

**PROCEEDINGS OF  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION VIRTUAL MEETING  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Thursday, September 24, 2020 APPROVED**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Kirkwood

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Vincent Kirkwood  
Treasurer Merv Aronoff  
Secretary David Barash  
Commissioner Robert Brooks  
Commissioner Sally Wenczel  
Commissioner Hembree (Arr 7:40 pm)

Staff Present: Jennifer Tucker, Executive Director  
Joe Ketchum, Parks Superintendent  
Kelly Hyer, Recreation Superintendent  
Megan Kiernat, Marketing Manager  
Administrative Assistant Patricia Helson  
Township Liaison Warshay  
Township Attorney Greg Need  
Pamela St. Peter, Recording Secretary

Absent: Commissioner Sukenic

Public: None

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**Ayes: Aronoff, Barash, Brooks, Kirkwood, Wenczel**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Hembree, Sukenic**

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**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.

Approved at the 10.22.2020 WBPRC Meeting.

- A. Approval of Minutes from the August 27, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting.
- B. Approval of the August Financial Reports.
- C. Approval of Prepaid expenditures in the amount of \$201,315.22. Expenditures in the amount of \$43,049.56. Credit card refunds totaling \$4,161.20 for the month of August 2020.

**Motion by Treasurer Aronoff, second by Commissioner Barash, to approve Items A through C on the Consent Agenda.**

**Ayes: Aronoff, Barash, Brooks, Kirkwood, Wenczel**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: Hembree, Sukenic**  
**Motion Carried 5-0**

## **STAFF REPORT**

Executive Director Tucker reported that one staff member has been diagnosed with Covid-19. No other staff members have tested positive. Covid-19 updates: Offices are open by appointment only. Indoor rentals and indoor classes, drinking fountains including fountains at the dog park and Connect facility are closed until further notice.

Director Tucker stated that WBPRC partnered with the West Bloomfield Police Department and the American Red Cross for a blood drive; 35 pints of blood were collected. This is done in memoriam of Sgt Patrick O'Rourke who was killed in the line of duty.

WBPRC has started indoor composting at the RAC as one WB Parks Green Initiatives. The Girl Scout Monarch Waystation has been installed at Marshbank Park. This was provided by Girl Scout Troop 76057. This troop will be recognized at the WBPRC October meeting.

Splash Pad Progress is ongoing. The dump bucket is up and the building has been painted. There was a mountain trail that was made through four different properties which also cut through protected wetlands and woodlands. That will be deconstructed as there is no way to maintain this trail without trespassing on other properties.

Director Tucker said staff has learned that West Bloomfield has been designated as the 44<sup>th</sup> best place to live in the Nation by Money Magazine. The picture the magazine chose to use was a canoeing class and parks was mentioned as one of the assets of living in this community.

Recreation Superintendent Hyer reported on Recreation. Mother Daughter Tea was a special event that was held at the end of August. It was held entirely outdoors and butterflies was the theme. Staff has been meeting regularly with the Senior Advisory Group and in August another layer of senior programs was launched. These are small group outdoor activities such as parking lot bingo and yoga. Senior WB Parks Happenings will be mailed out next week. A senior concert was held outdoors with Covid-19 adaptations. Over 70 seniors attended the concert. Family programs were also adapted this summer; programs were sold out with waitlists.

The Fall Guide was released on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and the programs are available for registration online.

Parks Superintendent Ketchum said Parks staff has been extremely busy with every day maintenance such as installation of hornet/wasp traps. These are set up in common areas such as shelters and garbage cans. The dry hot weather leads to a lot of wasps and hornets.

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Drake parking lot construction has been a huge project. Staff had to identify and find the sprinkler system and sprinkler heads as well as underground utilities. Sprinkler heads have been disconnected and underground sleeves have been installed for repair of the irrigation system following construction. Tear out of the existing pavement began on the final day of August and a crushed limestone base was installed which will hopefully reduce some of the freeze/thaw movement of the new concrete.

Bloomer Park saw updated and rebranded signs installed. This is part of the ongoing process to update and standardize the signage at all the parks.

Mulch blankets were installed at the detention ponds at Drake Sports Park and it has since been pulled out as it interferes with future mowing. Staff assisted with the Pollinator Garden at Marshbank Park. Top soil and irrigation was added to assist in the growth of the native plantings.

Staff created the base for the sign at Splash Landings. Everything has been done in house including the footing and the box for the sign; the sign panels will be ordered from a sign company. A local mason will do the stone work around the base of the sign. Staff also assisted with the annual phragmite treatments in the preserves and along the trails.

Commissioner Brooks asked if there is a message to send out to the public relative to trails cutting through properties off of the WB trails. Director Tucker said a letter was created and sent out for the HOA that was associated with the illegal trail. WBPRC does not intervene until other properties are being affected or the land is being manipulated in a way that is contrary to the WBPRC goals as far as conservation goes. Commissioner Wenczel asked if WBPRC has ever considered mountain bike trails as an amenity as there seems to be a need for it. Director Tucker said other parks do have mountain bike trails but mountain bikes are of course allowed in the WBT parks. Mountain bike trails are not commonly requested at the WBT parks. Commissioner Wenczel asked if the Township has ever inquired about an expansion of the phragmite treatment to other communities. Director Tucker said the WBPRC treats the phragmites within the borders and there is a partnership with the OCRC wherein Oakland County pays half and WBT pays half of that treatment; this treatment is for the roadsides.

Commissioner Barash thanked Director Tucker for including comments from the residents and participants in the programs as it is nice to read them and have them be a part of the public record. He also thanked the marketing department for their efforts and all they do as far as getting the WBPRC brand and logo out to the public.

(Commissioner Hembree entered the meeting at 7:40 pm)

## **ITEMS FROM TOWNSHIP LIAISON**

Township Liaison Warshay reported that Hazardous Waste Days starts on September 25-26; September 25<sup>th</sup> from 1-7 pm and September 26<sup>th</sup> is 9-2 pm. St Vincent DePaul will not be participating this year.

On October 1<sup>st</sup> the Clerk's office is sponsoring a Flu Vaccine Clinic in partnership with the Visiting Nurse's Association. This clinic is from 2:30 – 4:30 pm.

The Township applied to the state to get payments to the public safety works and it was granted. Each public safety worker that qualifies will be receiving \$1000 through the Township.

The Township Board met on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Barash was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Township Board did a budget amendment for the fiber network as it will cost more than previously expected.

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## **ITEMS FROM THE OFFICERS**

### **A) Items from the Chairperson**

Chairman Kirkwood thanked Megan Kiernat for all she does. He also thanked Director Tucker for her continued leadership as well as the Superintendents for all their hard work.

### **B) Items from the Secretary**

Secretary Barash echoed the comments of the Chairman.

### **C) Items from the Treasurer**

Treasurer Aronoff wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also congratulated Commissioner Barash for his appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Executive: Chair Kirkwood**

Chair Kirkwood stated that the Executive committee met on September 24, 2020 via Zoom. They talked about the Leadership Training – Racial Justice Course. They also discussed the Drake Sports Park parking lot project; COVID-19 update and there was a Splash Landings update. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2020 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

### **B. Finance: Report from Treasurer Aronoff**

Treasurer Aronoff stated the committee met before tonight's meeting and discussed and reviewed the August invoices, vouchers and the monthly budget status. They also discussed the agenda items for tonight's meeting includes the upcoming audit. The next meeting is scheduled in October prior to the regular Commission meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A) Consideration to Approve the Renaming of the Splash Park at 6200 Farmington Road.**

Director Tucker provided some background information on this agenda item. On July 28, 2020, WBPRC received a cease and desist order from Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP law firm out of Nevada that represents KSL II Management Operations. KSL holds the trademark for the name "Splash Landing" and our facility name is considered "mark infringement and unfair competition". Megan Kiernat, Marketing Manager, stated that on October 25, 2018, the Commission made a motion to approve the name Splash Landing for the splash pad project at 6200 Farmington Road. The name was the result of a naming contest with over 800 participants that was part of the marketing plan to promote the new renovation. Staff went back and revisited the naming contest results and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place name was Lily Pad Springs. Staff agreed that the name is nature based, represents springs that are water coming out of the ground which is

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representative of a splash pad and keeps the integrity of the naming contest. For these reasons, staff is supportive of the name change to “Lily Pad Springs”.

Commissioner Hembree said she would rather see a play on the words for the original name than going to a completely different name as she thinks Lily Pad is very specific towards the younger generation and she wants to make sure the entire community is taken into consideration. Director Tucker said that after consulting with the Attorney, Greg Need, they were advised that trademark litigation is costly, difficult to win and the best option would be to change the name. They cannot use any combination of these two words or be similar to Splash Landing. Attorney Need is also looking into trade marking the new name.

Greg Need, Esq said these trademark cases are very fact specific. He thinks anything with the words Splash and Landings would still infringe on the trademark. He sees no problem with Splash Pad wording but any combination of Splash and Landing would probably not work. Commissioner Wenczel said lilies are native to Michigan and good for habitat for the frog species and dragonflies. They also create shade in the shallow waters. She thinks lily pads are part of the ecosystem and the fact that WBPRC can play on the plan to educate the entire community, she thinks this will reach a pretty broad demographic. Mr. Need said Lily Pad Springs will not infringe on any trademark. Chairman Kirkwood asked what will be done as a reward for the person who originally named the park Splash Landing. Ms. Kiernat said the grand prize was giving the child’s family free entry into the splash pad for the full opening year. She reached out to them letting them know they were the original winners and she thinks that prize should still be extended to them as well as also extended to the second family.

**Motion by Treasurer Aronoff, second by Commissioner Wenczel, to approve the Renaming of the Splash Park at 6200 Farmington Road to Lily Pad Springs.**

**Ayes: Aronoff, Barash, Brooks, Kirkwood, Wenczel**

**Nays: Hembree**

**Absent: Sukenic**

**Motion Carried 5-0**

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Kirkwood gave a shout out to the West Bloomfield Rotary Club for their efforts and donation at the gathering yesterday evening. Commissioner Barash said he is doing charity work for an organization called Free Bikes 4 Kidz – Detroit. This is an organization that collects bikes from around the greater Detroit area in any condition which are then cleaned, refurbished and donated. The donation date is Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Superintendent Hyer said there is a senior citizens survey on programming during the Covid-19 pandemic that is now open for responses. She encouraged any senior citizens to respond! Also, on October 28-29<sup>th</sup> there is a digital event among community partners with preregistration for \$10 per person. This will be an engaging event and she encourages everyone to participate.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, Treasurer Aronoff made a motion to adjourn, and unanimously supported. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Approved at the 10.22.2020 WBPRC Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Secretary David Barash**

Pamela St. Peter  
Recording Secretary

(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.)

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