

**FINAL  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMMERCE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Monday, September 26, 2022*  
2009 Township Drive  
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairperson Walker called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**ROLL CALL: Present:** William Petsch, Chairperson (arrived @ 7:02pm)  
Johnny Walker, Vice Chairperson  
Barbara Garbutt, Secretary  
Bob Berkheiser  
Krystal Schwartz

Ron Krueger  
Laura Waterworth  
**Also Present:** Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks & Recreation  
Allison Kennedy, Asst. to Parks & Recreation Director  
Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director  
Larry Gray, Township Supervisor

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Garbutt, seconded by Krueger, to approve the August 22, 2022, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*The minutes for the August 29, 2022, Parks and Recreation Committee Special Budget Meeting were under Other Matters in the agenda packet. The item was moved up on the agenda by Vice Chairperson Walker for approval.*

**MOTION** by Krueger, seconded by Schwartz, to approve the August 29, 2022, Parks and Recreation Committee Special Budget Meeting Minutes as written.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vice Chairperson Walker opened to Public Comments.

There were no comments.

Vice Chairperson Walker closed to Public Comments.

**ITEM 1: LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION REPORT**

**Inter-Lakes Girls Softball – Tim Bailey**

- We've been busy since I last saw you.
- We expanded the fencing along both sides of the baselines, from the end of the dugout towards the outfield, by 40' going up a total of 10'. We put those in as a safety measure. There have been foul balls hit going directly into the spectator areas. We expanded fencing on all 7 fields on both sides.
- We moved the gates to access the fields down a little bit.
- We elected our new board. We have a couple of new members. One of them is going to be my replacement for this position. She could not make it tonight. I'll introduce her next time. Her name is Casey. Her mother was with the league.
- We have a small tournament coming up October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> called Pumpkin Smash. I'm not sure exactly how many teams it is. I think it's around 25 or so. We split it across two weekends with different age groups.
- I've also received one quote on having the bathroom floor coating done. The cost was approximately \$3,000. I know you'd prefer more quotes.

Director England – We prefer three. If you send it out and people don't respond, then we did our good faith effort.

Tim Bailey – They've been pretty responsive so far. Once I get those quotes, I'd like the Committee to consider paying for that. I'll elaborate on the style variations at that time.

Director England – Okay, just make sure you get it to me *before* the meeting so I can include it in the packet.

Mr. Berkheiser – When do you usually winterize?

Mark Schoder – After the tournament at the end of October.

Mr. Berkheiser – So you winterize it, Mark? What do you winterize?

Mark Schoder – Yes, we do the bathrooms and the concessions.

Mr. Berkheiser – Then you guys do the fields?

Tim Bailey – Yes, we do the sprinkler system and we do that toward the end of October.

Director England – For the new Committee members, I want to note that the Inter-Lakes Girls Softball restroom building is a unique situation, different from the other leagues. That building was split in two. It was a restroom, and then the concession building. The Township built the restroom side of that with CDBG funds years ago, therefore, we've always taken care of the maintenance of that building; not the wear and tear caused by use, but the maintenance of that building has been taken care of by the Township. That's what makes it different than the other facilities in our Township Parks.

Tim Bailey – We take care of the cleaning.

Chairperson Petsch – Thanks, Tim.

Tim Bailey – Thank you.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Is that bathroom only open during softball games?

Director England – Yes.

Tim Bailey – And sometimes for practices, particularly when the travel teams are out there.

### **Friends of Byers – Dean & Karen Schantz**

Dean Schantz shared the following with the Committee:

- We are gearing up for Boo-Bash on Sat., October 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:00pm-8:30pm
  - Like last year, we're doing it in half hour increments by appointment.
  - It moves along really well and there are no line-ups.
  - That's going along pretty well.
- We're coordinating with Sam Moraco, the contractor for the Byers Farmhouse. We're contributing approximately \$8,000 for the flooring as approved by our group. I met with the flooring guy. Sam's shoring up the structural on the house.
- On October 29<sup>th</sup>, we're going to participate with Trunk-or-Treat at the Library. We did that last year and it was a lot of fun. It was pretty overwhelming because I think about 1,000 people showed up for that. We always have extra candy and we love to contribute to that also.

Karen Schantz – Do you guys need to approve the flooring?

Dean Schantz – We sent you a copy of the estimate. It's 2.25" wide, ¾" tongue and groove red oak.

Director England – Yes, you're right, we asked them to bring it back to you. We need a motion to approve the work that's submitted in front of you.

Chairperson Petsch – Okay. It's all going to be uniform? The floor is leveled in the kitchen, and ...

Dean Schantz – Sam is going to shore up all the flooring and do the repairs. At the north door of the kitchen, there's a large hole. He will repair all of that. They're going to go underneath and shore up the footings so it's nice and smooth. The idea behind using the more narrow tongue and groove is that it's more flexible. The house is not really perfect, due to humidity and so forth, so using pine is not something that they would recommend. That's why he suggested the ¾" red oak. It fits the period as they used that, historically speaking.

Chairperson Petsch – So basically, the flooring on the whole first floor being redone?

Dean Schantz – It will be the kitchen and the parlor. They didn't recommend doing the dining room because it has been painted. If they have to scrape all that paint down, they'll never get it all out of the crevices. Then of course there's the risk of lead paint and the cost of abatement. He just recommended repainting that again. That floor is

fine. There's nothing wrong with it. I also talked to Bob about Boy Scout projects. Do I talk to Brad about that?

Mr. Berkheiser – You can, or I'll let him know tonight.

Vice Chairperson Walker – So you want to do both the kitchen and the living room?

Dean Schantz – Correct.

Mr. Berkheiser – Do you want to do the motion now or under Other Matters?

Director England – Other Matters.

Mr. Berkheiser – I do have a question. You said you're doing Boo-Bash by reservation?

Dean Schantz – Yes. The idea was, during the COVID period, we could only have 100 people onsite because of the regulations. We did it in half-hour increments so that we only had 100 people and we monitored that. That worked out so well that we did it the next year. Last year we had 500 people. The advantage is that it spreads it out without big line-ups and you aren't overwhelmed with parking.

Mr. Berkheiser – I understand that. I guess what I mean is suppose that people just show up.

Dean Schantz – Well if they show up, that's not a big deal. We're not going to turn people away. We're just trying to make it more ...

Mr. Berkheiser – I get it, but this could be different in that there aren't restrictions anymore. I just want to make sure that if folks don't have a reservation, they can still show up.

Dean Schantz – Absolutely. I understand. We do that with Visit with Santa and other events. It has worked out so well and we've had no complaints.

Director England – Can you make sure to send me the flyer too, so we can get it posted for you?

Dean Schantz – Yes.

Karen Schantz – Can I ask one question; color, for staining the floor? When we approve it with Sam, we have to come up with a color.

Director England – Are there colors that are common for that period of time that he could recommend?

Karen Schantz – I would say more natural, but now is the time to think about it.

Director England and Ms. Schantz would work with Sam on his recommendations of what would be appropriate for that period.

**Motor City Mountain Bike Association – Mike Kearney**

- Really nothing to report over the last month.
- The trail is still there, people are still riding it and it still looks good.

**Windmill Farms (Horse Farm) – Carrie Hancock**

- Our High School Equestrian team, two of the teams that were sponsored out of Windmill have qualified for regionals; Walled Lake Central and Walled Lake Northern. They will be going to the Shiawassee Showgrounds for that this coming weekend.

Mr. Berkheiser – Where is that Carrie?

Carrie Hancock – In Corunna, in Shiawassee County, northwest of here.

- We had our Open House over the weekend.
  - That went well. We got some new riders, but it wasn't really busy because of the rainy weather.
  - It was a follow-up to the discount pony ride coupons we passed out at the Concert in the Park. That had our Open House information and our contact information. That was the time and place to redeem those.
  - We also use our Open House for people that call or stop by. It's difficult to have people just pop in at different times, so we let them know we have an Open House and give them the date.
  - The last couple of months, we've been doing them the last Sunday of the month and it has worked well.
- This past week, we had a booth on the State Capitol lawn for Legislative Days for the Horse Industry of Michigan, sponsored by the Michigan Horse Council.
  - Windmill Farms was represented there and we had an activity for the kids; assembling horses again with our information.
  - It was a great place for networking. There was a lot of interest in people who have services and need places to offer them. There were some good connections made there.
- We have our pony rides coming up for the Panther Hunt. City of Wixom puts it on in Gilbert Willis Park on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- I think last year they (Byers Farm) had about 500-600 people through there for their 3-hour Halloween event. We do pony rides there steady for 3 hours, and that's good exposure as well.
- We had some roof damage. We're waiting to get some estimates on repairs. I think that was submitted to the insurance company.
- We continue to work on a manure management plan that was put together with the representative from Michigan State. The company that normally hauls that out for us is interested now and has the equipment available. He will let me know when he's available to bring that stuff in and get it hauled out of there.
- Other than that, I also received a termination notice that they're closing the farm down, right when we're as busy as we've ever been and done all this promotion, and work, and provided services, and I don't have a reason for that termination. I don't know, Bob, do you have any information on that?

Mr. Berkheiser – Well Carrie, this has been a longstanding thing. It was something that the Township Board voted on at the last Township Board meeting. Other than that, I wasn't at the meeting so I don't know exactly what was done. There were several areas of your contract that had not been met, and there have been issues continuously. So, the Board made the decision to terminate and then look to decide how we want to move forward from there.

Carrie Hancock – What areas of the contract?

Mr. Berkheiser – This isn't a discussion having to do with that. First off, I'm sure it's in your termination letter. There's usually something in there.

Carrie Hancock – No reason.

Mr. Berkheiser – Well, it has to do with non-performance of the contract I'm sure. You can get with Emily afterwards. This isn't a discussion session on things like that.

Carrie Hancock – Oh, I thought it was. In my contract it says to bring issues-

Mr. Berkheiser – No, it's not a discussion.

Carrie Hancock – Okay, so let me mention this. I have requested several times for a meeting to review my contract, and I am still waiting to have that meeting. There's misinformation and misinterpretations of information, and I have not yet had that meeting. I'm still looking forward-

Director England – Correction, we have had that meeting with the subcommittee.

Carrie Hancock – Not with me, though.

Director England – Yes, you and Frank.

Carrie Hancock – Not over the terms of the contract.

Director England – Yes, it was, Carrie. We went through your contract with you.

Carrie Hancock – I recall going through the letters of ... the conditions that you wanted repaired and then also going back to the list of items to be improved through the Township, and then the ones I would improve.

Director England – That was part of the meeting, that is correct.

Carrie Hancock – Okay. The meeting I requested was with yourself and Larry, as the signers on my contract, if that's what I'm required to do. That's the meeting I have not had yet.

Director England – Because the meeting was with the subcommittee, which is what Larry asked us to do.

Carrie Hancock – I will ask again to have a meeting regarding my contract with the two of you because there are some misunderstandings and misinterpretations. I don't see that it's in the best interest of the community to shut this down when it's thriving. Actually, going back looking at the Parks and Recreation funding, if you go back 9 years, I've been there 9 years through the Township, there is millions, and millions and millions of taxpayer dollars spent on the Parks, through the millages, through taxes. Windmill Farm has been operating 9 years and has been entirely self-sufficient, and actually has pooled about \$150,000 to the Township for maintenance and repairs. So, it hasn't cost the Township anything, but it has served a very unique opportunity for the citizens. I would like to know if this Committee could make a recommendation to review and reconsider the decision of the Board, and have a discussion when we can to go over some of the issues and see if they could be resolved. It's a huge loss to the community. By the way, on Yelp or whatever, we're a five-star business. I cannot find another five-star riding facility in the area.

Chairperson Petsch – Well Carrie, I think as discussed, that meeting should be with Mr. Gray and then see what his decision is. Since the Township Board made a decision, and until we get that information and you meet with him, schedule a meeting, and if he recommends something that we need to look at further, then we could. At this time, that's not in our power to make that recommendation.

Carrie Hancock – Okay, I understand. Thank you for listening.

#### **Commerce Little League – Paul Kammer**

- It has been a couple months since I've been here, and we're finally getting a little time to settle down.
- We had a very successful 2022 season. We had 800+ players come through between Spring Ball and Fall Ball. We currently have about 250 Fall Ball players.
- No major things to report at Maple Glen for our facilities. We didn't do much this season. There was a big turnover on the board. We were trying to get our finances together and get things back to the way they were pre-COVID.
- We did recently have some damage from the storms after Labor Day. We had some dugout damage. We've been having conversations with Emily about possibilities for some help. We do have some companies coming out to quote the repairs, or upgrading our roof facilities for all of our dugouts.
- We plan to put some money into the fields this upcoming Spring, working to refence two of our bigger fields that were not done back in 2017 when we did the majority of the other ones.
- And, most likely adding another scoreboard to one of the fields that we had already planned pre-COVID.
- We're looking for grants and funding incentives from other nonprofits or baseball funding opportunities to help offset some of those costs.
- We will shut down soon. Fall Ball ends mid-October, depending on some rainouts, but we will have the concession building, our well and our pumps all winterized and shut down. Usually by Halloween we're out of there until the Spring.

Chairperson Petsch – Paul, did you have any teams go on through the State Tournament this year?

Paul Kammer – The 12U team that won States last year, we had high hopes of them making it to regionals and the Little League World Series, but they lost in the semis to Grosse Pointe Farm City, who ended up winning the whole thing and going to regionals. Our 12U team made it to the semis. Our 13U team won districts and made it to the semis in States, which was held at Maple Glen. Our 10-year-old team also made it to the semis and lost to the Taylor 10U team. We have another opportunity next year. The team that I coach will be 12U next year, so we hope to make that push for regionals as well. But, we had a really successful year with our district tournament teams.

Chairperson Petsch – The boys got a lot of experience. That's the key. You had three divisions that went that far, that's great.

Paul Kammer – It's really good and we really push our young teams to stay in the league. There's so many teams moving to travel ball and getting that pay-to-play mentality. We try to keep them as we can and give them these opportunities to train a little bit at that young age, but still have the rec ball, house ball feeling you get; Saturday morning at the park, getting your ice cream after games and playing with your friends. That's why the facilities in the park, with everything you guys have done, it has been great. We're just looking for another great season next year.

One of the concerns, and maybe this isn't for discussion for today, but I know Tim would probably agree with me here. At Maple Glen, when you come into the field and turn off right into the dirt path that goes between Inter-Lakes and ours; it is a constant hazard with the amount of rutting that happens, because it goes from pavement to gravel. I think you guys graded about four times, which was very helpful. I don't know if in the Spring, when you guys have another paving project out there, if we could even just pave that first 50' off that turn off. It's something to consider to help with the rutting. I don't know what the future master plan of the park is, and I'll talk more with Emily about it.

Tim Bailey – Dust control, too, because everybody is going through there. It's a dustbowl.

Director England – So, history has always been that the Township has taken care of the grading, but the leagues have taken care of the dust control management. But I can reach out to a contractor that typically donates asphalt millings to see if he can put some down there.

Chairperson Petsch – Is anybody here from Lakes?

Director England – They submitted a report.

### **Lakes Athletics Association – Jerry Stoddard**

*A report dated Sept. 22, 2022, was submitted in the packet:*

- *League Update – Fall 2022 House/Rec season will complete in late Oct. Winterizing activities at the Hickory Glen Park have begun, with garage and machines clean-out and storage, field banner removal, and field box itemize and secure steps. Soon Porto-John at Shepherds and Long will be removed as well as any remaining at HG. After sprinkler final repairs, sprinklers and bathrooms will be winterized.*



- *Upcoming Dates & Information*
  - *Season Dates – House Fall Ball through Oct/End;*
  - *Monthly Meeting – Next scheduled Board meet is Sept/End*
  - *2022 Capital Improvements – Sprinkler work is nearing completion; thank you to P&R support for meeting with us to discuss lessons learned and next steps*
- *Needs From Township*
  - *Restrooms – Still need many updates to the plumbing and hardware, old and rusty. Winterizing to begin at Oct/End.*
  - *Flagpoles –Quoting electrical companies for the work; plan to still implement*
  - *Parking Lot Construction – Completed. Thanks.*
  - *SPRINKLERS – Final scope of work and invoices to be received in early October. Map of completed system is now in existence for future construction reference. LAA can schedule meeting with P&R to review and discuss next steps.*

Mr. Berkheiser – I'll make a comment on Lakes. Emily, maybe ask them to change their format. Their section, *Needs From the Township; Restrooms and Sprinklers* are not Needs from the Township. The restrooms and sprinkler system are their responsibility.

Chairperson Petsch – Bob, I think they've got such a transition that there's no continuity between old boards and new boards to understand what their responsibilities are.

Mr. Berkheiser – We've met with them twice, so they know. I don't want it to be in the minutes and then have everybody think that it's our responsibility to take care of restrooms and sprinkler systems, because it's not.

No representatives were present at the meeting for the following leagues:

- Lakes Area Hawks
- CW3 Soccer

## **ITEM 2: VICTORY PARK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS**

Director England – This is revisiting our conversation from last month. To date, I have not heard anything from the gentleman who was doing work back there. Larry, can you confirm you haven't heard from him either?

Supervisor Gray – I haven't heard a word.

Director England – We need a motion.

Mr. Berkheiser – We have given him at least four months to at least show up and give us a plan.

Director England – We gave him a year to do that. He was notified to appear at last month's meeting and he did not. So we gave him another 30 days to show up and show us that he was working in the right direction. We haven't heard a word.

Mr. Berkheiser – So we're looking to go in and basically remove the hazards?

Director England – Yes, the BMX trails.

**MOTION** by Walker, supported by Waterworth, to remove the hazards in Victory Park caused by the BMX trails. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **ITEM 3: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- I was not at the 9/13 meeting, but in looking at the agenda and reading the minutes, there's a couple issues.
- You heard one, we had the Horse Farm decision from the Board. They terminated the contract and reauthorized the subcommittee to look at what other options are available and what we want to do. The subcommittee is supposed to meet in the next couple weeks to decide what needs to be done, from looking at other concessionaires to selling the property I guess, and anything in between. I'll keep you guys up to date on what's going on with that.
- I wanted to make you aware of the Shepherd's Grove master deed decision that was made.
  - Some of you may hear from things online, there was information going back and forth about Union Lake Baptist Church, over by Clifford Smart Middle School. It ranged from selling everything to becoming a housing development.
  - Partly true; they own 20 acres back there. They're keeping 3 acres and selling 17 acres to a developer.
  - It was originally zoned R-1C, that's residential property and it has been zoned residential for however long the church has been there.
  - They worked through the Planning Commission and there were some alterations that had to be done. They presented a plan to build I think 32-34 homes back in that area.
  - There really isn't anything that the Township Board or Commerce Township can do. It is zoned residential, and the way it was sold and what they're building fits into our Zoning Ordinance for residential property.
  - It's not like it's church property; there is no such thing as church property. There isn't a zoning for churches, and churches can actually go on any zoned property as part of our First Amendment rights.
  - It's not like it was agricultural property turned into residential property. That would have been posted for the change. Just keeping you aware in case it gets brought up. It has been residential property forever and they're building on it. We don't have to like it, but there's nothing legally that can be done about it.
- That's really it. It was a fairly short meeting because I wasn't there.

### **ITEM 4: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Ms. England discussed the following:

- The majority is in my written report that was submitted.
- I do want to give you an update on the pickleball courts.
  - Obviously, we knew we were going to hit some roadblocks with materials.
  - At this point in time, they're doing the restoration and the plantings at the pickleball courts.

- The fence should be here the first week of October, so that will be installed next week.
- The big thing we are waiting on is the posts that hold the nets, and then the painting of the court itself. We're finding they don't want to paint the court until the posts are in. I pray for good weather that they come in and we have a couple of days above 60 so that they can get those courts painted.
- Other than that, it is looking great over there, and it's a great contractor that we've been working with.

Mr. Berkheiser – Can you comment as to what the winter mowing is in your report?

Director England – Yes. Winter mowing is something that is through Oakland County. You know along Commerce Road into Dodge Park, when we cleared all that underbrush at one point so that you could see in and out. It is growing back up again, so what winter mowing would do is to go in and clear all of that undergrowth so that we could see into the park again, and then it would get put on the maintenance schedule.

Chairperson Petsch – Maple too, along the south side of Glengary, in between the two entrances.

Ms. Kennedy – We do get one or the other; we don't get two property choices for this project with Oakland County.

Mr. Berkheiser – Then we'll take Dodge. There's parking right there and we have lots of folks. It's good to be able to see back in there from a safety point-of-view.

Director England – We can put Maple on the list for next year.

Chairperson Petsch – That's another that needs to be cut. Look at Hickory Glen now, it's great every time I go by there. I'm amazed at how nice that looks, and plus with the new parking and the split rails.

Director England – We received a grant from Oakland County CISMA, and they had just gone out last week and put another 25 trees around the field, so you'll see hardwoods were planted. I think some of them are not in great shape. We're going to have to get a hold of the contractor so that they can get us healthy trees.

One more thing; we have a survey out for Pathways of the Future. We've put it on Facebook a few times, and on different social media and our website. We will leave that up for a few months, but it is regarding pathways and sidewalks in the Township as a whole, not just within the Parks system. We thought this was a good time with the Township Master Plan as a whole being worked on right now, and the Parks plan coming up, so if you could just share that with your neighbors, that would be great. I can send you the link and we have a QR code.

Mr. Berkheiser – Send the link out for those of us who aren't regularly on Facebook. Thank you.

**ITEM 5: PARK LIAISON REPORTS****Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park**

- The new parking space is getting a lot of use. It's not jampacked, except maybe one time.
- I do still see cars on the south side of road in the gravel lot. I don't think people want to cross the road, which I get. We also see some further down on the south side at that short parking lot.
- As things move forward with that property, and whatever we're going to end up doing with it, with the grants and whatnot, hopefully we will see more movement on that side.

Director England – So, an update on the archeological study; it has been completed and nothing was found that was significant. They gave me the report and I submitted it to SHPO. They've already responded within two days that there is no adverse effect. We are finalizing all of our supplemental information for the grant, which is due October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Discussion continued regarding parking and use of Victory and Wise Woods.

**Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race**

- We went by Byers today, so we got to see that.
- One thing I will note about Mill Race is the graffiti. I showed Emily a picture of it. Hopefully we can get to the bottom of that.

Mr. Berkheiser –

- The guideline wire that comes off the telephone pole, caddy corner out from the barn; it's loose. I think it's there to hold the telephone pole up. I don't know if that's DTE, but they should come out and tighten that.
- The other thing I noticed and I think we talked about it, one of the trees is really growing over onto the roof of the barn. As we get into winter, with wind et cetera, it will tear the roof up. It needs trimming but it looks pretty high, or take the tree out if it's a junk tree, to keep the roof in decent shape.
- And something we need to start thinking about and maybe we look at it for next year. We allotted some money, but the wooden bridge on the Leo's side, it looks pretty soft again. I know Mark did some repairs to it to get another year or two out of it, but we have to think about that within the next year or so and make a big decision on it. I have some pictures I can send to you that show the rot from the wood that sits in the dirt and mud.
- The only other thing I noticed, and I don't know if that's our property or not, is the pond and the pumphouse. It's not really a pumphouse; it's falling apart. I don't know that the pump runs or when it runs. It used to pump a fountain, but there's not much water in there anymore.

Ms. Schwartz – It has not been running anytime I have been back there.

Mr. Berkheiser – It used to. I don't know if that's ours, or if that is Arkan Jonna's.

Director England – I have it pulled up on NearMap so after the meeting we can look at the boundary lines.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay. If not, I guess it's not really our responsibility then, but it would be nice to keep the mosquitos down and keep the water moving.

**Krueger – Dodge Park**

- Dodge Park is looking great. At this time of year, all that area really looks terrific.
- I've seen quite a bit of activity in the park. Even though it's old equipment over at the Library, I've seen a fair amount of usage over there too. When I drove by, there were people using the pavilion.
- At the Library, I would still like to see some of the dead evergreens removed, if they're able to do that.

**Petsch – Bicentennial Park**

- Nothing new to report on Bicentennial.
- It's still being used, and I can't wait for everything to get done over there.

Director England – The play equipment is in. They are just waiting for an install date.

**Garbutt – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park**

- Long Park is looking good.
- The birds are migrating so there are a lot more photographers and nature lovers in there right now.
- When I was there a few days ago, the parking lot was a mess. The garbage barrels were almost in the middle, so I moved those back and I cleaned up all the trash in the parking lot that I could. I don't know if there's anything we can do about that, but that sort of ruined the look of the whole place.

**Walker – Maple Glen & Windmill Farm**

- I went into Maple Glen twice in the last couple weeks.
- Everything looks really good.
- I do know what you're talking about for that rutting area. I have backed down that once or twice. Asphalt millings would definitely help in that area.

**Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park**

- The new parking at Hickory Glen is definitely nice.
- I've driven past there when they have different events, and it's just nice to see uniformity with the cars lined up.
- We will watch the trees in the Spring. We will give it a year and see what they look like.

**ITEM 6: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE**

Ms. Waterworth discussed the following with the Committee:

- They had a private Oktoberfest event, for Village of Wolverine Lake residents only; it was held on someone's lake property, so they wanted to keep it small.
- I know they're going to have an event with Santa, but it is not on the calendar yet. When I hear, I'll let you know.

**ITEM 7: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director, discussed the following with the Committee:

- Barb, with the garbage at Long Park; when GFL empties, that's what blows all the garbage around. We try to get over there, put the cans back and pick up the garbage. You beat us to it.
- The well at Maple Glen went down on Saturday. I have a company coming in to look at it this week. I think the pump is shot on it, it burned up.

Mr. Berkheiser – What is that servicing?

Mr. Schoder – The bathrooms and concessions.

Mr. Berkheiser – Does it do the sprinklers too?

Mr. Schoder – No, that's a different pump. We tried to back feed with that one.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, so we must have several wells over there. Do we have one on the boys side?

Paul Kammer – We have one.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, so that's three. Do we have portables over there?

Mr. Schoder – There's two.

- We are doing our last cutting on the Airline Trail, along with trimming and shoring up erosion. We're also looking for split-rail fence to match. It seems like some kids took some pieces and threw them. We couldn't find them anywhere.
- The bridges on South Commerce; we're getting ready to make a couple repairs. We will clean and seal those before it gets too cold.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is that the one over at Byers?

Mr. Schoder – Byers was done last year.

Mr. Berkheiser – Actually, it looked pretty good today.

Mr. Schoder – Hickory and South Commerce are supposed to be done this year.

- The overgrowth along the fence line from Multi-Lakes, we are going to have to clean that up before the end of the year.
- At Scarlet's Smile, the equipment that was vandalized; Emily got all the parts in there. We're reinstalling.
- At Mill Race, we covered up all the offensive language until we're ready to get the cameras put back up.
- The BMX trail; we're ready to take that down.

Chairperson Petsch – Mark, what about the tree in the cemetery, by the path?

Mr. Schoder – We have a company coming in to take care of that. We got a quote. We're waiting on quotes for the fencing. It's an insurance claim so it takes time. The trees should be cleaned up this week.

Chairperson Petsch – Thanks.

**ITEM 8: 2023 MEETING DATES**

Director England – All meetings should have fallen on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, except for the December meeting.

**MOTION** by Walker, seconded by Schwartz, to approve the 2023 Parks and Recreation Meeting Dates as presented. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM 9: PARK EVENT UPDATES**

Director England – This is on here as a placeholder as we move forward into our planning.

- We're obviously going to continue on with our Concert series.
- We continue to add activities or events for kids. We did a tie-dye shirt clinic and the kids loved it. We did that at the Magic Bus concert and had huge positive feedback.
- We're moving forward with the M-5K.
- We're moving forward with the Holiday Tree Lighting event.
- We're looking at doing something in the Fall; we just need to put that together.

Discussion took place regarding an Oktoberfest event. Director England felt it would need to be an all-day event. Ms. Schwartz suggested holding the event the same day as the M-5K. Director England felt it might be too late. She has been talking with JAG and they do festivals all over the County. Ms. Waterworth mentioned Brighton's German Family Park, which includes dancing, games and kids activities, and a kitchen.

**ITEM 10: OTHER MATTERS**

Director England – I don't have anything additional other than the motion for Byers.

Mr. Berkheiser – So that is not a cost to the Township. This is all Friends of Byers and they're just looking for permission basically.

Vice Chairperson Walker – You're paying for the whole thing?

Dean Schantz – Right.

Ms. Waterworth – We just need to make sure that you use the right materials.

Mr. Berkheiser – Anytime any organizations make a major change to something, they need to get permission.

Director England – Originally, Friends of Byers budgeted to replace the roof on the house, and we entered into a contract with Sam Moraco to do that. So now they're doing the flooring instead of the roof.

Chairperson Petsch – Which is something that is definitely needed, and especially the kitchen, to get that shored up and repaired.

**MOTION** by Krueger, seconded by Garbutt, to approve the proposal for the hardwood flooring for the Byers House, in the kitchen of 285 square feet of 2.25” wide #1 red oak flooring  $\frac{3}{4}$ ’ thick tongue and groove, and in the living room of 240 square feet of 2.25” wide #1 red oak flooring  $\frac{3}{4}$ ’ thick tongue and groove, with the cost of \$8125.00 to be paid for by Friends of Byers. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The next Parks and Recreation Meeting will be on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 7:00PM immediately following the 6:00pm Park Tour at Wise Woods & Victory Park.

**ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Krueger, supported by Walker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Barbara Garbutt, Secretary