

Charter Township of Van Buren  
**Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 25, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Gant. **Members Present:** Charles Coleman, Ken Askew, Mark Duff, and Clerk Wright. **Excused:** Speed Gant, Joy Ann Ferris, Ralph Nodwell. **Staff Present:** Director Wright, Deputy Director Burns and Secretary Price. **Members of the Audience:** Trustee Partridge.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion Wright, Askew second to approve the agenda of October 25, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion Askew, Wright second to approve the minutes of August 9, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Student Representative:** Director Wright read bio for Ari Budiono. He has come highly recommended from Lead Advisor Melissa Linzell from Belleville High School. Student Representative for the Committee term is December – December. Ari will start on the Committee in December.

*Motion Askew, seconded Duff to approve the Ari Budiono as the Student Representative for the Recreation Committee for the term of December 2011 to December 2012. Motion Carried.*

2. **Healthy Lifestyles Coalition:** Deputy Director Drew Burns indicated that at the last meeting the group had they created by-laws. All ACHIEVE grant paperwork is up to date, forming of the Community Action Plan. Deputy Director Burns provided a pamphlet that provides an overview. Currently the Coalition is working on an event that will be held on the last day of school focusing on Middle School. Next meeting date is December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am meeting will be held in the Otisville – Sheldon room here at Van Buren Township Hall.

3. **Park Updates:** Park Hours are now posted for the winter they are Monday thru Friday 10am – 6pm and Saturday and Sunday 8 am – Dusk. After tracking usage of the park the peak time was 11am – 6pm. Parks Department currently has 1 full time employee and 2 part-time employees. Gate fees have increased for 2011 by \$9,000. ITC grant for \$2,000 has been put in place improvements are throughout Van Buren Park. Askew question whether or not items planted were labeled. Bark 4 Life will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am 2pm 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row BCC striders have chosen Riggs Park for this event. Deputy Director Burns has been working with Public Safety to control the speeding concerns that we have throughout the Van Buren Park. Additional speed limit signs have been purchased and posted. Having the signs posted will aid in the enforcement from the Public Safety Department. Deputy Director Burns announced a possibility of additional money from the County indicating that the focus would on a bike path, permanent picnic tables. Deputy Director also invited the Committee and the Residents to join *Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation* on Facebook.

4. **Recreation Updates:** Director Wright provided pictures to show the completed gym floor. Director Wright invited everyone down to see it first hand after the meeting. An Opening Ceremony will take place after the painting and the padding gets replaced. Bids have been requested for the painting of the gym that will be completed as soon as possible. The sign that Wayne County requires us to display has been designed and is currently at the printer. Programs are underway as they were before construction of the gym floor; all participants have expressed what a nice job that was done. Director Wright indicated the Budget hearing went well. Upcoming events are Spooky Monster Show, Trunk or Treat. On going classes are doing well.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Meeting Time Change:** Director Wright explained to the Committee that for the Committee to continue to be on the schedule for video taping that the Committee had to look at a meeting time change for the 2012.

*Motion Duff, seconded Wright to approve the 2012 Meeting start time change to 5:30pm*

*Yeas: Duff, Clerk Wright, Coleman and Askew*

*Nays:*

*Absent: Gant, Ferris and Nodwell*

*Motion: Carried*

2. **Community Forestry Grant:** Director Wright announced that Van Buren Park and Recreation has applied for a grant "Everyday is Arbor Day" \$6,000 grant Van Buren to provide matching funds. Summer Camp will be used as matching funds. Once a week the summer camp children will go on a field trip. We will be hiring a naturalist from Wayne County. Parks and Recreation will partner with September Days Senior Center at the end of the program where they will participate in an event together. Duff questioned would there be tree planting. Deputy Director Burns explained that monies received couple years ago covered planting this particular grant was more of an education opportunity.

#### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Director Wright announced that Deputy Director Burns has been awarded a very prestigious award for New Professional of the Year from Michigan Recreation Park Association.

Committee had discussion about emailing minutes on the off month of the meeting so that members would essentially see the minutes twice and the Township will save on mailing costs.

Trustee Partridge informed Committee about the Cultural Advisory Committee. She highlighted the Committee and its goals with respect to the fact that funding will be allocated from EQ to the Committee for Cultural Events throughout the Community. The Committee is currently working on an application process so organizations can request monies. Trustee Partridge indicated she will continue to keep the Recreation Committee updated with the progress that the Committee makes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion Coleman, Duff second to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Price  
Recording Secretary