

**Charter Township of Van Buren
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chairperson Gant.
Members Present: Charles Coleman, Kimberly Nofz, Ralph Nodwell, Speed Gant, Clerk Wright and Student Representative Ari Budioni **Excused:** Tammy Wall **Unexcused:** Mark Duff.
Staff Present: Director Wright, Deputy Director Burns and Secretary Harman.
Members of the Audience: Ryan Taylor.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion Wright, Coleman second to approve the agenda of June 12, 2012 as amended with Item #1 under New Business being the first item on the agenda. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion Nodwell, Wright second to approve the minutes of June 12, 2012 as presented. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Michigan Travel League new indoor turf facility:** Ryan Taylor of Michigan Travel League was invited by Director Wright to speak about the new indoor turf facility. He and his wife are opening the indoor training facility in the Davenport Complex in Belleville for soccer, football, softball, baseball and lacrosse indoor training. The grand opening is set for October 15th with a time to be announced. The building is a 12,000 square feet facility with no beams, is all turf and is netted. Ryan has teamed up with Dennis from the New York Yankees and also Gilbert Brown who will run football camps in the summer. He has also spoken to coaches in the Van Buren School District and mentioned the idea of forming a lacrosse team.

Committee member Coleman liked the idea of children having the opportunity for lacrosse. Director Wright thanked Ryan and his wife for coming to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Recreation Updates:** Director Wright gave the recreation update. State licensing has been approved for the Summer Camp program. The new fall/winter recreation program is out and classes and programs are filling up. Upcoming events are the Spooky Monster Magic Show and the Candy Loop. The Candy Loop is like last year's Trunk or Treat but will be held at Quirk Park and candy will be passed out at tables. Director Wright is asking local businesses to participate by donating and passing out candy. The Holiday Arts and Crafts Show is Saturday, December 1st and is already halfway sold out.

Director Wright announced that Deputy Director Burns will be leaving the department on October 25th to go to a non-profit therapeutic recreation agency. Committee members thanked Deputy Director Burns for doing a great job. Committee member Gant inquired if the Recreation Program is being mailed out to residents. Committee member Wright

recommended that the Committee members send an item to the board to recommending mailing out of the Recreation Program to residents.

2. **Cultural Advisory Committee Update:** Director Wright gave an update that all members have been reappointed to continue on the Committee in 2013 and they are currently in the process of finalizing forms for funding requests.
3. **Park Update:** Deputy Director Drew Burns presented the park updates. New sand was spread at the beach at Van Buren Park and the stage was stained and boards are being replaced. Other changes to the beach area were the addition of two attendants to enforce rules and capacity, the institution of a 100 person capacity and no parking signs at the top of the hill to help with traffic congestion. The playground surfacing was replaced in the playground on the front loop of the park. Riggs Heritage Park has been hydro-axed to cut down the cottonwoods and other invasive plants. Revenue for Van Buren Park for 2012 was up \$2,000.00 from the previous year. Burns also submitted two capital improvement plans to the Township Board, one is for a splash pad at either Van Buren Park or Quirk Park and the other is for the re-wiring and painting of all pavilions. A proposal has been submitted to Wayne County to extend the walking path project and also to fund a sand volleyball court at Quirk Park. Burns will also be giving the board some suggestions of items to be added to the budget for next year: road gating and filler at Van Buren Park, disc golf course, and additional funding for more playground surfacing. November 2nd there will be a crew meet at the U of M boathouse, time to be announced.
4. **Walking Path Update:** Deputy Director Drew Burns presented a handout to Committee members of the documentation to going to the Township Board for the walking path next week. He will be presenting the board with bids and a contract and if the project is approved work will start in a couple weeks. The walking path is a \$40,000 grant project through Wayne County. The total project cost is \$43,361.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Parks and Recreation Budget Review:** Deputy Director Burns informed Committee members that budget hearings will be on October 25th and presented them with a tentative budget for their review. Deputy Director Burns is asking for \$5,000 in professional road grading and fill at Van Buren Park. He has also put together a proposal for a disc golf course at Van Buren Park which is like Frisbee golf. Members were advised to review the tentative budget and if they have any questions to contact Director Wright or Deputy Director Burns.
2. **Fee Schedule 2013:** Deputy Director Burns presented a fee schedule for Van Buren Park to the Committee members. This fee schedule is submitted yearly to the board and reflects prices for pavilion rentals and entry fees. He would like to add a military annual pass price to the fees. Burns also informed Committee members that the schools have come up with a new fee schedule for the use of all their facilities which is something that is needed for the township facilities as well. He is taking the schools information to the board as a suggested outline. This is just a rough draft and will not be submitted till November. He would like Committee members to review and stop by the office if they have any questions.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Committee member Nodwell inquired when dedicated names started being used on the baseball fields. Director Wright informed the fields in question are through the little league and are not overseen by the Recreation Department. Committee member Nodwell would like to see smaller paragraphs used in meeting minutes. Committee member Wright informed Committee members that the Recreation Committee meetings are televised and members need to be sensitive to the audience and watch language used while in meetings.

Student Representative Budioni announced that this is homecoming week at the High School with the football game on Friday and the dance on Saturday. He also noted that the students and teachers are enjoying the new facility and its advanced technology.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Coleman, Nodwell second to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman
Recording Secretary