

**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, August 23, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Robert Brooks
Treasurer Merv Aronoff
Secretary Joe Green
Commissioner Margie Fiszman-Kirsch
Commissioner Michele Hembree
Commissioner Gerald Sukenic
Commissioner Sally Wenczel

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

Absent: None

Public: Township Liaison Jonathan Warshay

PUBLIC FORUM - Limited to two minutes per resident for new topics

Mr. Michael Sugar, West Bloomfield resident, attended this meeting. Mr. Sugar stated that he appeared at the Planning Commission meeting to talk about the special land use and site plan for the redevelopment of the Family Aquatic Center. Mr. Manna, Trustee, suggested that Mr. Sugar's concerns would be more appropriately addressed before this Commission.

Mr. Sugar commended the Commission for the redevelopment of the Family Aquatic Center. Mr. Sugar expressed some of his concerns to the Commission. One concern is in terms of the accessibility and universal design. He indicated that the plans looked pretty good in terms of the building but the plans do not show that there are power doors or a power door in terms of people entering/exiting the building for wheelchair use, a family that has a stroller or double stroller. In terms of the bathrooms, Mr. Sugar encouraged the use of a full size changing table. If you have special needs, it would be nice not to have water saving source faucets, which Mr. Sugar indicated does not serve the purposes that people need. In regards to the landscaping, Mr. Sugar stated it looks pretty good. Mr. Sugar suggested mixing up the native plantings, not a monoculture, which would also look nice off season. Mr. Sugar also suggested a milkweed butterfly garden to try to encourage the Monarch butterflies; they are not a nuisance but they only eat, breed and stay on milkweed. Mr. Sugar suggested labeling the native plants for the parents/grandparents to show their little children.

In terms of paving, Mr. Sugar encouraged the use of permeable asphalt on all of their projects. If it is permeable asphalt, then the water goes down and you don't have so much of a problem with runoff. Mr. Sugar questioned what was going to happen to the park during the nine months of the year that aren't swim season. It is a nice site for a mini park for people that want to walk their dogs. If you are going to have people

with dogs, you have to have features that accommodate the dogs, a source of water for the dogs, waste receptacles, etc. Mr. Sugar also questioned how the snow would be cleared during the winter months.

Mr. Sugar indicated there were some residents that live in the condominiums to the south who are concerned about noise. Mr. Sugar stated he looked at the site and there are a lot of trees and a buffer between the site and the south.

Mr. Sugar stated he thought the ReFAC was a great idea, it is going to work out really nice and is going to get a lot of use.

Chairman Brooks thanked Mr. Sugar as a citizen for having such interest in a project that is so near and dear to our community.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Aronoff, second by Sukenic, to approve the agenda

Ayes: Unanimous
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried, 7 to 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 July 26, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting.
- B) Approval of July Financial Reports.
- C) Approval of Prepaid Expenditures in the amount of \$265,978.51, July expenditures in the amount of \$86,418.79. Credit card refunds totaling \$9,838.20 for the month of July 2018.
- D) Communications: Letter from Resident Sugar

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

Ayes: Unanimous
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Carried, 7 to 0

STAFF REPORT

Executive Director Tucker stated the Family Aquatic Center is in the forefront right now. The Commission approved the plan in June. In August, the plan went to the Planning Commission. After approval from the Planning Commission, then it goes to the Township Board.

There is a naming contest for the Family Aquatic Center. All entries must be received by September 7, 2018. The final step will be up to the Commission to pick the final entry. Entries must be from a West Bloomfield resident. Grand prize is a free entry for the 2020 season for the splash park for a family of four along with some fun WB swag. Winner will have special recognition at the ribbon cutting.

Photo contest. The winner is Kevin Murphy. It is a big, bull frog. The prize included tree runner tickets and a \$25 credit to our parks and programs. Executive Director Tucker thanks everyone for their photos, they enjoyed seeing what people found in the parks.

Marshbank Music 2.0. There were approximately 2,500 participants over three nights. We partnered with Lakeland Baseball for the beer and wine tent. It was very successful. The attendance numbers were amazing that, commonly, would have approximately 300 people at every concert. There were improvements as the series went on by adding food trucks. All monies went back to the youth in the community from the beer and wine tent. Costco was there every night getting members back and renewals.

There is a blood drive in memory of Sergeant Patrick O'Rourke which will be held on Thursday, September 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the recreation activity center.

Parks Superintendent Ketchum stated that most of the summer seasons have gone back to college. There are some job openings right now, looking for part time, temporary help to get us through the fall and winter. The hours are flexible and, definitely, looking for people on nights, weekends, and during the week day as well. The Parks and Recreation department appreciates the help.

Parks Superintendent Ketchum presented photos of the staff at work doing some repair work behind Town Hall with drainage issues. A culvert was installed that will grow in some native plants, and hopefully, control the erosion issue. A West Bloomfield resident commented that she was appreciative of the repair work on this trail.

West Bloomfield Trail Repairs. There were erosion issues caused by turtles and deer. The turtles come up out of the water and lay their eggs, dig holes and we get erosion. Deer come up and make paths to also cause erosion. Staff filled in the areas with rip rap which is crushed concrete to, hopefully, stop the erosion, and lets the water naturally percolate through there. The rip rap came from the demolition of the Family Aquatic Center.

WB Woods Trail. The natural preserve trail gets a lot of use but also gets a lot of erosion. Staff goes in to make improvements by installing a bigger stone and topping it off with a finer mix.

Tree Care Trimming. Four park maintenance staff members attended classes: Two members attended an 8 hour class, the latest safety rules and regulations for arborists; two members attended classes regarding the most modern pruning techniques in trimming the trees. These are great opportunities and always appreciate the Commission giving us these opportunities to make us safer and better workers. Hopefully, we can save trees by proper trimming and pruning to have them live longer and make them safer for the public.

Irrigation Repairs. The staff went out and repaired five valve boxes for the sprinkler system. The valve boxes were over 20 years old and were cleaned out. Clay was dug out and replaced with sand to make it easier to get in and repair the system.

New Well House. Last year, a new pump was installed in the well house. This past spring, the old well house was torn down, we contracted out for some brick work and framing but staff had done the roofing, siding, trim, and doors. The well house was expanded, it is easier to work in and to get and fix the equipment in there. The talented staff saved the Commission money by doing most of the work in-house.

Parks Superintendent Ketchum stated that it has been a busy, good summer.

Recreation Superintendent Hyer presented her report and photos.

What's New for Fall. The Stretch and Tone program will be moving to Orchard Mall beginning September 4th. Orchard Mall offered space in the prior Annie Sez location. This is a free program for seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

New Outdoor Program. This is one of our yoga in the parks coming to our department for this fall. Registration is going on now.

Boot Camp in the Park. This is also a new program. It is ongoing and drop-ins are invited for this program.

Dance Program. This is our youth dance program at Drake Sports Park. We are offering some new classes, and we have added some different options that parents are now registering their children with great success.

Overnight to Traverse City Wineries. This is a nice trip. It is an overnight trip to Traverse City wineries. Two years ago, we did the Grand Hotel experience which was really popular. Registration is now ongoing.

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast. We have launched registration and it is free for veterans and one guest. Limited to 250 people. This will be held on November 9th. It is a community partnership with Orchard Mall as well as the Township.

Community Garden Update. The last two years, we have taken the community garden program and tried to give it a little more attention as far as following up with the gardeners, insuring that people are weeding and staying true to their agreement. Amy DeRosier took some great photos. It is picturesque and the pathways installed this year are really working. There has been great feedback from the gardeners. The gardeners have decided to do a share crop. On Sundays, they can pick their produce and leave it in designated boxes. One of the gardeners is voluntarily taking it to a local food bank.

West Bloomfield Today. Everyone will be able to read about enjoying nature this fall in unique ways involving West Bloomfield parks. Look for the article in the next edition.

Newest Animal Ambassador is a tree frog. We use them with our outreach, and with our camps. If you come in during open hours, or to pre-register for any of our program, you can come meet him.

Detroit Princess Trip. This event was sold out and we decided, once again, that the trips that we are doing, both on our own as well as in partnership with SRG, our residents want to explore. Our residents want to see unique things in Detroit and the regional area. There is a significant wait list for some of the programs and we are able to sometimes add a second trip.

Highlights from Camp. Photos were shown from the highlights of camp. Nothing but smiles while embracing nature and seeing what our parks have to offer.

Upcoming Events. There are a few spots available for our Marvelous Monarchs program this weekend. Check out the website for registration.

Also a reminder that our last Kids Komotion Concert is Thursday at 6 p.m. at Marshbank Park. This is free.

West Bloomfield Camp Out. Pre-registration is needed. This is a unique event to spend the night at Marshbank Park. The price includes dinner and breakfast. There will be S'Mores, fishing and other activities this year. The fun things planned all relate to glow in the dark.

Hay Rides with Naturalist. These are popular events which do sell out. Check online for availability.

Upcoming Senior Programs. Harvest Day lunch which is delicious and we provide entertainment. This is at Drake Sports Park. This will sell out, so pre-register.

Senior Health Expo. This is a partnership with Henry Ford. This is limited to the first 200 seniors that sign-in at Henry Ford that day. An \$8 voucher is offered for Henry's Café. This event features different guest speakers as well as vendor tables. This event is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Door to door shuttle service will be offered from Drake Sports Park to the front door of Henry Ford Hospital.

Commissioner Hembree commented that the blood drive planned is very important. The blood bank is much depleted to a five day supply. She encouraged the residents to come out to donate.

ITEMS FROM THE OFFICERS

A. Items from the Chairperson

Chairperson Brooks commended the entire staff on everything that the staff was doing including the new booklet which he thought was outstanding. The marketing is awesome. Chairperson Brooks indicated there were so many programs this fall and so many of them hit the mark. He gave kudos for the heroes with the Vets appreciation breakfast which is so dear to his heart. Chairperson Brooks, again, thanked the entire staff for their work which is really important to us as a community.

B. Items from the Secretary

Secretary Green indicated he had no further items.

C. Items from the Treasurer

Treasurer Aronoff applauded the staff for their work. He indicated that his 5 year old grandson was looking forward to the last Kids Komotion on Thursday. There are always a lot of good compliments from the residents. Softball season is coming to an end, everybody had a great time; pickleball players are excited about pickleball in the community. Everyone enjoyed the concerts at Marshbank Park. On Saturdays, there are activities for children under 5 years old at the library. There will be an introduction to the STEM education program where children learn about science, technology and engineering which starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive: Report from Mr. Brooks (August 7 at 6 p.m.)

Attending this meeting was Secretary Green, Treasurer Aronoff and Chairperson Brooks. At this meeting, there was a brief discussion about the budget workshop. The date of October 1st at 6 p.m. was proposed to all of the Commissioners. Chairperson Brooks indicated unless there is a major issue, try to fit this time into your schedule. That was the date that worked best for those that were in attendance, but we need to make sure that we have a full quorum. The next item discussed was the Lake Estates Board Resolution. The final item discussed were the key dates for the ReFAC which were shared earlier this evening. The next Executive meeting will be held on September 5th at 6 p.m.

B. Finance: Report from Mr. Aronoff (August 23 at 6 p.m.)

Treasurer Aronoff reported that the Finance Committee met today at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. Present were Commissioners Fiszman-Kirsch, Wenczel, Executive Director Tucker and himself. Several items were discussed at the meeting which included reviewing all invoices and vouchers for July; everything was in order. The budget was reviewed for 2018 for the month of July which was compared to the revenues from property taxes and other resources of revenues. All revenues exceeded the expenditures. The fund balance plus all of the revenues are in proper order. All questions and concerns were answered. The next Finance Committee meeting will take place prior to the next regular meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Approve the 2019 WBPRC Building Closure Schedule

Executive Director Tucker indicated the 2019 proposed building closure schedule was included in the packet for the Commissioners.

Motion by Aronoff, second by Wenczel to Approve the 2019 WBPRC Building Closure Schedule

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried, 7 - 0

B. Consideration to Approve the 2019 WBPRC Commission Meeting Schedule

Executive Director Tucker indicated the Commission meeting schedule for 2019 was included in the the packet for the Commissioners. Most meeting dates are the fourth Thursday, some variations with holidays; September is to avoid the NRPA annual conference.

Motion by Green, second by Aronoff to Approve the 2019 WBPRC Commission Meeting Schedule

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried, 7 - 0

ITEMS FROM THE TOWNSHIP LIAISON

Township Liaison Warshay indicated that the Township Board has started budget season at Town Hall. The only meeting held since the last Parks and Recreation meeting was on August 15th. At that time, funds were reviewed. Purchase for an ambulance was approved for approximately \$250,000. The old ambulance will be put in reserve. There will be two ambulances in reserve instead of one.

The Township Board meeting will be held on Monday. There will be consideration for the issuance of bonds to pay for the fire station. There will be public hearings for condominium plans and storm water management plans for the West Trail preserve on Pontiac Trail and Denby; and also, Balmoral Park which is at Walnut Lake and Haggerty Roads.

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

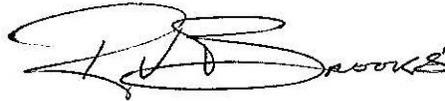
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hembree mentioned and wanted to pay respect to the passing away of Aretha Franklin, Queen of Soul. Residents have asked her if Parks and Recreation would be doing a tribute to Aretha Franklin, maybe play her music at Kids Komotion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Brooks made a motion to adjourn, and was unanimously supported. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Brooks', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Chairperson Robert Brooks (in absence of Joe Green availability)

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.)