

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

**Thursday, July 22, 2021
7:00 PM**

APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Brooks

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Robert Brooks
Secretary Vincent Kirkwood
Treasurer Merv Aronoff
Commissioner David Barash
Commissioner John Erich
Commissioner Terrance Adams (Arr. 7:07 PM)

Staff Present: Jennifer Tucker, Executive Director
Kelly Hyer, Recreation Superintendent
Joe Ketchum, Parks Superintendent
Patricia Helson, Administrative Assistant
Pamela St. Peter, Recording Secretary

Absent: Commissioner Sally Wenczel
Township Liaison, Steven Kaplan

Public: None

PUBLIC FORUM

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Adams, second by Treasurer Aronoff to approve the agenda as amended.

Ayes: Adams, Aronoff, Barash, Brooks, Erich, Kirkwood

Nays: None

Absent: Wenczel

Motion Carried: 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Items A through F 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 24, 2021, Regular Commission Meeting.
- B. Approval of the June Revenue and Expense Reports.
- C. Approval of Prepaid expenditures in the amount of \$926,368.53.
- D. Approval of Expenditures paid by check in the amount of \$45,456.71.
- E. Approval of Refunds totaling \$23,468.00 for the month of June 2021.
- F. Receipt of the June cash balance.

Motion by Commissioner Barash, second by Commissioner Adams, to approve Items A through F on the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Adams, Aronoff, Barash, Brooks, Erich, Kirkwood
Nays: None
Absent: Wenczel
Motion Carried 6-0

STAFF REPORT

Executive Director Tucker reported that in regard to the Covid-19 updates: Public transportation and campers are still regulated and are required to wear masks. Classes and activities are being added to the CONNECT line-up with resumption of all activities planned for September. Our Park Commission meetings remain virtual; we are not obligated to be back in person until January 2022. Be sure to enter the MiShotToWin Sweepstakes by August 3, 2021, for your chance to be a millionaire!

Lily Pad Springs has received a lot of media coverage including television and print publications! The police department was the first to be put under the Dump Bucket and they were in full uniform!

Master Plan Update: WBPR inventory of facilities has been completed by livingLAB. Staff is formulating the survey questions for public input. Stakeholder involvement will begin later this summer to help shape the future of WBPRC.

Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan Update: A Request For Proposal (RFP) for the RAC Needs Assessment has been released. Responses are due to Executive Director Tucker by 1:00 pm on Tuesday, August 20, 2021.

Executive Director Tucker reported that Governor Whitmer proposed funding to improve parks. Governor Whitmer proposed investing \$250 million in federal relief dollars to address the backlog of infrastructure problems in State parks and trails. Governor Whitmer also proposed \$150 million investment in local parks. The Legislature will now consider appropriating these funds as proposed.

Recreation Superintendent Hyer reported that Kids Komotion concerts are being held once a month with great attendance. Pre-registration is still required. Marshbank Music series has been very well attended as well.

Bassquatch at Camp was held in June and was very appreciated by both camp attendees and staff. S'mores in a Bag program had 35 families signed up. National Trails Day had over 150 hikers! Staff is planning for the reopening of Connect with the official reopening on August 16th.

Upcoming programs include Senior Concert Series; Mother & Daughter Tea Party; Furry Friend Pet Adoption.

Commissioner Erich said he has been to both concerts at Marshbank Park and they are awesome. He encouraged the commissioners to come out and enjoy this family friendly event. He said the only thing he can recommend is to have additional food trucks.

Parks Superintendent Ketchum reported that they have been doing a lot of storm clean-ups. Staff is also doing everyday maintenance throughout the parks. He asked residents to be patient with the clean-up from storms. The USA Softball Tournament was held Thursday with a few games occurring Friday before being rained out due to storms. Chris Frey reported that Parks staff helped the City of Farmington Hills to help with their storm clean-up; they have been a great Community Partner to WBPRC in the past.

Chairman Brooks said he is happy that staff is able and willing to help neighboring communities in their time of need.

ITEMS FROM TOWNSHIP LIAISON

Absent-none.

ITEMS FROM THE OFFICERS

A) Items from the Chairperson

Chairman Brooks thanked the Commission members for their cohesiveness and he is proud to serve as Chairperson. He said it is always awesome to see staff at work and their excitement which goes to the leadership of the staff.

B) Items from the Secretary

Secretary Kirkwood said his daughter said the recent Kids Komotion was “perfect”. He also had a good meeting today with the Diversity Task Force as they are trying to get events into the Winter Guide.

C) Items from the Treasurer

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive: Chairman Brooks

Chair Brooks stated that the Executive Committee met on July 14, via Zoom. They talked about the agenda for tonight’s meeting. They discussed Commission Matters: Covid Update: Camps and Transportation staff still regulated; Meeting status confirmation; Michigan Parks and Recreation Association Affiliation; National Parks and Recreation Association Conference – Sept. 20-24; Budget Special Meeting; Dog Park Projects Update: General Master Plan project, Strategic Plan project, Needs Assessment RFP, Bloomfield Schools Task Force, Splash Pad operations, Cell Tower update; Schulak. The next meeting is scheduled for August 11 at 6 pm.

B. Strategic Plan: Commissioner Wenczel

Director Tucker reported that the Strategic Planning Committee recently met and will meet again on July 28th at 3:00 pm and in August there will be an item on the WBPRC again from the Strategic Planning Committee.

B. Finance: Report from Treasurer Aronoff

Treasurer Aronoff stated the committee met before tonight's meeting and discussed and reviewed the June invoices, vouchers, and the monthly budget status. The next meeting is scheduled in August prior to the regular Commission meeting. Chairman Brooks asked if Lily Pad Springs revenue will help fund other WBPRC projects. Director Tucker said any added revenue is always helpful as there is a backlog of maintenance items that need funding. She said that Lily Pad Springs will be one of the first facilities that pays for itself which is very exciting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Approve the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Insurance Renewal for 2021-2022.

Executive Director Tucker reported that the renewal of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Insurance typically comes up in May or June of each year. Due to the impacts of Covid, receipt of renewal information was delayed in 2021. The policy is effective from July to June on an annual basis. After an evaluation of assets, MMRMA has indicated that the 2021-2022 financial year premium is \$66,548.00, an increase of \$5,818.00 over 2020-2021. This is primarily due to the addition of three vehicles as well as pricing increases across the board for all MMRMA members.

Motion by Commissioner Barash, second by Treasurer Aronoff, to Approve the renewal of MMRMA Liability Insurance Policy for the 2021-2022 financial year in the amount of \$66,548.00.

Ayes: Adams, Aronoff, Barash, Brooks, Erich, Kirkwood

Nays: None

Absent: Wenczel

Motion Carried 6-0

PUBLIC FORUM

Director Tucker wished her father a Happy 90th Birthday! Commissioner Adams said there was a good article in the Beacon about the funding being raised by a local family for a bench and shade structure. Chairman Brooks asked if there are additional opportunities for people to sponsor benches along the trail network. Superintendent Ketchum said most Memorial Benches have been sold but there are a few left in the township. There is currently a waiting list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Barash made a motion to adjourn, and unanimously supported. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vincent Kirkwood

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.)