

**Charter Township of Van Buren  
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairperson Gant. **Members Present:** Charles Coleman, Ken Askew (late 5:42 p.m.), Mark Duff, Speed Gant, Clerk Wright and the Student Rep. **Excused:** Joy Ann Ferris and Ralph Nodwell. **Unexcused:** None. **Staff Present:** Director Wright, Deputy Director Burns and Secretary Harman. **Members of the Audience** Trustee Partridge.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion Duff, Wright second to approve the agenda of February 14, 2012 with the amendment of Item #4 under Old Business being moved to Item #1, the addition of Item #5 Cultural Committee Update and the amendment to Item #4 under New Business changing the language to read 2012 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application – Van Buren Park Road Restoration. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion Coleman, Duff second to approve the minutes of October 25, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **HLC Update:** Deputy Director Burns introduced the new Coordinator/Intern for the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition, David Ruff. The HLC has finalized 3 goals: 1) Revamping the nutrition policy within Van Buren Public Schools, 2) Connectivity within the community, looking at improving connectivity with 2 schools, 3) Making parks within the community smoke free or a portion of them smoke free. David is currently working on the third goal and presented facts to the committee members. He is also writing articles for the HLC which will be published in the Belleville Lake Current. The HLC is also working on planning a last day of school event at Quirk Park. This event will be a partnership with Van Buren Public Schools, police and local businesses, more information will be coming. The next HLC meeting is on February 23, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in the Otisville Room.
2. **Recreation Updates:** Director Wright informed the Committee members that 2012 is Safety Year and the department will be receiving training on how to handle emergency situations, sexual harassment and violence in the workplace. A binder will be put together for all staff to reference in the event of an emergency. Director Wright is currently working on Summer Camp licensing guidelines; a staff member from the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center will be training staff on emergency weather drills, missing child reports, legal information, physical and sexual abuse, CPR, first aid and incident reports. The Spring/Summer Recreation Program is almost complete, new offerings are: Park Pursuits, Get Fit Friday Family Fun Nights, and Couch Potato 5K training program. The Daddy/Daughter Dance was the past weekend and was sold out. Room Rentals are booked for January and February. Director Wright is applying to the Civic Fund for new gymnastics equipment and tables for room rentals. CDBG funds have been acquired for Takin' it to the Streets. Director Wright is also working

with John Cass with the Tiger Swim Club to work on getting some community activities tied in with the new pool at Belleville High School. Committee member Askew noted that there is a group of active coyotes in Van Buren Park. In the past year a den was found in the eastern corner of his property that adjoins the park close to the lake. Jennifer and Drew are going to look into this to keep the area safe. Committee member Gant inquired about mailing of the Recreation Program to township residents. There is no mailing scheduled at this time due to lack of funding.

3. **Park Updates:** Deputy Director Burns informed that the water and sewer main at the old entrance to Van Buren Park is frozen due to the surrounding area being washed away and exposed. The restroom facilities are shut down to prevent damage. Burns is currently working with the Planning Department to fix the problem, in the meantime 2 sets of port-a-jons will be set out over the summer. The first round of speed and handicapped signs have been installed, now working on the second round. Applied for a rap grant through the MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority) to put together a plan for the beach with new swim buoys.
4. **Community Forestry DNR Grant Update:** Director Wright informed the Committee that this grant was not received this year. The DNR liked the concept and has encouraged the department to apply again next year.
5. **Cultural Committee Update:** Denise Partridge gave the update for the Cultural Committee. At their last meeting a Four Way Test was adopted. They have a Work Study Meeting on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> to go over financial requests to decide logistics and wording. Also they are working on coming up with a new logo. Denise has been in contact with Wayne County Community College in effort to obtain a student representative. Denise asked Committee member Askew to come to the meetings to advise and consult. Committee member Gant thanked Denise Partridge for taking on the work of this Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Wayne County Parks Millage Funding:** Deputy Director Burns informed the Committee that the department will be getting \$40,000.00 in Parks Millage Funding that will go towards a bike path and picnic areas overlooking the water.
2. **Belleville High School Events Update from Student Rep:** The sealant has been put on the tile of the new pool and will set a month and half to cure. The Tiger Swim Club will be starting back up over the summer. A lot of the athletic facilities are already in place. The Coming Home Dance was the past weekend and approximately 450 attended.
3. **2012 DNR Passport Grant Application – Walking/Biking Path at Van Buren Park:** Deputy Director Burns gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed where a walking path and permanent picnic tables would be placed. The Department is also applying for another grant with the DNR that would finish the path to make it a complete loop. This grant will cover a new walkable entrance from the front loop of the park, 5-6 new ADA picnic tables with 12x12 foot cement pads. The walking path will be 5 feet wide and utilize crushed stone.

4. **2012 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application – Van Buren Park Road Restoration:** Director Wright presented the grant application to the Committee members to look at and showed color pictures to demonstrate what is being discussed. Director Wright and Deputy Director Burns are working on this application with Director Terry Carroll to repair the Water/Sewer main in the back of the park. The repair will also include repair/restore to the back access road of the park and will stop existing erosion into Belleville Lake and reestablish park trails. The grant amount is \$232,000.00 and the township has to match by 50% which would come from the Water Department. The easy quick fix alternative to this problem would cost approximately \$20,000.00 but would not last. Wright invited the Committee members to a Public Hearing that will be held on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Township Board Meeting. Grant application and documentation will be available in the recreation department for committee members to review. A letter of recommendation is needed from the Recreation Committee.

**Motion Askew, support Coleman to send a letter of recommendation from the Recreation Committee to the Township Board along with the 2012 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application. Motion Carried.**

#### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Committee members commented that the new gym floor looks great. Committee members would also like the department to look into the road between the loops at Van Buren Park. Director Wright passed out a flyer to the members for the Gleaners program through the school system; they are looking for volunteers to help pass out food.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion Duff, Coleman second to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman  
Recording Secretary