

**Charter Township of Van Buren
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairperson Gant.
Members Present: Charles Coleman, Tammy Wall, Ralph Nodwell and Speed Gant
Excused: Kimberly Nofz and Clerk Wright. **Unexcused:** Mark Duff. **Staff Present:** Director Wright, Deputy Director Burns and Secretary Harman.
Members of the Audience Trustee Partridge and Ken Askew.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion Nodwell, Coleman second to approve the agenda of April 10, 2012 as presented. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion Nodwell, Coleman second to approve the minutes of February 14, 2012 as amended with corrections brought to the Secretary. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Recreation Updates:** Director Wright gave updates for the recreation department. Summer Camp registration began March 5th. Registration is slow and the department is generating more flyers to send to the schools. Interviewing has begun for Summer Camp Counselors. The Director is waiting on enrollment numbers before hiring. A staff member of the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center will be helping with training of summer camp staff this year. All summer camp staff will be trained in: CPR, 1st Aid, policies and procedures, and discipline philosophies of camp. The Hoppin' Hullabaloo was last weekend, attendance was down slightly from the previous year. This week is spring break for Van Buren Schools and the Get Up and Get Active program is running with 14 children enrolled. Upcoming events are the Mother/Daughter Tea Party which is already sold out and Mother/Son Bowling which still has spaces available. Director Wright passed out the new 2012 Spring/Summer Recreation Program to the Committee members to see other upcoming classes, programs and events offered by the department.
2. **Park Updates:** Deputy Director Burns gave the park updates. On Saturday, April 14th a Crew Meet is being held at Van Buren Park. The Water/Sewer Department is working on a repair to the water main at Van Buren Park by snaking pipes underneath the water for a less lengthy work time but long term fix. Work will commence on the repair in the next couple weeks and is scheduled to be completed before Memorial Day weekend. The Community Garden has 4 plots left. The break room at the Van Buren Park Maintenance Facility has been cleaned up and a new Square Foot Gardening Class will be offered utilizing that room. Seasonal hiring has begun and over 40 applications have been received. The Department is hiring 1 Beach Attendant, Maintenance employees and Gate Attendants. Deputy Director Burns is in the process of updating the rules and regulations policy for all Van Buren parks. A tobacco use policy is being developed to restrict smoking near places in which children are prevalent. Two Eagle Scouts are working on projects for the parks which include 3 sided kiosks and a new storage shed. Deputy Director Burns is working on a maintenance plan for Riggs Heritage Park that will include a plant care plan, invasive

species list, tree list and information on the solar panels used at the Riggs Park Pavilion. The U of M Boathouse has a new manager and the facility and beach area will be receiving some enhancements such as: reposting of signs, motion lights at the boathouse, new sand, swim lines, and hopefully plants and landscaping. Deputy Director Burns and Director Wright are working on more marketing for the department by sending out weekly e-newsletters, updating the facebook page regularly, staff will also obtain email addresses at the gatehouse and Director Wright and Deputy Director Burns are working with Cable Director Ally McCracken to shoot mini commercials about the park. Deputy Director Burns informed committee members that the next Healthy Lifestyles Coalition meeting is next Thursday, April 19th at 11:00 a.m. in the Otisville Room.

3. **Cultural Committee Update:** Denise Partridge gave the Cultural Committee update. Ms. Partridge explained the purpose of the Cultural Committee that is a sub-committee to the Recreation Committee and the role she plays on the Committee. Ms. Partridge informed committee members that Chairperson Dolph has prepared the second draft of the Cultural Advisory Committee Fund Request Form. The form will include terms for use of funds. On the next meeting agenda of the Cultural Committee Ms. Partridge would like to have Ally McCracken of the Cable Department interview some long time residents. The next meeting is Thursday, April 26th at 11:00 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room.
4. **Belleville High School Update:** Student Representative Ari Budiono gave the Belleville High School update. The students are currently on spring break. Teachers are starting the process of packing things up for the new school. The new high school is almost complete, just missing desks. Committee Member Tammy Wall noted that a historical walkthrough will be held soon in the old school prior to demolition. Demolition is scheduled to occur 1-2 days following the students last day of school. The new high school facility is scheduled to open this fall. Committee Member Ralph Nodwell expressed thanks to the Township Board, Recreation Committee and the several other committees that were involved with the new high school.
5. **Risk Management Rap Grant:** Deputy Director Burns informed Committee Members at the last meeting that the department had applied for the Risk Management Rap Grant through MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority). The department has been awarded the grant which is matching grant of \$1,000.00 in which the department will spend approximately \$500.00. The grant money will be spent on rope, line buoys and anchors for a swimming area at Van Buren Park Beach.
6. **Michigan Natural Trust Fund Grant Updates:** Director Wright informed Committee Members that the Michigan Natural Trust Fund Grant has been submitted to the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) to repair the washed out road and water main at the back of Van Buren Park. Director Wright has been working with Director Carroll and Director McDonald on this grant application and hope to hear back on the status of the grant this fall. Director McDonald is working on a temporary emergency repair to keep emergency water available at the U of M facility. Currently water is available for emergencies.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Election of Officers:** Committee Member Ralph Nodwell asked Chairperson Speed Gant and Vice-Chairperson Charles Coleman if nominated would they continue to serve in their same seats. Both Chairperson Speed Gant and Vice-Chairperson Charles Coleman agreed to the nominations.

Motion Nodwell, Wall second to accept Speed Gant as Chairperson and Charles Coleman as Vice-Chairperson to the Recreation Committee. Motion Carried.

2. **Concert Series:** Deputy Director Burns presented a tentative flyer for the 2012 Summer Concert Series lineup. Deputy Director Burns is looking for a motion to approve the Summer Concert Series lineup as presented: Belleville Community Band on July 13th, Kelsey Rose and TeeZer on July 20th, Delirious Love on July 27th, Toppermost on August 3rd, Motor City Brass Band on August 10th, and Stolen Moments on August 17th.

Motion Gant, Coleman second to approve the schedule as presented for the 2012 Summer Concert Series at Van Buren Park. Motion Carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Nodwell, Coleman second to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman
Recording Secretary