

**PROCEEDINGS OF  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
Township Board Room  
4550 Walnut Lake Road  
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48323  
Thursday, July 26, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Treasurer Merv Aronoff  
Commissioner Fizman-Kirsch  
Secretary Joe Green  
Commissioner Michele Hembree  
Commissioner Jerry Sukenic  
Commissioner Sally Wenczel

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

Absent: None

Public: 2

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion by Treasurer Aronoff, second by Commissioner Fizman-Kirsch to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Voice Vote: Unanimous  
Absent: None  
Motion Carried, 7-0**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Items A through D 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 28, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting.
- B. Approval of the June Financial Reports.

- C. Approval of prepaid expenditures in the amount of \$231,008.93. Expenditures in the amount of \$116,637.88. Credit card refunds totaling \$4,400.00 for the month of June 2018.
- D. Approval of the Request from AT&T to add and upgrade equipment on the Drake Sports Park Cell Tower.

**Motion by Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch, second by Treasurer Aronoff to approve Items A through D on the Consent Agenda.**

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

**STAFF REPORT**

Executive Director Tucker stated that the marketing intern put together a video. Superintendent Hyer said this intern has been with Parks and Recreation since May and she has stepped in and lead a lot of projects and ran the social media accounts this summer. Staff was very lucky to have her this summer as she came in with a huge skill set of photography and an understanding of graphic design. She also led the project to get staff to put together bios for the webpage.

Director Tucker stated that on August 15<sup>th</sup>, Parks and Recreation will go before the Planning Commission for approval. If all goes well at the Planning Commission, they will go before the Township Board in late August. There is also going to be a naming contest for the new spray park. This contest is on the website and will also be in the brochures. Director Tucker encouraged the residents to give their best effort at this contest. Employee Highlight names Patrick Endres, Nature Programmer. He goes above and beyond to fulfill his duties, even running a day camp with no electricity and no A/C. The photo contest ends on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Parks Superintendent Ketchum presented the parks report. Staff has assisted the Recreation team with Kids Komotion concerts, summer camps and the first two concerts of the Marshbank Music 2.0 concert series. Park staff sets up the beer and wine tent. The change in the concert venues has been a huge success. There has been a lot more work involved in setting up these concerts because of the beer tent and food trucks. The change in venue has really been rewarding for staff to see the crowds that come out for these concerts.

USA Softball held a national qualifying tournament at Drake Sports Park on June 21-23. This was a fast-pitch softball tournament for girls ages 16-18 and highlighted some of the best players in the state. In between games, staff rakes and waters down the fields and rechalks. There were a lot of college coaches at the event scouting future college players. Michigan Generals is the team that supports the tournament and they pay to rent the ball fields.

Staff worked with a tree contractor to install six burned out light bulbs on the baseball fields at Drake Sports Park. Irrigation repairs have been done at Drake Road Sports Park. The wells have been upgraded and done a lot of repair work after last year's reconstruction of the path. Staff has also had to repair over 50 sprinkler heads at numerous park sites. Superintendent Ketchum stated that Paws made an appearance at Drake Road Sports Park for the Neurofibromatosis Walk. They usually hold this walk at the high school but the track was closed so it was held at Drake instead. He thanked his staff who have helped the vendors fix their equipment as needed during events. Staff has also proactively put out wasp traps at numerous locations in the parks around shelters and playgrounds.

Recreation Superintendent Hyer presented the recreation report. She said they have an amazing team here; Parks and Recreation staff and administration. Everyone works really hard. Staff is transitioning from summer to fall and not only working really hard on the summer events but simultaneously planning fall activities. Registration for fall activities goes live on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. The brochure should be in mailboxes by August 10<sup>th</sup> which is a little ahead of schedule. Some of the offerings include a Mother-Son Dance, a Princess Party, Superhero Get-Together and a Nerf Zone Extravaganza as well as a new dog obedience series and some new trips such as Tall Ships, wine tour to Traverse City. Recreation staff is also sponsoring a new opportunity for new residents of West Bloomfield. They can come down for a personal tour of the building and get to see the nature rooms as well as hear the inside scoop on the programs offered. This is an attempt to guide new residents on how to get to know their new community.

The Go-Fish event at Marshbank Park in June was sold out. Staff is trying to feature a live animal show each season. The first Kids Komotion concert was held in May and that was attended by a record-breaking crowd of 900+ people. The second concert brought out 750 people. The morning Kids Komotion concert had over 600 participants. Bouncers were put up an hour early and the Optimists Club is bringing in kid friendly food for their fundraiser which has been very well received. Last year staff added a make and take musical instrument table. Naturalists are at the event and a Parks and Recreation information table. The last concert of the season is August 30<sup>th</sup>, in the evening.

Superintendent Hyer continued by saying that Camp WB runs for 8 weeks and it was sold out in June. The kids take a field trip once a week to somewhere adventurous. They also take a weekly trip to Marshbank Park for nature play. There is also a water day once a week. Staff was able to seek out other community pools for swimming. Nature Camp is in full swing. They also take a field trip each week but it is different ages than Camp WB and there is a theme each week.

Upcoming events are:

Picnic in the Park	August 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Marvelous Monarchs	August 25 <sup>th</sup>

ITC Walks have been getting 30-40 walkers each time. There are only two walks remaining this year. A grand prize winner's name will be pulled at the last event. Volunteer activities are listed on the website for Marvelous Monarchs and the Great West Bloomfield campout.

Director Tucker stated that at this time of year, all of staff's jobs overlap. It is great to see these teams come together and help each other. Commissioner Wenczel said the Wee Wilderness Camp that her daughter attended was great. The counselors were so enthusiastic and made everyone feel welcome. She also has received good feedback from a lot of patrons attending the adult concerts and the kids' concerts. Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch said she was in Cleveland, Ohio this week and working with someone who lives in West Bloomfield and they had hesitated to accept the assignment in Ohio because he would have to miss the concert at Marshbank. She thanked staff for all of their efforts.

Superintendent Hyer said that expanding the events to 3.5 hours and adding a beer tent has been very rewarding. She believes they have increased the 20-30 year old demographic at these events. Staff quickly had to book additional food trucks because of the response the very first night; there are now four food trucks at each concert. Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch noted that the staff report states a Senior Advisory Team has been selected. She would love it, once this group gets going, to invite them to an upcoming commission meeting and tell the commissioners and staff where they think Parks and Recreation is doing a good job and some of the things that they would like to see happen. Superintendent Hyer said the first meeting will be August 1<sup>st</sup>. The ninth member is also a member of the Oakland County Senior Council. She will go back and report to the Oakland County Senior Council and will also be reporting to the Senior Advisory Team as well. Commissioner Hembree said the tour being offered to new residents is a

fantastic idea. When she first moved into West Bloomfield this is the place that she came to find out what is happening in the township. She would also like to see the concept grow from there.

## **ITEMS FROM THE OFFICERS**

### **A. Items from the Chairperson**

Chairman Brooks said he has come to many of the events and he would challenge everyone to allow the millennials that are working with Parks and Recreation this summer to push us because they are creating visions of what the parks should be in the future. Staff has to be open enough to want to explore their new thoughts. Additionally, he has received a few emails in this regard and he wants to let everyone know that the dates for construction and plans for the Family Aquatic Center re-do are on the website. He also challenged the operational team is to try and get a feel for where in West Bloomfield the residents are coming from for the events. He suspects that most of the residents coming to the concerts are from that end of town because it's very difficult to get from the south end of town to that northern area. He asked staff to look at that demographic and maybe with the re-do of the FAC, possibly do something similar to the concerts that could be done at the splash park after it opens so a fun event could be held on this side of town. He agreed that the team work among Parks and Recreation is outstanding and the work behind the scenes is phenomenal.

### **B. Items from the Secretary**

Secretary Green complimented the staff on the great staff reports and the great work they are doing.

### **C. Items from the Treasurer**

Treasurer Aronoff said he too has had many responses from residents complimenting the concerts they have been to and a lot of activities they have gone to in West Bloomfield. There have been a lot of positive reports that this is the place to be. He also reminded everyone that this weekend is the annual art fair. There is a booth where kids can make artwork and submit it to the fair.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Executive: Report from Chairman Brooks**

Vice Chairman Green stated that the committee met on July 16<sup>th</sup>. They talked about the July 26, 2018 Commission meeting draft agenda: Key Dates for ReFac project. They also discussed the August date to go in front of the Planning Commission and invited all of the Commission members to come and listen. The next meeting is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

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

Treasurer Aronoff stated the committee met before tonight's meeting and discussed and reviewed June invoices, vouchers and the monthly budget status. Next meeting is scheduled in July prior to the regular Commission meeting.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Consideration to Approve the Sale of Surplus Equipment.**

Executive Director Tucker stated that there is a list of surplus equipment that staff would like to put up for sale using Craig’s List.

Item:	Minimum Bid:
1991 Toro 322 Mower	\$500.00
1994 Alamo Brush Hog	\$100
1994 Land Pride Seeder	\$800
1997 Little Wonder Blower	\$200
1998 Giant Vac Leaf Sucker	\$800
1998 Aluminum Trailer	\$300
2000 Border Patrol System	\$500
2001 30 x 40 Party Tent	\$800
2001 Ryan Walk Behind Seeder	\$500
2004 20 x 30 Frame Tent	\$500
2006 GMC 3500 4x4 Truck/Plow	\$5000
2007 GMC 3500 Truck/Plow	\$4000
2007 20 x 30 Frame Tent	\$500
2007 Chrysler Mini Van	\$1800

Director Tucker stated that in the past there was an auction service that was used but Craig’s List seems to be more streamlined. These items have either outlived their useful life or have been replaced by another piece of equipment.

Commissioner Wenczel asked if staff members have thought about giving the tents to Food Truck Tuesdays. Director Tucker said they are open to that but then Parks will be responsible for putting it up.

**Motion by Treasurer Aronoff, second by Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch, to approve the sale of listed surplus equipment as presented.**

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

**ITEMS FROM THE TOWNSHIP LIAISON**

Township Liaison Warshay stated that Maple Road is now open in both directions between Drake and Haggerty. They are constructing a long drive from 14 Mile into the hospital. He stated that his club used Drake Sports Park last Sunday for a picnic and they felt very attended to. He thought it would be wonderful if there was some type of electricity in the shelters though. Mars opposition is coming along and will be the closest to earth in about 15 years.

There were two Township Board meetings in July; a special meeting on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and then a regular meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was some emergency repair work that they had to approve costs for; that work was done

behind Town Hall. The Township is also part of the 48<sup>th</sup> District Court with several other communities and they approved security enhancements at the court. The Board approved a site lease agreement with T-Mobile as well. They have been standardizing all the cell tower leases so the money coming into the Township is increasing significantly. The last thing the Board agreed on was Farmington Hills for plan review and inspection services.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

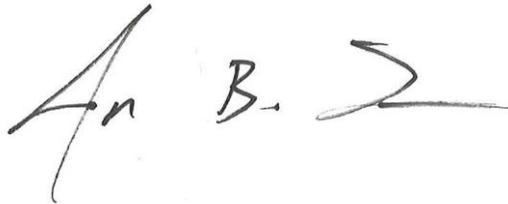
## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Hembree recognized the Adopt-a-Road committee and Oakland County. Last weekend was the clean up and it usually takes three days. She also thanked everyone who adopts a highway. It is a lot to do. She invited everyone to adopt a road. Chairman Brooks gave kudos to the residents who attend the events at the different parks. It is obvious that the residents care very much about West Bloomfield and they are very respectful of one another. The community and this commission reflects the diversity of the people living within in. Commissioner Fizman-Kirsch stated that on August 25<sup>th</sup> there is a Walk to End Alzheimer's at the Detroit Zoo. She is participating and she invited her fellow commissioners and parks staff to walk with her. Over 5 million people across the United States suffer from this disease and this year alone it will cost the nation \$259 billion. This walk does not cost anything to participate and she hopes a team can be formed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, Treasurer Aronoff made a motion to adjourn, and unanimously supported. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'An B. J.', written over a faint circular stamp.

**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.)