

**PROCEEDINGS OF
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
Township Board Room
4550 Walnut Lake Road
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48323
Thursday, March 22, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Robert Brooks
Secretary Joseph Green
Treasurer Merv Aronoff
Commissioner Fizman-Kirsch (arr 6:15)
Commissioner Michele Hembree
Commissioner Jerry Sukenic
Commissioner Sally Wenczel

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

Absent: Township Liaison Warshay

Public: None

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Treasurer Aronoff, second by Wenczel to approve the agenda as amended, by moving New Business Item A before Staff Report.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Absent: Fizman-Kirsch

Motion Carried, 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Items A through E 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 February 22, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting.
- B. Approval of Minutes from the February 20, 2018 Special Commission Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes from the March 5, 2018 Special Commission Meeting
- D. Approval of the February Financial Reports.

D. Approval of prepaid expenditures in the amount of \$160,739.00. Expenditures in the amount of \$46,441.57. Credit card refunds totaling \$810.00 for the month of February 2018.

Motion by Commissioner Wenczel, second by Treasurer Aronoff to approve Items A through E on the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Aronoff, Brooks, Green, Hembree, Sukenic, Wenczel

Nays: None

Absent: Fizman-Kirsch

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

A) Consideration to Approve the Design Plan for the 6200 Farmington Road Property.

Director Tucker stated that they had videos in the Staff Report about the Splash Park as the Commission had requested so the presentation will be a bit different since the agenda was changed. Recreation Superintendent Hyer showed videos of local splash parks. The Commission will choose which spray features as well as the theme of the park. Ground sprays are fun for kids because they can be covered up which creates more pressure in other ground sprays nearby; they can also be in a formation to create a tunnel or spray straight up. There are also options to have indoor spray parks with retractable roofs to have 365 day/year play options. Superintendent Hyer said they want a structure that has a chance for kids to climb on it and has slides.

Director Tucker said they wanted the Commission to get a feel for the excitement that this splash park will generate. Staff is asking the Commission to approve the design so they can move forward with the tentative development schedule. After this is approved, staff will start with the permitting process and solidify plans so they can create specification documents and then go out to bid. After bids are received staff will come back to the Commission for approval of who they would like to construct the project. Staff will give their recommendations along with their consultants and they will vet the specific contractor before it gets back to the Commission.

Commissioner Sukenic said he has been in contact with Robertson Pools who has said that there are problems with concrete at splash pads breaking up after a year or two because of the constant pressure of these toys. Parks Superintendent Ketchum said he is not familiar with that issue. Every spray park that staff has checked out has had no issues with their concrete. The first spray park they ever visited, in St. Clair County, has been there almost 15 years and their concrete is fine. There are concrete issues all over the country depending on mixes; he is sure in the bid specifications that they will specify specific concrete mixes and there should be a warranty if issues do develop. However, staff has not seen any concrete issues with any spray parks they have visited and he himself has been to 20 or 25 of them. Commissioner Sukenic asked if the pad will be a pool deck or concrete. Superintendent Ketchum said they are in the planning process but he thinks it will be concrete; staff's experience with any deck other than concrete at these facilities is they have found issues with maintenance, peeling of the deck and issues with cleaning and bacteria; once a deck is painted you are in constant maintenance. Commissioner Sukenic asked if there are break down issues with these toys. Superintendent Ketchum said with any piece of equipment, over the years they will wear down. Again looking at St. Clair County spray park, it has been 15 years and they have had to replace some nozzles but nothing major and nothing has had to be taken down because it didn't work any longer. There have been some computer issues with technology improvements and just like with any swimming pool, there will be maintenance issues. But there have been no large scale break downs of toys and operations. Chairman Brooks said the motion has called out the amount of the entire budget and wondered if it should not be the full amount because that is just an estimate. Director Tucker

said it is just an estimate but she wanted everyone to be clear what that estimate is. Treasurer Aronoff said he thinks the word "projected" in the motion covers any increase or change orders.

Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch said she has an issue on page seven of the proposal in which the designer completely left out the legend and the Commission does not know what it is that they are getting for this spray park; there are no approximations or estimates as to what future stages of the project will consist of. Another issue she has is who the Commission is serving here. Her concern, which she has expressed all along, is the composition of the community and the very specific age that this splash park seems to be targeting. She understands the Township wants to attract younger families to the community but it seems too wide of a question as to how much the next few stages will cost and that makes her uncomfortable with the whole project. Director Tucker explained that this is just a concept. This is to give the Commission an idea of what they are going for and the excitement they are trying to produce with this splash park. The next stage, when they put together construction plans, that is when the Commission will see specifics. This amount is the original scope of what the Commission wanted for this park; it all depends on what kind of caliber the Commission wants as far as play structures. Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch said there seems to be a lot of places where costs could skyrocket and they seem to be going all the way to the top price and they are not leaving any padding. Chairman Brooks said when you go through a phased project like this there is no absolute bids; this is what the company they have given some early planning information thinks what the market will come back with for this project. There have been no official quotes from companies for this project. This is only looking at developments that have happened in recent times and some numbers were put together. These are general numbers they are saying the project cost could be and they are putting a cap of sorts on the costs with this budget. Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch said the majority of money in phase one seems to involve a lot of labor and construction and the Commission knows construction is at a prime right now. Director Tucker said they do build in a contingency. When the numbers come back they can then adjust the scope of the project if they need to. The Commission is in total control here.

Chairman Brooks said he expects the quotes will be line items as well so there is potential that they will have to pick and choose some things if costs do go higher than they expected. Director Tucker stated that depending on timing when these bids come back, construction may be at a lull. They are trying to do this project on a timeframe where they can open this park in the Spring of 2019. This is on a tight timeline in order to make sure they get the right kind of construction bids and they will be depending on the knowledge across this Commission to keep everything moving in the right direction and supporting the operation and asking the right questions. Commissioner Hembree asked about parking; they were given a certain amount of parking space in order to facilitate a specific project design. She would like to know how many parking spaces there are and how many people this splash park will service. If you have to look at the number of people able to enter the park, then you look at the number of parking spaces there are. She believes they gave up 30 parking spaces. Superintendent Ketchum said the State will set the capacity for how many people can be at the splash park. That number is based on square footage. They won't know that answer until they give them a construction plan. That capacity does not have anything to do with parking. Staff will then take that recommendation and may have to limit that capacity in order to accommodate parking.

Rasheed Shamoty (phonetic) said he lives in West Bloomfield and has just returned to this community after living out of the country. He is wondering if there will be another swimming pool available that people can use. A lot of traffic that came to the FAC is young kids, tweens, teens and young adults and everybody enjoyed the pool. He assumes the Commission looked at the population and how many kids splash pad will serve as it is likely designed for elementary school aged children. He asked what is there for older kids, teens, young adults and seniors. He asked if there are any other parks that take care of swimming needs for Township residents. Chairman Brooks thanked him for his comments and concerns. He invited the resident to look at the Commission's strategic plan and that shows how the Commission wants to move forward with the parks and have something for everyone. What the Commission had was an aging facility that they were putting more of the public operational dollars in to keep up than what was fiduciary responsible to do for the community. They looked at what that space could be used for and after a couple of years of study staff

brought forward what would be the right thing to put into this space. This plan is what has evolved after those years of study. Director Tucker said the Commission has put together a strategic plan that plans out the next 30 years. Parks and Recreation was putting \$300,000 a year into the FAC. Pools, in general, rarely operate in the black. What the Commission wanted to do was give the community more bang for their buck. There are seven high schools that all have pools, as well as Lifetime Fitness, JCC and Aqua Tots that has a warm therapeutic pool. All of these things the Commission looked at and asked themselves why they are in the pool business when all of these other facilities are doing it better. Mr. Shamoty said those places the residents have to pay for entry. Director Tucker said residents also had to pay at the FAC. Parks and Recreation has a partnership with three different pools that the residents can use for the same cost as the FAC. The Commission is trying to get residents an opportunity to get the same service that they were getting and these other places can deliver those services in a more financially responsible way. Superintendent Ketchum said the county parks system has two wade pools and the metro parks system has multiple aquatic centers. There are other opportunities for residents to swim and they are all tax funded by residents. The demand for the pool at the FAC was low and the costs were really high. Staff talked to numerous communities throughout the country and they have had swimming pools taken out and put splash pads in and he hasn't talked to one Parks and Recreation director who has not lived their decision. This will be a step above a normal splash pad and he believes that added pizzazz will draw in the tweens too.

Tina Moore said she has been an opponent against having a splash pad in West Bloomfield. Listening to other residents ask questions and receive answers from the Commission is still disheartening. She has consistently attended these meetings and heard other residents voice their complaints. There is a demographic of this community who is being disserved by putting in a splash park and would like to have use of a swimming pool. No one is in disagreement that the facility that was there was not adequate in terms of maintenance. What residents are asking is that there be some consideration to not just having a splash park but some sort of pool that will serve a larger demographic. These are the residents of the community yet decisions are being made by people who don't even reside in the community. She doesn't want to have to go to a different community to swim when her tax dollars are being used. She is opposing that a pool isn't being fully considered. Commissioner Sukenic said what he is hearing from residents is that they still want a pool and he wants to go on record as saying he does not want a splash pad. Commissioner Wenczel noted that the high school offers swim classes. Treasurer Aronoff said the township did have a family aquatic center for many years and it would have been nice to keep it and they tried as hard as they could to keep it; they made efforts to keep it but after many years of studying and contemplating it was just economically unfeasible. They township has a lot of programs for seniors and hundreds of activities for people of all ages but one thing the township does not have is a splash pad. He said he is excited about it because of reports he's heard from other communities around the country that have them in lieu of a pool that they could not economically maintain. It is possible, in the future, that there may be a plan for a pool but he thinks now a splash pad is a great plan and is well worth the money that has been budgeted.

Motion by Treasurer Aronoff, second by Commissioner Wenczel, to approve the Design Plan/Master Plan for 6200 Farmington Road Property with a project budget of \$2,476,244 including details as stated above.

Ayes: Aronoff, Brooks, Fizman-Kirsch, Green, Hembree, Wenczel
Nays: Sukenic
Absent: None
Motion Carried

STAFF REPORT

Executive Director Tucker reported that BS&A software initial implementation meeting was March 20th. On-site data collection is June 12 & 13. Onsite software implementation and data transfer will begin September 25th and conclude on October 18th. This is a major undertaking and staff will do their best to make it as seamless as possible.

The 2018 financial audit is going on; it started today and auditors are in-house. The auditor has been with WBPRC for three years now and it has been very smooth. The 2018 Spring Summer Activities Guide is at the printer and will be at the post office on April 2nd.

Parks Superintendent Ketchum presented the parks report. Staff has started to perform spring cleanups in the parks. Staff is cleaning and mulching landscape beds and installing safety surfacing in playgrounds. Staff is also getting ready for the Drake Sports Park Spring Fling. Sledding hills have been taken down.

Staff completed CPR/AED training which was hosted by the fire department. Staff members have been sent to FLEET management training; they learn techniques in preventative maintenance operations to make equipment last longer. Parks Department recently had delivery of 130 yards of mulch and staff is taking that mulch and putting it into landscape beds. Playground material was also delivered; this is an engineered product that is tested for fall depth to ensure safety.

Recreation Superintendent Hyer presented the recreation report. She thanked residents who have reached out to staff with thank you notes. They recently sold out a maple sugar program and were happy to have two new community partners for that event; Polish Mission and St. Mary's of Orchard Lake. There was an actual tapping of a maple tree, burning of the sap to make maple syrup and then a chef made pancakes for the participants. Coldwell Banker coordinated with WBPRC for a pet adoption day on April 28th. They will come to the RAC with a few rescues; there is a huge attendance of people wanting to adopt that day. Staff is looking for rescues to partner with the WBPRC for this event. This event will be 11:00 – 3:00. Nature Room will be open soon. Last year there were 150 visitors to the Nature Room. The Charity Cakes event will be May 12th. This is a partnership with local nonprofits.

Recreation recently hosted a program based on the Wild Kratz television program. In regards to senior citizen engagement, WB Parks is exploring forming a Senior Advisory Team with members of the community to help expand and promote activities for the seniors in the community. Staff is interested in knowing who is interested in joining a social bike club called Wheels to the Road; there will be a meeting on April 24th at 7 pm in the RAC. Summer Camp programming book went out to 30,000 households. This was a new venture for Recreation. April 14th is the first day for summer camp registration. Something new for teens is a Leader-in-Training program that will kick off in July. This is a program for teenagers interested in volunteering at summer camp. Spring Fling is mostly sold out except for the flashlight egg hunt. If the flashlight egg hunt sells out that event will be servicing 700 children which is WBPRC's largest special event. Earth Day celebration is on April 20th. Pre-registration is Friday at 3 pm. Seniors Dance will be on May 10th at Glen Oaks. There will be a live, 20-piece band and guests can reserve individual tickets or a table. Kids Komotion concerts are coming back with three night concerts and one day concert. The reason it is not a 50/50 split is because the evening concerts had overwhelming attendance; they were attended three times over. Native Plant Sale will be at the end of May. Last year they sold out of many plants and the sale was only advertised the morning of the actual sale. Staff is winding down the application season for summer employment in the parks; if you want to be considered please act now. There are opportunities posted for spring volunteers and summer volunteering opportunities will be posted soon.

Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch congratulated staff on fabulous upcoming events and she herself is really interested in the Wheel to the Road social bike club. She suggested sponsors such as a vendor for helmets and fittings and possibly bikes. She also suggested the police department who have a cache of impounded bicycles. Superintendent Hyer said they have connected with a new vendor who is a sponsor of National Trails Day and she believes he is coming to this meeting. He is also bringing out a portable repair station. Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch asked if Denny Troshak, Recreation Programmer, will be leading the walks this year. Superintendent Hyer said he is going to be participating in those but they are trying to arrange more than one person. Chairman Brooks said all the staff reports were outstanding. He took notes of several activities he is interested in himself.

ITEMS FROM THE OFFICERS

A. Items from the Chairperson

None.

B. Items from the Secretary

Secretary Green said he is happy to welcome spring and summer into the Township.

C. Items from the Treasurer

Treasurer Aronoff reminded the community that April 21st is Hazardous Waste Day at the Township.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive: Report from Chairman Brooks

Chairman Brooks stated the committee has had two meetings; one on March 13th at 6 pm. It was an Executive Board/Personnel Committee meeting. They talked about March 22n, 2018 Commission meeting draft agenda; 2018 Commission training wrap-up. The next meeting is scheduled for April 9th at 6 pm.

B. Finance: Report from Treasurer Aronoff

Treasurer Aronoff stated the committee met before tonight's meeting and discussed and reviewed February invoices, vouchers and the monthly budget status. They also met with Stacey Reeves from Plante Moran who discussed the upcoming audit of WBPRC. Next meeting is scheduled in April prior to the regular Commission meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

ITEMS FROM THE TOWNSHIP LIAISON

Township Liaison Warshay was not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch apologized for missing tonight's Finance Committee meeting and for her late arrival. She wished all residents a Happy Easter and a very good Passover.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. B. J.', written in a cursive style.

Secretary Joseph Green

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.)