

**Charter Township of Van Buren  
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairperson Coleman.  
**Members Present:** Clerk Wright, Mark Duff, Speed Gant, Kimberly Nofz, Tammy Wall, Sam Villa and Charles Coleman **Absent:** None. **Staff Present:** Director Wright, Deputy Director Zaenglein and Secretary Harman.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion Wright, Duff second to approve the agenda of December 10, 2013 as presented. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion Wright, Duff second to approve the minutes of August 13, 2013 as presented. Motion Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Recreation Updates:** Director Wright gave updates on the new 2013 Touch a Truck event, the 2013 Candy Loop, the upcoming Brunch with Santa event and the PIP (Preparation for Independence Project) a class for life skills education for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. The Recreation budget had to be cut by 5% so less copies of the Recreation Program were ordered. Flyers will be handed out in between publications of the Recreation Program.
2. **Park Updates:** Deputy Director Zaenglein reported that Riggs Barn burned down the morning of Thanksgiving. The Deputy Director is looking to do a prescribed burn in the spring to the east side Riggs Heritage Park to remove dead vegetation. The second phase of the bike path at Van Buren Park will be complete and will total a mile in length. Sixty stumps are in the process of being removed at Van Buren Park. Discussion on uses for the beach area concluded for it to remain as a beach area since it is highly utilized.
3. **Grant Update:** The \$20,000 Wayne County Parks Millage funded the bike path finalization. A \$25,000 grant from Enbridge will pay for the controlled burn at Riggs Heritage Park, upgrade the electric at Van Buren Park pavilions, new interpretive signage at Riggs Park and the east field being mowed at Riggs Park.
4. **Budget Hearing:** The Township Board is still working with the budget, the parks and recreation department has been asked to bring in more revenue. The parks and recreation office has received new carpet and paint. Committee member ideas for revenue were: weddings at the park, gazebo near the beach to rent out, fall hayrides, different marketing of summer concert series to bring in more patrons, possible change the day of the week for concert series and flyer inserts in the local newspapers. A dog park has been submitted for a capital improvement.
5. **Parks and Recreation Questionnaire:** The Parks and Recreation Questionnaires were printed with ACHIEVE grant money and will be distributed to Van Buren Park patrons at

the gate house and also in the recreation department offices for feedback. The Van Buren Township website is being updated to be easier to use. Director Wright and Deputy Director Zaenglein are looking into Survey Monkey for online surveys that will be available for the parks and the department about programs and services. They are looking to partner with more businesses in 2014 and also looking at new ways of marketing.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion Gant, Duff second to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman  
Recording Secretary