into pickle ball courts. Currently, the courts are open. There will be a ribbon cutting on August 15th. A flyer was placed for each Commissioner.

Kids Kommotion Series for concerts are having great turnouts. The first Kids Kommotion was held on June 29th and then another one on July 20th. The next Kids Kommotion concert will be held on August 17th. All information is on the website for additional information.

Marshbank Music Series is in full swing. Concerts were held on July 12, 19 and 26th. Good crowds are in attendance with nice weather to enjoy the concerts.

Camp WB has an average of 45 kids per week with attendance increased from last year. The camp is state licensed. The nature camps is moving forward to having those state licensed, as well.

Shark Attack at the FAC had a moderate turnout. It was a warm day, staff did a great job in putting this together.

Registration is ongoing for nature classes including Sunset Pick Your Paddles, Mommy and Me Hikes, Outdoor Skills and Survival Day and nature camps including the Wee-Wilderness Explorers and Adventure Camps. The Adventure Camps are selling out; if interested, please attend.

There was staff training with WB Camp. It is required by the State to be licensed with 40 hours of training. There were 13 counselors that went through the training and was very successful. Nature Camps is moving forward to be state licensed as well.

Nature camps and adventure camps have been selling out. They are very popular and fun for the kids.

Next open hours for the outdoor play area is August 4th, 1 pm to 4 pm and August 15th, 3 pm to 6 pm.

Seniors 50 and up. New for the fall are five Tai Chi classes; pickle ball clinics; and a variety of senior resource trips.

Optimist Club provides food options at the concerts. Grill master Howard Rosenberg was flipping burger at the last concert.

Upcoming summer events include the Pooch Plunge before the pool is drained. This is a favorite and enjoyable event.

Commissioner Hembree thanked and applauded the department and said it is wonderful to see email updates. The website is very classy, easy to maneuver and to understand.

ITEMS FROM THE OFFICERS

A. Items from the Chairperson

None.

B. Items from the Secretary

None.

C. Items from the Treasurer

Treasurer Aronoff commented he has been receiving positive feedback from residents who enjoy walking, riding their bikes or running on the trails. Treasurer Aronoff indicated it is a beautiful experience. Treasurer Aronoff reminded the residents to warm up, stretch your muscles before exercising and pack an energy bar and/or water to feel better and eliminate some of the soreness from exercising.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive: Report from Chairman Green (July 13 at 6 pm)

Chairman Green reported the executive committee met on July 13th. In attendance were Robert Brooks, Merv Aronoff, Joe Green and Jennifer Tucker. The committee met at 6:05 pm at the Recreation Center. The Commission meeting agenda was discussed along with changes in employees, and interviewing for a replacement. Also discussed were the updates in reference to the aquatic center, partnerships with the aquatic center and how to improve services in the future. The next meeting is scheduled for August 2nd at 6 pm at the Recreation Activity Center. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

B. Finance: Report from Treasurer Aronoff (July 27 at 6 pm)

Treasurer Aronoff reported the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission Finance Committee meeting took place at Township Hall at 6 pm. Present were Merv Aronoff, Commissioners Fiszman-Kirsch and Wenczel, Director Tucker and Chairman Green. The Committee assess the budget for spending for month ending June which included the administration, recreation, parks operation and transportation departments. The data indicated line item budgeting for the year, the amount spent on each item for the month, the amount spent on each item for the year to date and the percentage of the budget spent on each item for the year to date. Revenues associated with property taxes, recreation and other sources of income were also provided. These figures expressed cash flow as well as amounts collected for the month, year to date and the percentage of the projected amount for the year. The Committee was satisfied with the positive results as revenues plus fund balances would more than meet spending for the monthly and year to date totals. The Committee reviewed the invoices, vouchers and pre-paid expenses for the month. Questions and concerns were acknowledged and all reports were properly organized. Items for tonight's agenda were also discussed. Next finance committee meeting is in August prior to the regular commission meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Approve the 2017 Employee Appreciation Day December 1, 2017.

Director Tucker stated, as in the past, the Commission had granted and acknowledged the employees with Employee Appreciation Day. Director Tucker indicated they would like to acknowledge the employee this year as well on December 1, 2017 which would entail the facility being closed at 11:30 am and the remainder of that day for that acknowledgement.

Motion by Treasurer Aronoff, seconded by Commissioner Hembree to approve the 2017 Appreciation Day December 1, 2017 at 11:30 am and for the duration of the afternoon for Employee Appreciation Day.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: Brooks, Sukenic

Motion Carried, 5-0

ITEMS FROM THE TOWNSHIP LIAISON

Trustee Jonathan Warshay thanked the Commission for his shirt from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Trustee Warshay stated there was a resolution that he offered to support measures to reduce and eliminate the effects of climate change. Trustee Warshay indicated he worked with other members of the Township Board and administration and this resolution was passed unanimously at the last meeting.

Trustee Warshay indicated there is a settlement with Comcast over the fiber optic network. The predecessor of Comcast which installed in all of the Township buildings including the parks and recreation building had ended. Comcast took the position that it owns it rather than the Township. The language wasn't clear and the Township filed a federal suit for a declaratory judgment. There was a settlement which will be on record to be approved. The Township will continue to use the network for a few years while building our own to have a more efficient network as technology is better than 15 years ago when the network was installed.

PUBLIC FORUM - Limited to 2 minutes per Resident for new topics

Ms. Kay Gallagher, Ms. Shirley Gardner, Ms. Tina Ward and Ms. Wendy Gosney spoke with their concerns in reference to the aquatic center and the lack of resources for seniors. Ms. Gallagher encouraged the Commission to read the letters sent to the Commission. They appreciated the alternatives being evaluated. Ms. Ward asked and challenged the Commission to keep all ideas in mind and hold true and steadfast to the mission which is publicized on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Chairman Green made a motion to adjourn, and unanimously supported. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Acting Secretary



Mona Freiburger
Recording Secretary

The West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission will provide necessary aids for access, such as requests for a sign language interpreter or accommodations for a disability, please contact Ruth Lyons at 248-451-1925. Please make your requests early as a week will allow us to provide seamless access.

(As a permanent record, an audio tape of this meeting in its entirety is on file and will remain at the Parks and Recreation offices where it may be heard.)