

**Charter Township of Van Buren**  
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
**October 26, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Chairperson Gant. Members Present: Speed Gant, Charles Coleman, Ken Askew (late 7:35 p.m.), Joy Ann Ferris, Ralph Nodwell, Mark Duff, Darris Meredith, Director Ross, Deputy Director Wright, Parks Manager Burns and Recording Secretary Harman.

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Clerk Wright

**Members of the Audience:** Heather McPhail and Sally Hodges of McKenna & Associates.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Nodwell moved, Coleman seconded to approve the agenda of October 26, 2010 as presented. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Nodwell moved, Duff seconded to approve the meeting minutes of August 10, 2010 as presented. Motion Carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Recreation Updates:** Deputy Director Wright announced the upcoming Family Movie Night for Halloween on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The movie is Where the Wild Things Are, admission is \$2.00 per person, and participants in costume receive free admission.

**Park Updates:** Parks Manager Burns announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bark for Life at Riggs Heritage Park put on by the Belleville Walking Club raised \$600 for the Cancer Society. New trees are being planted at Van Buren Park. The new swings are in at Quirk Park, dirt is being removed and mulch added. World Run Day is November 7<sup>th</sup> and a 5k Run/Walk event is being held at Van Buren Park. Flyers for the event are available at the Recreation Department.

Director Ross announced that he is currently working on the ACHIEVE Grant for Healthy Lifestyles application. Submission deadline for the grant is November 15, 2010.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

1. **Master Plan:** Director Ross introduced Sally Hodges and Heather McPhail of McKenna & Associates who coordinated the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2006-2010 and are now working on the updated version for 2011-2015. Without an updated Master Plan the department would not be eligible for various state grants. The update to the Master Plan is made possible through Community Development Block Grant funding in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Heather McPhail, the goal is to provide a roadmap and make the department eligible for grants during 2011-2015. Emphasize financial sustainability and making sure that the plan reflects what can be handled as the department progresses to the future. McPhail gave a brief description of the current Master Plan. Director Ross presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee members of accomplishments made by the department between 2005-2010. McPhail passed around a copy of the existing parks and recreation facilities map amongst committee members.

Process of updating the Master Plan, a handout of MDNRE Checklist for what the plan will include and what is required was given to committee members in agenda packet. Changes from the last plan are that at least one public input session with a 30 day review period is required.

Schedule: October meeting was kickoff meeting with Recreation Committee. Review with Recreation Committee in December. On December 8<sup>th</sup> present to Planning Commission and invite the public. Draft will be submitted via email for review by Recreation Committee and Planning Commission for 3-4 weeks then will go out for the 30 day review. January 7 through February 8 draft plan available for public to comment. Tentative dates for adoption, 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting in March to get plan out and submitted. McKenna & Associates would like to have both the Recreation Committee and Planning Commission involved.

Goals and Objectives: Recreation Committee members to review previous plan goals make changes or eliminations and think about how they may evolve for the next plan and submit to Director or Deputy Director for feedback. Once all has been done in the process, the Recreation Committee and Planning Commission will go before the Board.

Public workshop is the first opportunity to bring everyone together. Identify groups, what works, what doesn't work, what one is willing to pay for what they want, programs that need to be changed. Start in self-identified small groups and storyboard, write ideas to self classify to set goals and priorities.

Director Ross thanked McKenna & Associates.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ferris moved, Coleman supported to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman  
Recording Secretary