

**PROCEEDINGS OF
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
Township Board Room
4550 Walnut Lake Road
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48323
Thursday, May 24, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Treasurer Merv Aronoff
 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: Commissioner Fiszman-Kirsch

Public: 10

RECOGNITION OF TRAIL STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS BY SCOTCH ELEMENTARY 4TH GRADERS

Recreation Superintendent Hyer recognized 4th grade students at Scotch Elementary. These annual stewardship walks have been going on since 2010 and are a service project and hands-on learning opportunity to apply what the 4th graders are learning in the classroom. 2014 was the first year the Scotch Elementary 4th graders started pulling Garlic Mustard. To date, the 4th graders have collected approximately 3 tons of litter and Garlic Mustard total.

PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Abraham Raz stated that a letter was sent via email to the Commission regarding senior issues and it was not responded to by the commission as a whole nor any individual commissioner members. Seniors of West Bloomfield Township comprise 35% of the population and he wants to know what percentage of the WBPRC budget is allocated for the benefit, well being and enjoyment of seniors. The children in west Bloomfield Township are only 17% but the majority of the WBPRC budget is allocated for that population. They have nothing against supporting the children but the seniors would like their fare share. WBRPC is failing to provide adequate services.

Alexandra Rautsky said she has the same concerns as Dr. Raz. They sent a letter and the WBPRC never even acknowledged receipt. She said the seniors used to have the bare minimum of a room to play games and socialize with other seniors. She wondered why the WBPRC never considered the seniors when the FAC was torn down; no consideration was given towards giving seniors a room for them to socialize. The senior population pays taxes yet they are not being considered in the allocation of funds.

Tirza Raz said she was the one who sent the letter to the WBPRC and it was not acknowledged by anyone. Seniors need a room where they can gather and socialize. They have advocated for such a room for six months and nothing has been done. They pay a lot of taxes for schools but they do not use the schools; seniors need their fare share too. Ms. Raz said the seniors are not cared for by the WBPRC; they are treated badly and they will fight for what they need.

Sylvia Whitmore congratulated the WBPRC on seeking members of a Senior Advisory Team; she is interested on serving on that team and will be applying. She is on the Oakland County Senior Citizens Board and believes she will be a good connection to Oakland County if she serves on the West Bloomfield Senior Advisory Team. The board is very interested in serving this population. West Bloomfield Township is one of the few areas that does not have a senior center; there are 42 senior centers in Oakland County but none in West Bloomfield. Ms. Whitmore said that 41% of the West Bloomfield population are over the age of 50 and that population is growing by 3% per year. There are many schools but no senior center and it is very needed.

Joanne Tioran said she supports what the audience members are doing. She stated that May is American Wetlands Month. She read an excerpt from an article on the EPA website about Wetlands Month. Wetlands are of vital importance to the nation's economic, ecological and social health. Ms. Tioran said she frequents Marshbank Park. She thanked Superintendent Ketchum for the magnificent maintenance of the parks system. She asked the WBPRC to consider an event or educational program for next year during Wetlands Month.

Surrinder Arora said she feels the same way as the other residents who have spoken. She asked for a meeting with the Township Supervisor which was agreed to, but he didn't to show up. They talked to his secretary at length but were very disappointed that nothing came out of the meeting. They need a neutral place for the senior residents to gather, communicate and socialize. The residents are happy to support the children and the Township, but they also want their fair share. She is looking for social connections but she has no place to go. She hopes the WBPRC acknowledges this issue and comes up with practical solutions to their request.

Chairman Brooks thanked everyone who spoke. He advised that at these meetings the WBPRC does not get into a dialogue and rebuttal but he stated that they did receive the email and will respond. All of the commissioners have been given a copy of the email and the seniors will be given an appropriate response by the WBPRC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Absent: Fizman-Kirsch

Motion Carried, 6-0

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 April 26, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting.

- B. Approval of the April Financial Reports.
- C. Approval of prepaid expenditures in the amount of \$829,901.15. Expenditures in the amount of \$88,315.83. Credit card refunds totaling \$995.00 for the month of April 2018.

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

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

STAFF REPORT

Executive Director Tucker reported that the West Bloomfield Police Memorial was held on May 3rd and went very smoothly. Michigan Week Breakfast was May 18th with Recreation Superintendent Hyer and Naturalist Lauren Azoury winning awards.

WBPRC is partnering with Henry Ford Hospital to sponsor honeybees in West Bloomfield. They are being attended to by Bees in the D; they put bees in different areas and they have hives all over Michigan. Henry Ford will have programs that show people how to use honey in their diet.

Family Aquatic Center Redesign Project is gaining momentum. Staff has been working with JHLE and Byce & Associates at a rapid pace after the design and master plan approval at the March WBPRC meeting. During the first week of June, staff will meet with the consultants in person for the first review of the plans. We hope to have the plans prepared for the Commission's review and approval at the June 28th meeting.

The Senior Advisory Team Initiative is looking for a group of about seven people to provide input for social programming for the older generation. Applications are due by June 15th. WBPRC wants this group to have a wide range of interests represented so there is a wide range of input.

Parks Superintendent Ketchum presented the parks report. Park facilities are fully functional and ready for summer. Athletic fields are still extremely wet so please respect any signs to stay off the fields. There was a small issue on the trail between Halstead and Walnut Lake Rd. There is a lower area that is under water and as soon as it is dry enough, staff will be making some modifications to improve the area. Staff scarified and re-graded the Dog Park and Garden parking lots and roto-tilled the Community Garden. Staff also added landscaping around the new park signs.

Infield repairs and maintenance was a challenge this year with all the rain. Staff has performed the infield maintenance at Drake Sports Park. This maintenance includes re-arcing the infields, adding clay to the pitching areas and batters boxes and installing new infield material to the skinned infields. The outfields were also rolled to remove un-even ground.

The Drake Road Sports Park well house upgrade project is continuing from last year. Last year a cement foundation was laid and this spring staff took down the existing well house and a new shed was built. This weekend will be the first weekend that park shelters are open to the people that have rented them. From now until September you can rent a shelter in the park and WBPRC looks forward to servicing the public.

Commissioner Sukenic was at the Pickleball courts on Monday morning and saw that every court was being used. Superintendent Ketchum said that staff is pleased with the amount of participation at the Pickleball courts. Commissioner Sukenic asked if wind screens are going to be installed. Superintendent Ketchum said the wind screens are on order and they should be in next week. Commissioner Sukenic asked about

the commercial signs attached to the tennis court fencing. Recreation Superintendent Hyer said there are sponsorship opportunities for banners at a few locations. Businesses can submit their banner to the Marketing Coordinator and pay a fee for a one-year term.

Recreation Superintendent Hyer presented the recreation report. The annual nature photo contest starts June 1st and continues through August 1st. Staff is launching the new Wheels to the Road bike club on Monday with a ride at 10 am. ITC walks have begun and have been well attended; there are 35 new walkers for 2018. If you do an ITC walk you can submit your name into a drawing for the Labor Day Bridge Walk prize. Pickleball has been a huge success. Clinics will be held over the summer with the next one being in June and a league is going to be launched.

WBPRC was a supporter of Charity Cakes and proceeds went to four non-profits in the community. WBPRC was also a supporter, in partnership with Coldwell Banker, of the 4th annual Pet Adoption Day in the township. There were many shoppers that day.

The Senior Dance will become an annual event; there were 90 participants this year. There was a buffet dinner and 20 piece live band. The first Kids Komotion concert had over 800 attendees. The Native Plant sale was a success with shopper lined up at 7:30 am. WBPRC focused on educating the shoppers as well as selling native plants. WBRPC is also launching a Marshbank Park music series called Marshbank 2.0; this series kicks off on July 11th. There will be food trucks at this event as well as beer and wine tents.

National Trails Day is Saturday, June 2nd. Participants should meet at Walnut Creek Middle School at 8 am and there will be free t-shirts for the first 75 walkers. The two naturalists will be on the trail that day, educating people on the trail. WBPRC Volunteer opportunities are listed on the website.

Commissioner Hembree noted that staff is modest as they do a lot of work in the community. In particular, the board members volunteer and are very active throughout the community. She attended the Senior Dance and it was a beautiful event. She wants the seniors of the community to know that WBPRC cares about them. Commissioner Wenczel said she is very excited for all of these events and she is signing her daughter up for a nature camp tomorrow. Superintendent Hyer said there is a discount if participants sign up by June 1st.

ITEMS FROM THE OFFICERS

A. Items from the Chairperson

Chairman Brooks said the Director and Superintendents are doing an awesome job. The new signs and landscaping at the parks are incredible. He added that Pickleball was brought to the WBRPC by a small group of people that are seniors and the WBPRC got it done for them. He apologized that their letter was not responded to; it will be and the WBPRC will take their issues and concerns to heart.

B. Items from the Secretary

Secretary Green said that 2018 is very busy and told the WBPRC Director and Superintendents to keep up the good work.

C. Items from the Treasurer

Treasurer Aronoff congratulated the Scotch Elementary students for their work on the trails. He said he has a lot of senior friends and relatives and they love the Senior Dance and he received a lot of compliments on that. A lot of his senior friends are also taking part in the senior baseball league.

He has also received compliments on other senior programming such as the trip to the DSO, drop-in Ping Pong and the trip to the Detroit Zoo. Treasurer Aronoff also congratulated Superintendent Hyer and Naturalist Azoury on their Michigan Week awards.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive: Report from Chairman Brooks

Vice Chairman Green stated that the committee met on May 7th. They talked about the May 24, 2018 Commission meeting draft agenda; Executive Team Training, Partnership with Henry Ford Hospital and Bees in the D; DTE property update; Key Dates for ReFac project. The next meeting is scheduled for June 4th at 6 pm.

B. Finance: Report from Treasurer Aronoff

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A) Consideration to Approve Bid Proposal to Restore Detention Ponds at Drake Sports Park.

Executive Director Tucker stated that staff is recommending the Commission approve the bid to restore the detention ponds at Drake Sports Park. There are nine ponds in that park. Bid packages were advertised and sealed bids were due May 16, 2018. Bid results were:

Giannetti Building Department	\$66,988.00
Universal Consolidated Enterprises	\$92,130.00
The Sinicola Construction Co	\$148,957.50
Erie Construction Co	\$153,252.00

Staff is recommending the Commission approve the lowest qualifying bid from Giannetti Building Development. The total cost for this project including the engineering fees is \$85,868.00. Staff budgeted \$75,000.00 for the project. The original scope of the project only called for the restoration of three retention ponds. Johnson and Anderson, the Commission's engineer for the project, recommended that four retention ponds needed to be restored as they are all connected. The additional cost for the fourth pond added approximately \$10,000 to the bid putting the project over budget. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the additional costs for this project to properly restore the storm water system. There is a 1 year maintenance warrant on the work to be performed.

Commissioner Sukenic asked what four ponds will be restored. Director Tucker said it is the two ponds adjacent to the maintenance building and then the two ponds next to the tennis courts.

Motion by Treasurer Aronoff, second by Treasurer Green, to approve the bid from Giannetti Building Development for the amount of \$66,988.00 to restore four detention ponds at Drake Sports Park.

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

B) Consideration to Approve Bid Proposal the 2018 Tax Rate Request.

Executive Director Tucker stated that WBPRC has to approve the tax rate every year. Attached to the commissioners' cover sheet is a form which reveals totals of millage dollars currently; basically what the commission is doing is approving the tax levels. Treasurer Aronoff said this was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting in extensive detail. He noted that the taxable values may have gone up a little bit but the millage rates for each item has gone down from the Headley Amendment.

Motion by Commissioner Wenczel, second by Treasurer Aronoff, to approve the 2018 Tax Rate Request as presented.

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

ITEMS FROM THE TOWNSHIP LIAISON

Township Liaison Warshay stated that May 25th has been declared an Ozone Action Day. It is best to not refuel your car, avoid using gasoline powered lawn equipment and carpool if possible. Additionally, anybody with respiratory diseases should limit prolonged outdoor exertion. He asked Superintendent Hyer how to find out about senior activities. Superintendent Hyer said the recreation guide comes out three times a year and it lists the majority of programming for seniors. The other way to receive information is through the email blast. That comes out once a week with time sensitive information. Occasionally there will be a discount in that e-blast. Residents can also online shop or call Recreation as they are open Monday – Thursday, 8 am – 7 pm and Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm. Liaison Warshay said the township is paying to put gravel down on Halstead Road which will allow the road to be much easier to travel.

At the May 7th Township Board meeting the township agreed to partner with the RCOC to put an overlay on Commerce Road. Also on May 7th, the Board also put a moratorium on multi-family uses in single family districts for six months while they do a study. On May 21st the Township Board adopted rezoning in three places. The fireworks were also approved; Shenandoah on June 25th, Pine Lake on July 1st, Union Lake on July 3rd, Upper Straits Lake and Green Lake on July 7th, Walnut Lake on July 4th, Cass Lake on July 6th. There will be an upcoming request for renovations to 48th District Court; there are several upgrades needed; each of the municipalities that are part of the district will contribute proportionally to that. On May 31st at 10:00 am is the tentative groundbreaking for Fire Station 3. Liaison Warshay said he learned that opossums eat about 5,000 ticks a year. They don't attack pets or wildlife unless provoked. They do not chew on wires, spread disease or dig up flower bulbs. They also help control snakes and other rodents.

PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Abraham Raz said this meeting is like the mutual admiration society. They approached Supervisor Kaplan with a complaint and it was refused and the seniors were referred to the WBPRC. He was offended by the Supervisor brushing off their complaints. He should be aware there is a large proportion of the population that is unhappy and he hopes the WBPRC will resolve this issue to their satisfaction. Alexandra Rautsky said these issues have been ongoing for over six months; they have been made promises but nothing has actually happened. They been very patient but no one is actually doing anything. Surrinder Arora said the public needs to be educated on how to navigate the roundabouts as they are very dangerous. Also, there is no actual "downtown" in West Bloomfield Township; there are no flowers or places to walk. There is just concrete and hotels. She also opined if the WBPRC has ever considered how to improve traffic in the township. Chairman Brooks said Ms. Arora's concerns will be brought back to the Township Board by Liaison Warshay as those are Township issues.

Commissioner Sukenic said Scottsdale, AZ is a magnificent community with amazing senior centers. However, that costs money. He does not believe, with the 66,000 Township population, that WBPRC has the resources to have a center like that. Ms. Raz said they are just asking for one room; only one room.

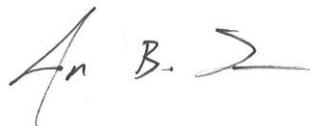
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Brooks asked the commissioners to look at the key dates for the ReFac project because it is an opportunity for input relative to operations. Commissioner Hembree said there is an Relay for Life event on Saturday, June 2nd at St. Mary's Preparatory School with live music, food trucks and kid activities. Registration begins at 10:00 am. She asked the community to come out and support the walkers. Treasurer Aronoff wished the residents a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. He asked everyone to drive carefully and watch kids and seniors who may be out in the lakes. Commissioner Wenczel advised residents to stay on the trail as poison ivy is prevalent right now.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Treasurer Aronoff made a motion to adjourn, and unanimously supported. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "An B. Z", written in a cursive style.

Joseph Green, Secretary

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.)