

Charter Township of Van Buren
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2011

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion Nodwell, Coleman second to approve the agenda of April 12, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion Coleman, Nodwell second to approve the minutes of March 9, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Park Updates:** Deputy Director Burns gave the Park Update. The Community Garden at Van Buren Park is full and has a waiting list. The front two plots are being used by the Boy Scouts and Daisy Troop 21235. Six concerts will be held at Van Buren Park this summer and the season will end with a talent contest put on by Party Time Entertainment. Concert series is under budget and will continue to seek donations, already has received a \$300 donation. The beach at Van Buren Park will have new "No Lifeguard on Duty" signs and buoys in the swim area. Burns has been in talks with U of M on the possibility of paving the road to the beach and putting in new stairs. Belleville High School is now practicing Lacrosse at Van Buren Park. Concessions this summer will be handled by the Boy Scouts. 2011 Annual Park Passes are now available. Deputy Director Burns the Committee members a letter from Tom Schneider about happenings with the birds in Van Buren parks. Supervisor White requested the swimming buoy's and additional no lifeguard signage.
2. **Recreation Updates:** Director Wright gave the Recreation Update. The new Spring/Summer Recreation Program was presented to the Committee members. Events highlighted were: The Hoppin' Hullabaloo, Get Up and Get Active program which is full, Relay for Life at Quirk Park, Mother/Daughter Tea Party which is sold out with a waiting list, Mother/Son Bowl, and Summer Camp. Clerk Wright would like to look into mailing the recreation program to Township residents in the future. Supervisor White mentioned placing recreation programs at local businesses to save on the mailing costs while improving distribution.
3. **Parks & Recreation Master Plan – Recreation Committee attendance at Planning Commission Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 27, 2011:** Director Wright announced the date and time of the Master Plan Public Hearing to be held at the next Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission would like the Recreation Committee members to attend. The changes noted in the March 9, 2011 meeting minutes have been made to the Master Plan. The Master Plan is available for review on the Township website and at the Belleville Area District Library.

4. **ACHIEVE Update:** Deputy Director Burns gave an update on the ACHIEVE \$40,000.00 grant secured by previous Director Bruce Ross through the National Recreation and Park Association. The grant addresses healthy lifestyles in Van Buren Township by creating and sustaining environmental policy changes. The Healthy Lifestyles Coalition was formed for the ACHIEVE grant.
5. **Wayne County Intergovernmental Agreement Update:** Director Wright gave an update on the funding for a new gym floor. The \$60,000.00 for the gym floor was approved at the last Township Board meeting. The floor specifications for a new hardwood gymnasium floor are available on the Township website.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Election of Officers:** Motion Nodwell, Wright second to re-elect current Chairperson Speed Gant and Vice-Chairperson Charles Coleman to their respective positions for a one year term. Motion Carried.
2. **Cultural Committee Presentation:** Trustee Denise Partridge presented the forming of a Cultural Committee, which could be a sub-committee underneath the Recreation Committee. The Cultural Committee could donate to groups such as; Belleville Area Council for the Arts, the Rotary Club, Belleville Historical Society, September Days Senior Center, and Van Buren Parks and Recreation. The committee would meet every 2-3 months or sooner if a request came in that was worthy of funding. The funding comes from landfill tipping fees in an agreement made with Wayne Disposal with a certain dollar amount per ton being set aside to a reserve fund for capital improvement projects and cultural activities. The Township Board has not decided how the funds will be dedicated, the Committee members agree this needs to be finalized. The Cultural Committee is to be formed and put on a Recreation Committee agenda for decision of being the liaison for the Committee. Supervisor White and Trustee Partridge will put together a Position Paper. The Cultural Committee By-Laws and a CD presentation were given to Chairperson Gant for review. Vice-Chairperson Coleman mentioned if a Cultural Committee was in place this could open the door to additional funding and grant opportunities. Committee member Ferris concerned that 4 members may not cover a wide enough area will need at least 6. The formation of a Cultural Committee will be brought back to the next Recreation Committee meeting.
3. **Healthy Lifestyles Coalition:** Deputy Director Burns presented information on the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition which was formed as part of the ACHIEVE grant through the National Recreation and Park Association. The group of local stakeholders was formed to implement policy change within the community promoting healthier lifestyles. Burns shared the goals and objectives with the committee members. The next meeting for the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition is Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Otisville Room and the Recreation Committee members are invited to attend.
4. **Student Representative – Search for December 2011 Representative:** Current Student Rep. Darris Meredith will look into finding a student rep. replacement and give feedback to the Committee members. Committee members would like to see at least 2-3 candidates. Meredith will speak with counselors at Belleville High School to inquire if

there are any candidates they would like to recommend and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Nodwell, Coleman second to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman
Recording Secretary