

**Charter Township of Van Buren
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2019
Location: Quirk Park**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:27 by Chairperson Belanger after a tour of the new, soon to be open, Splash Pad

Members Present: Chairperson Belanger, Co-chairperson Coleman, Clerk Wright, Denise Willoughby, Todd O'Neill, and Kimberly Nofz

Excused: Tammy Wall

Unexcused:

Staff Present: Director Wright, Deputy Director Zaenglein, and Secretary Dohring.

Audience: Trustee Miller, Ashley Schukait

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Clerk Wright, Coleman seconded to approve the agenda of August 13, 2019 as presented. ***Motion Carried.***

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion O'Neill, Willoughby seconded to approve the minutes from April 9, 2019 as presented. ***Motion Carried.***

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

General Discussion:

Special Tour of Splash Pad prior to formal meeting- Joe Strickland from the Water Department took the committee on a walking tour of the Splash Pad. Director Best and Administrative Assistant Renaud also joined the group for the tour. Joe discussed the unique landscaping & design features, including the Egypt Covington Memorial. He talked about the many items that have been completed, and the ones that are yet to be finished before the Aug. 23rd Grand Opening, as well as possible future additions. He also turned on and demonstrated the different water features.

1. Recreation Updates:

Director Wright stated that they applied for and received two mini grants of \$50,000 from the MDNR to be used for hiring an engineer to do a study and design of the west side of the Iron Bell Trail coming out of the city of Belleville thru Van Buren Park to safely connect to Washtenaw County's border to border trail. PEA Engineers submitted a proposal to go to the board for approval to study and design this portion of the trail. The phase of the trail on Huron River Drive, that the \$300,000 grant from the DNR is for, the specs and the plans will be going to DNR to be approved thru them.

June 19 began the demo of the lobby and the multi-purpose rooms for remodeling. No completion date has been set yet. Two drawing camps have been going on over the summer, which are new programs, and have been well received.

The Lake Ledger will be replaced with the quarterly township magazine that gets mailed to everyone's homes with 2 pages for Parks & Recreation events and an additional page for contact information of the area sports programs. Fall programming will begin soon including the Candy Loop.

2. Park Updates:

Deputy Director Zaenglein discussed the Comcast Cares volunteer event that was held May 4th and started with a pancake breakfast. There was over 200 volunteers. They worked in all the parks, spreading over 170 cubic yards of mulch in the playgrounds, weeding, raking, and picking up garbage, all within a couple of hours. They would like to do it again next year, and also do something with the Yankee Air Museum.

The Concert Series at Quirk Park just wrapped up with approximately 550 attendees for the 3 concerts. Locations for next year will need to be discussed because of the new construction.

Van Buren Park is currently hosting the Western Wayne County Urban Search & Rescue for a two-day training, with the group sleeping in the park overnight, and conducting training in the different types of outdoor areas, including the water.

The French Landing fishing dock received a temporary repair to make it safe for use, that should last about 5-10 years. There is also millage money to be used to replace the aging, play structure, and possibly more seating, at that park as well.

Gatehouse Revenue at the Park is at \$23,000 which is staffed Wednesday thru Sunday for 12 hours per day. There might be CBDG money available to take down Pavilion #4, which is in the back of Van Buren Park.

Clerk Wright recommended that the committee send suggestions to the board for the uses of capital outlay, whether it be new pavilions, play structures, soccer field repair, whatever the committee thinks is needed.

Adjournment: Motion O'Neill, Coleman second to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Dohring
Recording Secretary