

**Charter Township of Van Buren  
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairperson Coleman. **Members Present:** Kimberly Nofz, Tammy Wall, Sam Villa, Clerk Wright and Charles Coleman **Excused:** Mark Duff and Rondell Sherman. **Staff Present:** Director Wright, Deputy Director Zaenglein and Secretary Harman. **Others in attendance:** Trustee Hart and Trustee Miller.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion Wright, Nofz second to approve the agenda of March 11, 2014 as presented. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion Wright, Wall second to approve the minutes of December 10, 2013 as presented. Motion Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Recreation Updates:** Director Wright gave updates on the 2014 Daddy Daughter Dance and new events "Mini Camp" which introduces the participants to the camp program and Moth Mystery Night, the 2014 Spring/Summer brochure, new CSI Camp put on by the YMCA, the new Township website and the hiring process has began for summer camp counselors. Upcoming events are the Egg Hunt Hullabaloo, Mother/Daughter Tea and Mother/Son Bowling.
2. **Park Updates:** Deputy Director Zaenglein reported the first loop of the bike path was completed in December and is about a mile in length. Blue Ribbon Contracting will come back in the spring to evaluate the path and add donated boulders to block a section of the bike path from drivers. Seasonal staff hiring has began and the park will be staffed beginning Memorial Day through Labor Day. Upcoming events in the parks are Frog Night Friday and Moth Mystery Night. A prescribed burn will take place at Riggs Heritage Park in April. Seven bald eagles have been spotted in Van Buren Park.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Election of Officers:** *Wall nominated Coleman as Chairperson, Coleman accepted, Nofz seconded. Motion Carried. Villa nominated Wall as Vice Chairperson, Wall accepted, Coleman seconded. Motion Carried.*

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

1. **Boo'ville Update:** Director Wright informed committee members about Boo'ville which is a group of non-profit agencies coming together to provide Halloween events every weekend in October in coordination with each other. Groups include but are not limited to the Belleville DDA, BACA, Open Arms, CBC, Belleville Area Museum and the Fred C. Fisher Library. Ideas generated are haunted house at the Museum, City of Belleville Witchfest, Van Buren Candy Loop, possibly Touch a Truck in costume, cemetery tours,

business pumpkin carving contest and more. This will promote all agencies/businesses working together.

2. **Member Packets:** Committee members all received new member packets which included a park survey/questionnaire, welcome letter, Van Buren Park annual pass, a volunteer registration form and park brochure. A 2014 Spring/Summer Recreation Program will be added to the packets when received from the printer. Committee members would like to give the park questionnaire to homeowners associations to pass out for feedback and also have it available on the Township website.
3. **Park Improvements:** Clerk Wright along with Trustee Hart and Trustee Miller are champions of park improvements for the Township and attended the meeting to discuss future park improvement ideas. Discussed ideas were: to improve the beach area, possible concessions, boardwalk along the lake, splash pad at Van Buren Park, dog park/run area, butterfly garden, full basketball court, better signage at the front of Van Buren Park, disc golf course, gazebo for weddings, U of M to teach rowing classes, canoe/kayak/paddle board and paddle boat rentals, pavilion upgrades/repairs, sound system to alert patrons, softball fields, roller blade path, nature center and repairs to the stage. Board members will be working on finding money for the improvements to the park system. Improvements will be made to what already exists before bringing in new items.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion Coleman, Nofz second to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman  
Recording Secretary