

Charter Township of Van Buren
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Gant.
Members Present: Speed Gant, Ken Askew, Ralph Nodwell, Mark Duff, Darris Meredith, Director Ross, Deputy Director Wright, Parks Manager Burns and Recording Secretary Harman.

Absent: Charles Coleman

Excused: Joy Ann Ferris and Leon Wright

Members of the Audience: None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Nodwell moved, Askew seconded to approve the agenda of June 8, 2010 as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nodwell moved, Askew seconded to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2010 as presented. Motion carried.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. **Community Based Partnership for Childhood Obesity presentation:** Director Ross presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee members for a joint childhood obesity awareness program with the Western Wayne County Community College District. The proposed event will take place on July 31, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is being funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount ranging from \$10,000 to \$13,000. The Michigan Child ID group will be at the event along with the Parent Involvement Committee. There will be health screenings, inflatables, healthy recipes and refreshments.
2. **Detroit Tiger Ticket Sponsorship:** A collaboration has been formed with the Detroit Tigers similar to that of the Detroit Red Wings for a ticket sales program with MRPA, \$5 from every ticket sold will go back to MRPA to go towards sustaining future programs. Flyer for this program is in final works and will be on the MRPA website soon.
3. **Master Plan:** \$7,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds has been requested to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Authorization notices will be sent out on July 1, 2010. Once authorized Recreation Committee will meet to find better ways to update the Master Plan.
4. **Be Big in your Community:** A \$25,000 grant through Scholastic America for anything big in your community. Van Buren Parks and Recreation is submitting the Get Up and Get Active one week camp program for funding to keep the program going. The program provides healthy activities for children.
5. **Summer Youth Employment Program:** As of May 7, 2010 there is no funding for this program and it will be unable to operate this year. There is still hope that the U.S. Congress will fund this program, the decision will be made by the end of this month.

6. **Park Updates:** Community Garden has 11 plots sold. Memorial Day weekend sales at Van Buren Park were record breaking at \$800 in daily passes. The concession stand is open for the summer and the beach received new sand and new gravel to the ADA pad. The Summer Concert Series starts June 25th and a program will be printed to benefit performers and recognize donations to this event. The event is partially funded with a \$3,000 Waste Management Cultural Activities grant. Bark for Life at Riggs Heritage Park saw 30 participants and gave the park some publicity.
7. **Recreation Updates:** Sold out with 40 couples attending, Miss Spider's Tea Party was held on May 2. Mother/Son Bowl was held on May 14 at Lodge Lanes with 30 less attending than last. Special thanks to Lodge Lanes. Summer Camp Staff orientation was held. Summer Camp begins on June 21 and will have Project Come Together: Tree Learning lab this year with a naturalist from Wayne County Parks. The children will learn about trees in the park and surrounding areas, program was funded through a \$6,000 grant from DTE Energy. Father & Son Fishin Fun at French Landing Park is Saturday, June 12. Friday, June 25th is Takin it to the Streets which will have a Taylor Swift tribute artist, inflatables and Head Start is paying for a bat conservation. Safety Town camp takes place July 5-9. The Recreation Department received \$11,070 check from SMART for Summer Camp transportation. Director Ross is working on getting swing sets at Quirk Park. The Van Buren Civic Fund is providing \$2,000 for able bodied swings and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will cover ADA swing set.
8. **Instructor Acknowledgement:** Deputy Director Wright acknowledged two long time instructors. Mary Jo Suchy the Tai Chi instructor has declined the instructor fee for us to use towards programs. The funding will go towards Project Youth. Martha Sue Williams the Babysitter Certification & CPR instructor has been instructing for 20 years. She is donating \$250 over the next 10 years to send 5 students to babysitting class a year. With permission from both instructors the department will acknowledge in the local paper. *Askew moved, Nodwell seconded to make a resolution of acknowledgement for both Mary Jo Suchy and Martha Sue Williams. Motion Carried.*
9. **Friends of Van Buren Township Parks & Recreation Foundation:** This is a group to support parks and recreation activities in Van Buren Township. The foundation has been formulated to gather funding. Initial 501(c)(3) paperwork has been started and will take a couple of months to be approved. Looking for volunteers to help raise money for the foundation. Gant will be speaking with already established foundations for information on setting up bookkeeping for the Foundation. *Duff moved, Nodwell seconded to table the discussion till the next meeting to gather more information. Motion Carried.*

ADJOURNMENT: Duff moved, Nodwell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman
Recording Secretary