

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

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

2009 Township Drive  
Commerce Township, Michigan 48390

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairperson Walker called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**ROLL CALL: Present:** Johnny Walker, Vice Chairperson  
Krystal Schwartz, Secretary  
Bob Berkheiser  
Laura Waterworth  
Ron Krueger  
Denise Vecellio

**Absent:** William Petsch, Chairperson (excused)

**Also Present:** Emily England, Director of Senior Services/Parks & Recreation  
Allison Kennedy, Asst. to Parks & Recreation Director  
Mark Schoder, Maintenance Director

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Krueger, seconded by Vecellio, to approve the January 27, 2025, Parks and Recreation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes with a correction to the date in the header to reflect January 27th on Pages 2-13.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Chairperson Petsch opened to Public Comments.**

There were no comments.

**Chairperson Petsch closed to Public Comments.**

**AGENDA AMENDMENT**

Vice Chairperson Walker – We’re going to amend the agenda. The first item will be a Boy Scout presentation for his Eagle Scout project.

**MOTION** by Berkheiser, supported by Waterworth, to add Peyton Walker Eagle Scout Project Presentation as the first item on the February 24<sup>th</sup> Parks Agenda.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEM 1A: PEYTON WALKER EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PRESENTATION**

Peyton Walker delivered a PowerPoint presentation.

Peyton Walker – I'm from Troop 170. I want to build a kiosk at Victory Park. My project will help people entering Victory Park, and help them learn about anything new or relevant, or get where they need to go. For example, if they have lost their dog or anything at the park, they can put up a poster. I plan to put the kiosk on Wise Road at Victory. It will allow people to see what the park offers. It will be on the path leading to the dog park.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is it going to be over by the dog park?

Peyton Walker – It's going to be near the parking lot, at the beginning of the path to the dog park.

Mr. Berkheiser – It's not going to be out by Wise Road?

Peyton Walker – No.

Mr. Berkheiser – So, once you're in the parking lot, it will be by there.

Peyton Walker – Yes. So, I can't use power tools; I have to be over 18 due to BSA rules. The materials I would need would be screws, wood, nails, glue, a bulletin board, push pins, shingles, concrete, and a plexiglass cover. I plan on getting most of the materials from donations from companies I will reach out to, along with some fundraising.

The overall build for the kiosk will be 7' to 8' tall, according to the person standing beside it. It will be one-sided with the bulletin board on one side and it will back up to the tree line. It will be covered to prevent damages.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is there a reason it is one-sided?

Peyton Walker – Only one-side is needed. I don't think you have enough open area there to put a two-sided kiosk.

Mr. Berkheiser – Emily, do you have any idea where you want it?

Director England – I can look at the location with him to see where it makes sense, where the most foot traffic is.

Mr. Berkheiser – How big is your bulletin board area?

Peyton Walker – It's 8x10 feet.

Mr. Berkheiser – So a normal 8x10 sheet of plywood would fit in there?

Peyton Walker – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – So it's a large area, okay.

Mr. Krueger – Is the overall 8x10?

Peyton Walker – The surface area of the main board you see in that picture, that gray part, that's 8x10.

Mr. Berkheiser – The other construction question I have; you said it was going to be about 7 feet tall. How far do you plan on putting the posts into the ground?

Peyton Walker – About 4 feet, just below the frost line.

Mr. Berkheiser – So how tall do you need your 4x6 posts roughly?

Peyton Walker – So about 12 feet.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is this just your initial work? Or, have you run this through the troop and gotten sign-off on it?

Peyton Walker – That is the next step after this. I believe I'm going next week to have the Eagle Board review the project.

Mr. Berkheiser – So you still have to get the project approved through your troop, and then you have to get Mr. Payne from the district?

Peyton Walker – Yes. This was the initial approval.

Mr. Berkheiser – How much do you think the overall project is going to cost? Did you get an estimate?

Peyton Walker – Wood is expensive. Probably about \$500 because it is pressure treated wood. Most of it will be donated.

Mr. Berkheiser – So you're not doing fundraising?

Peyton Walker – For the bulletin board, push pins, shingles ... Shingles might be donated through a company. I will have to buy the concrete and the screws. But we're trying to get the wood donated.

Mr. Berkheiser – As far as the actual bulletin board, is it going to be wood?

Peyton Walker – It's going to be wood behind it, and bulletin board on top of it.

Ms. Waterworth – How do you plan to get the tools, the materials and yourself over there to build it? And, how long do you think it will take to build?

Peyton Walker – Since it's winter, I will be doing some of the building beforehand. All of the wood will probably be screwed in, so I can put it straight in and drill a couple pieces together.

Ms. Waterworth – Oh, you're going to preassemble it, then bring it over and set it up.

Peyton Walker – Yes.

Ms. Waterworth – Okay.

Mr. Krueger – Do you have a working drawing with dimensions?

Peyton Walker – I don't have dimensions, but it will look similar to the picture. It will have different shingles.

Mr. Krueger – As to the plexiglass; are you planning to allow people to add things to this bulletin board?

Peyton Walker – Yes. It will probably be hinged or lift up.

Mark Schoder – Are you going to have a concrete pad, or tubes holding it up?

Vice Chairperson Walker – Tubes. Fortunately, he has a dad that's kind of in construction and has talked to a few people about supplies and sponsorships, along with some fellow Eagles that are in construction.

Discussion continued regarding "cheater" concrete and putting the posts 42" down.

Ms. Waterworth – This looks like a good project.

**MOTION** by Berkheiser, supported by Waterworth, to accept Peyton Walker's Eagle Scout Project for a Kiosk at Victory Park and to allow him to move forward.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

### **Silo Ranch – Dawn Ray**

Ms. Ray shared the following with the Committee.

- I don't really have much to report right now. There's not a whole lot going on.
- I know you emailed me about doing Eagle Scout's projects. We can talk after.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's fine.

### **Commerce Little League – Nikki Schaffer**

Ms. Schaffer shared the following with the Committee.

- Our registration closes this Friday.
- We have approximately 300 players registered so far. We are hoping to see more this week.

Mr. Berkheiser – I read in last month's minutes that you're expanding and taking folks from other communities. What percentage of your participants are from outside of Commerce Township, would you guess?

Ms. Schaffer – Less than 10%. I can get those final numbers for you after registration closes.

Mr. Berkheiser – I don't think the numbers would necessarily matter unless it hinders kids from Commerce playing. Last I read, you would be accepting any and all.

Ms. Schaffer – Yes, we do not turn anyone away.

Mr. Berkheiser – We will be discussing other issues pertaining to that later.

Ms. Schaffer – Okay.

Mr. Berkheiser – Thank you.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Is there a point where you are full?

Ms. Schaffer – No. As part of Little League, we have open registration, and even after, we're not allowed to turn players away. I will say once teams are formed and jerseys are ordered, I will struggle to put a player on a team. But, in my 3 years with the league, we have not turned anyone away.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Thank you.

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

Mr. Schantz shared the following with the Committee.

- We've had a lot of visitors at the barn on Sundays, both local and out of towners.
- We're doing more tours of the farmhouse and people love it, the history and everything like that.
- We've got a full schedule for this upcoming season.
- We've got a cleanup on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- We've got a couple projects the Eagle Scouts might be interested in.
- We're feeding the ducks 200 pounds of corn a week.
- We're doing well.

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

Mr. Kearney shared the following with the Committee.

- There's really nothing to report.
- We are about to enter the freeze/thaw cycle, so the trail will be most susceptible to damage from use.
- Other than that, things are good at Hickory Glen.

Mr. Berkheiser – We have been emailing regarding that potential Eagle Scout project. Have you heard anything recently?

Mr. Kearney – No, not since my email.

### **Interlakes Girls Softball – Jeremiah Fick**

Mr. Fick shared the following with the Committee.

- Our registration will end in about a week.
- Nothing to report until we get teams formed.
- Games start in early April.

Director England – How are the numbers looking?

Mr. Fick – They're down; probably 2/3 of what they were at this time last year.

### **Lakes Area Hawks – Andy Graham**

Mr. Graham shared the following with the Committee.

- Our registration is open to everyone now.
- As it stands, we have enough kids to field four football teams.
- People really aren't in the football mood right now. They're waiting for baseball.
- Our registration stays open until June. We should pickup more kids as we go along.
- Let Bill know that our first game played at that field was in 2002. He wanted to know.

### **CW3 Soccer – Chris Haney**

Mr. Haney shared the following with the Committee.

- Our Opening Weekend will be April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- We hope all of the snow is gone two weeks before that.

Mr. Berkheiser – When you guys think baseball or softball, when are you planning on using the fields? Is there stuff we have to do to open up?

Mr. Fick – Not really for the fields, but maybe the bathrooms. Our first practices will be the first week of April. The first games are mid-April to the end of April.

Ms. Schaffer – Same for us. We open the bathrooms. Practices start the first week in April, with our Opening Day scheduled for Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Berkheiser – Mark, when do we usually stop worrying about freezing?

Mr. Schoder – We play it by the weather. Sometimes we can open early, but usually toward the middle or end of April. We plan on getting out there mid to end of March to go through everything and make sure it's ready to go, except for the water.

*No representatives were present at the meeting for the following league:*

- *Lakes Athletics Association*

## **ITEM 2: TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Berkheiser provided the following:

- I have a few things from the February Board meeting.
- It's really to make you aware. About every year, we review our water and sewer rates.
  - As you've watched the news and seen all of the issues in Detroit; we hope to bypass all those by actually looking inside all our pipes. We do that about every five years, so about 20% get looked at every year to make sure there's no issues with them.
  - Then we look at the water rate survey. Water rates have not gone up in two years. We'll go back and look at it just so we don't get ourselves in a bind where we can't do the repairs that need to be done.

- Something else just to make you aware of. We are looking at a Sidewalk Repair Program and it's progressing along. As homeowners, you're responsible for sidewalks in front of your house. If you happen to be on the corner, you have twice as much sidewalk, potentially. If there is a sidewalk, you're responsible for it, and there is an ordinance that makes you responsible for snow clearing and all that fun stuff. Since there's a lot of neighborhoods that are somewhat older, we're looking at repairs. If you have sidewalks that are dangerous, sticking up two inches or falling apart, those types of things, we're looking at a program where we can get that fixed. We're working our way through that. It's not really in effect yet.
- You may hear it from Emily, but we did look at the bid information for the Richardson Center and sent it out for bid. Each individual thing will be bid separately, and also as a package. There were at least two, maybe more, Trustees on the Board that aren't sure we need the pathway extended down to Newton. That might be something that's excluded or included. We'll wait till we get final numbers to look at that.
- As you might be aware, we hired a full time ordinance person to supervise and manage our ordinance department. And so, we'll have a ordinance truck. That's being purchased. We'll have an ordinance guy who coordinates with the two-part time folks and manages that department.

### **ITEM 3: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Director England discussed the following:

- The majority is on my written report included in your packet.
- As Bob said, the Board approved to move forward with Richardson Center projects. We're working out those details so that those can be put out to bid. The pathway will be considered an alternate bid and that decision can be made once the numbers come in.
- Things are going good at the Senior Center.
- Allison did a lot of work scheduling trips this year that we're offering. They're not going through a tour company. A lot of other area senior centers have reached out because they're having issues with some of the tour companies too. So, they may join in on some of them with us. Those have been a good hit.
- We're still doing AARP taxes.
- We're gearing up for community events.

Mr. Berkheiser – I see the concert dates are down. Do we know what bands and food trucks will be at each one?

Director England – Those are not finalized yet. As soon as we get it, Allison will send it out to you.

Mr. Berkheiser – I know at least two of the bands generally draw more folks, so we may consider a second food truck. Sometimes last year we had a 45-minute wait to stand in line.

Ms. Kennedy – I want to say yes, but one of the food trucks I reached out to told me they won't come back to our events because they couldn't sell their minimum. Even though they had a line at every event they've been to, if they can't guarantee they're

going to sell \$1200 worth of items, they won't come back. They were only averaging about \$900. I know there is a line every time, but somehow, we're still not meeting food truck minimums for what they need to sell. I don't understand how that's possible.

Mr. Berkheiser – There's also the thought that if I have to stand in line for 45 minutes, I'm not going to do it. I'll get a pizza delivered. Being able to get it in and out faster might allow them to sell more too.

Director England – That particular truck did sell out once.

Ms. Kennedy – That was the only time they met their minimum, and they sold \$1250.

Director England – And last year, their credit card machine wouldn't work.

Discussion continued regarding scheduling food trucks and their required minimum sales. Ms. Schantz recommended Red Wood Grille & Catering on Cooley Lake Road in Waterford. Mr. Berkheiser recommended having Chairperson Petsch grill burgers for the events.

#### **ITEM 4: MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mr. Schoder discussed the following with the Committee:

- We're working hard to keep the sidewalks and parking lots clear of snow.
- We continue to do park inspections.
- We are increasing security measures.
- We are addressing issues at Long Park with cigarette butts.
- The woods at Scarlet's Playground are looking really good. You can almost see all the way through.

#### **ITEM 5: PARK LIAISON REPORTS**

##### **Berkheiser – Wise Woods & Victory Park**

- We've been talking about Victory Park.
- We will see what bids come in. It's not completely done.

Director England – The fence will be put in this Spring. Then hopefully mid-Spring, we will revisit doing the well and the restroom facility later this year. The pavilion is scheduled to go in this Spring as well.

Mr. Berkheiser – As I drove in, you could tell there were folks back there doing wheelies.

Director England – We see them.

Mr. Berkheiser – Then again, over at the kayak launch; that's getting a lot of use from folks parking in there and going ice fishing. I saw scuba divers in there chipping ice holes and going in under the ice. My question there, since that is intentionally to be handicap access, are we looking at having the whole parking lot being handicapped? And having non-handicapped parking across the street?



Director England – It was not going to be all handicapped parking. And yes, you have the ability to park across the street as well. That project is about 90% complete. As the weather allows, the actual ADA accessible launch will be installed and then they will plant grass.

Mr. Berkheiser – Do we have the actual launch?

Director England – The company is storing it for us.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are they installing it for us?

Director England – Yes.

Mr. Krueger – Striping of the parking lot was just regular.

Director England – There will be ADA accessible spots.

### **Schwartz – Byers and Mill Race**

- It's very difficult to get back into Mill Race. Nothing to report there.
- It was slushy at Byers.

### **Vecellio – Long Park & Snowy Ridge Park**

- Snowy Ridge looks good. I saw some kids sledding.
- Thank you for addressing issues with cigarettes at Long Park. There's also a lot of dog poop. Someone said that has been happening a lot. I noticed there's only one small sign that says "Don't feed the birds" and then there's a little sign that says "Clean up after your dog". I'm wondering if we can do something when the photo contest is done and we're putting in the new kiosks. Maybe we can incorporate a sign there instead, because most people don't see the one we have. They don't pay attention.
- There was another group there today with big containers of bird food. I talked to them and tried to dissuade them.
- Have we ever talked about putting in dog waste stations?

Mr. Berkheiser – We used to have a dog waste station over there which was an Eagle Scout project. I don't know if that's still over there or not.

Ms. Vecellio – I've never seen it.

Discussion continued regarding dog waste stations, the need to add bags to the stations and making the signs more prominent.

### **Walker – Maple Glen**

- I drove through the park the other day.
- Everything was looking good. The snow was starting to melt. It will be a slushy mess soon.

**Krueger – Dodge Park**

- I drove into Scarlet’s Playground and there were a couple people walking their dogs.
- Other than that, there was really no activity.
- Everything looks good.

**Waterworth – Hickory Glen Park**

- I saw the OCSO hanging out at the park today when I walked my dog.
- The park was slushy.

**Petsch – Bicentennial Park**

- Nothing to report in Petsch’s absence.

**ITEM 6: VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE UPDATE**

Ms. Waterworth discussed the following with the Committee:

- Nothing to report.
- I’ll go next month and share our dates with them, and then I will get their Spring/Summer dates to share here.

**ITEM 7: PICKLEBALL LADDER LEAGUE PROGRAMMING**

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- This is something that we have consistently been asked for, and it’s also something that all communities with pickleball courts do.
- We’ve been very good about controlling the programming at our courts.
- The only programming at our courts has been what we’ve done. We’ve offered lessons, kids’ camps and tournaments.
- Toward the end of last year, we saw that the lessons were starting to taper off. So, we thought it was time to look into this Ladder League.
- The league itself is one night a week and runs for 8 weeks. What is being proposed is Tuesday and Wednesday. It would be two nights because I will not allow it to take over all 8 courts. I will only allow it to use 4 courts so that 4 will still remain open play; the same as when we offered classes. We closed it down for about 2.5 hours. By offering it two nights, we won’t have to turn people away.
- This would be a recreational league so your ranking doesn’t really matter. You’re going to get put with people that are the same rank as you with the way that they divvy up the teams.
- They’re saying they need to add to this, but in your packet was the information and guidelines. We do have an individual who is willing to oversee this. It’s the same individual who oversaw some of our beginner classes; it’s Rick Schmidt who did our pickleball tournaments for us. This is his community and he wants to get involved. He is currently running these leagues for Northville and he has done West Bloomfield.
- What I need to add to this:
  - An inclement weather policy and when that will be notified
  - A behavioral policy; those causing issues will be asked to leave the league
  - Cancellation
  - Prizes; the winning team will receive some sort of prize

Director England – If it goes well the first round, we would like to offer a second round. We were looking at beginning it the first week of May through the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. It will end with the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> off. The second session could start the following week to run to the end of August.

Mr. Berkheiser – My big concern is that staff is not there to oversee it. Even though it's supposed to be pickleball etiquette, we have had issues from some folks in the past. When you say he's going to run it, does that mean he plans on being there?

Director England – Correct, yes. It will be the same we did our classes. We were not there.

Mr. Berkheiser – Yes, but he was teaching the classes.

Director England – Correct, and he will be doing the league.

Mr. Berkheiser – My other concern is that it's a public court, so using up too much time. I don't know that 4 hours will be that big of a deal.

Director England – It's 6-8pm so it's only two hours.

Mr. Berkheiser – For two days.

Director England – Right. They have the opportunity to participate. You don't know unless you try. It could go either way. You can get the people who are playing there to participate in the league, because obviously the majority of them have asked for it. We do also have two other courts now, located at Bicentennial. I wouldn't give in to allowing this to shut down all 8 courts, because I do believe the courts need to stay open for open play. But, this will run the same way as the classes; they sign a waiver and we take payment. Everything runs through us. We provide information to people, and then he is there. We will be there the first day as well to get everybody checked in.

Mr. Berkheiser – When you say teams, is it two people teams?

Director England – It's doubles.

Ms. Kennedy – We will get clarification, but I think you join as an individual.

Director England – I think it's individual too. You get placed on a court.

Mr. Berkheiser – You get placed on a court and they'll put 4 people on a court. Your partner may not be your partner the next time.

Ms. Kennedy – Correct.

Mr. Berkheiser – What are we charging?

Director England - \$60.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are we charging Commerce Township residents a certain amount, and non-residents another amount?

Director England – I didn't think about that but we can. It's not something we've done, but we could.

Mr. Berkheiser – And we're using WhatsApp?

Director England – Yes, it's what the pickleball community already uses.

Vice Chairperson Walker – You can use it with your email. You don't have to give your phone number.

Mr. Berkheiser – Okay, my big concern was that it was after hours and that we might have issues. But, if we have somebody there, we will see how it goes.

Director England – Yes. We will treat it the same way we treated the classes. We gave ample time of posting when this was happening, when the courts were going to be shut down. We posted on social media. There is a WhatsApp for Commerce Township pickleball that we're not associated with, but members we know are and they will post it in there. It will get put out there that half of the courts aren't available during that time for open play. If you're comfortable with this, we will move forward.

**MOTION** by Vecellio, supported by Krueger, to approve moving forward with Pickleball Ladder League Programming as discussed. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **ITEM 8: LONG PARK SIGN PHOTO CONTEST**

Director England discussed the following with the Committee:

- The contest is supposed to end tomorrow. We only have 14 entries.
- I'm going to extend it.
- The Library is going to do another push with the people who entered into their photo contest.
- Maybe one of you can share it into the Commerce Township resident page. When we post it tomorrow, Krystal, I'll send you the link.

Ms. Schwartz – Yes, just make sure that the extended dates are on there.

Mr. Berkheiser – What are we trying to do with it? I see the old pictures, and we're replacing those?

Director England – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – How many pictures do we need to replace them?

Director England – Like Denise said, there's different signs that we can replace. I don't have the exact number of what we need, but I'd like to have more than 14 to choose from.

Ms. Schwartz – I think coming off of the last photo contest ... Those two were back to back and that might have been some of the confusion.

Director England – Maybe, yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – So the plan is to make groups of pictures, and are you looking at getting wording?

Director England – Yes. That was the next piece of discussion.

Ms. Waterworth – Could we actually replace them with the same birds and ...

Director England – We can. The sign was going to be remade with updated pictures. The Redside Dace needs to stay because that was a critical component of us having the opportunity to acquire that property. We could reach out to some of the bird watcher groups to find out what's there and what we should include.

Mr. Berkheiser – The sandhill crane.

#### **ITEM 9: ICE SKATING RINK**

Mr. Berkheiser discussed the following with the Committee:

- I was at several places where I've seen ice skating during the winter. Whether it's downtown Detroit, or I was just up in Frankenmuth this weekend.
- When I sent this, my original thought was to try to find somebody to come in here that will set it up and run the whole thing. As far as I'm concerned, they can keep whatever money is made from it. It provides service and activity for the community.
- My thought was that we would actually get something where it didn't really matter what the temperature was because they run refrigerant through it and keep the ice cold.
- I'm not completely opposed to this but it puts more work on us, or maybe Mark. I read the minutes from last time and you had quite a conversation. I guess Bill was going to build his own ice rink, but that was not my original intent. It was an idea to try to get somebody out here to do it. How much would it cost? Then we could decide.
- If we're going to move forward on an ice rink, originally I thought about it over at Snowy Ridge where we do the sledding, but that's not really monitored at all there. So, we could put it at Richardson to allow for it to be overlooked by staff, at least during the day.
- I think you would need lighting to make it fun in the evenings. We would need to look at portable lights.

Ms. Waterworth – Are we talking about a real ice rink like in downtown-

Mr. Berkheiser – One you can go skating on.

Ms. Waterworth – Okay, well they have fake ice rinks too.

Mr. Berkheiser – I wasn't thinking that. Whether it's like the one in downtown Detroit. Whoever runs that one ... maybe it's the city, but I don't think so.

Ms. Waterworth – In Farmington, bring your own skates and it's free.

Ms. Vecellio – That's how Milford is.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's why Farmington's taxes are a lot higher than ours. They pay for all of that. We can do lots of things but that was the original intent. I'd still like to know about vendors out there that can do this, and I'm curious what that would cost.

Ms. Waterworth – There are prices in the packet.

Mr. Berkheiser – That's for purchasing one and you set it up. You monitor it ... I'm just looking for somebody to do it. I was looking for something in the winter that I think residents might enjoy.

Director England – I have inquired with JAG, who does our concert planning, to see if he knows of any vendors. I will send that out when I get it. They run the Plymouth ice fest.

Mr. Berkheiser – From an idea perspective, is that something you want to pursue or not?

Vice Chairperson Walker – I think it would be pretty cool if we could find a vendor to take care of it.

Director England – What location are you thinking?

The Committee responded collectively, "Richardson".

Mr. Berkheiser – I think Richardson at the far end of the new parking lot.

Director England – By the volleyball courts.

Mr. Berkheiser – And if you find someone who is able to do it, I would tell them to choose what works best for them, but that's the general area.

Vice Chairperson Walker – It would make good use of the new parking lot.

Mr. Krueger – Or you could put it at Dodge Park.

Mr. Berkheiser – My thought is we're going to do it on the grass over at Richardson. I don't know if it needs to be level. And, when you get rid of 30,000 gallons of water, it just goes right into the marsh.

Director England – It's already a wetland.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Are the restrooms at Richardson going to be open year-round?

Director England – The intent was not to have them open year-round, but if you wanted to do that, now is the time to have that discussion.

**ITEM 10: CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRACKS/PATH**

Mr. Berkheiser discussed the following with the Committee:

- I was walking the dog over in the incomplete dog park and I saw cross country ski tracks all over.
- My thought was that maybe we could find an organization or group that does that. I think you can drag a tool behind a four-wheeler to groom trails and put the slots in.
- I don't think we have identified anything yet. I couldn't find anything.

Director England – No.

Mr. Berkheiser – I know there have been golf courses in the past that allowed cross country skiing.

Ms. Kennedy – Kensington does it.

Mr. Berkheiser – I just thought there might be a group we could partner with and let them maintain the trails.

**ITEM 11: PARK IMPROVEMENT UPDATES**

Director England – I've already gone over these. Richardson is getting ready to go out to bid. I'll keep you updated when that goes to the Board.

**ITEM 12: PARK EVENT UPDATES**

Ms. Kennedy discussed the following with the Committee:

- I added the flyers for the upcoming Bicentennial, and also the M-5K.
- Registration is open for the M-5K.
- Registration is open for the Easter event.
- At the Bicentennial Celebration, we will also have a 5K there. Hopefully the registration will be open for that in the next couple of weeks.
- We don't have the bands yet. The only one I know for sure is Magic Bus is supposed to be August 1<sup>st</sup>. Once we get the rest of the information, we will let you know.
- Other dates for our community events were listed on the Department report.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Do we have somebody coming in to run the cornhole tournament for the Bicentennial?

Director England – We are working on a partnership for that currently with a local group.

Vice Chairperson Walker – I'll also send you contact info for another local person.

Mr. Berkheiser – The live music is being done by JAG?

Ms. Kennedy – Yes.

Mr. Berkheiser – Are they arranging the beer tent?

Director England – Multi-Lakes is doing the beer tent. It will be on the property next to Byers, where the bait shop used to be, on the corner. We're going to set up the stage and a tent there. The tent will be used for the pancake breakfast in the morning, and then it will roll over to the beer tent, and the band will be right there.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is that Multi-Lakes' license or ours?

Director England – Their license.

### **ITEM 13: OTHER MATTERS**

#### **Tree Fertilization**

Mr. Krueger – The tree next to the Richardson Center that we use for the Christmas Tree lighting, I was making arrangements to have that fertilized. Do I need to get permission for that?

Director England – You just got it.

#### **Permanent Lighting**

Mr. Krueger – We have been talking about doing permanent lighting on the community center, and possibly Byers' farm. I have been doing research and found four different companies that offer the different product lines. They're basically aluminum that you attach permanently to the building, and they have channels and different ways of doing it. The price for the community center would probably be around \$20,000. Before I do anymore research-

Mr. Berkheiser – What's the warranty on it?

Mr. Krueger – One company has a 7-year warranty.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is it LED where they can change colors?

Mr. Krueger – Yes. Each one of the lights are actually operated separately. You can have running lights on the buildings. They can be adjusted to music. There are different color combinations. Everything is handled through your iPhone. I have more information if anyone wants to see it. They're unlimited as to what they can do.

Mr. Berkheiser – Is anyone around here using it?

Mr. Krueger – That's the problem. I can find companies on a commercial scale where the jobs are done, but a lot of the companies like Omni, they require the contractors to be certified before they can even get pricing on the product. I'm having a hard time finding a certified contractor that could do it. I found two so far, but I need to know more about the product before I could make recommendations. I'm more than happy to



continue to research, but I want to make sure that a \$20,000 to \$25,000 budget is something we would seriously entertain.

Mr. Berkheiser – The concern I would have is we're purchasing it. Granted, it would get put up, but then maintenance falls on us and I don't want to overload our already overloaded Maintenance and Parks staff.

Mr. Krueger – Once it's installed, I doubt very seriously that there would be any real maintenance concerns.

Mr. Berkheiser – I want to say we paid \$5,000 for both the community center and Byers. So, if you're looking at \$50,000 to do both buildings...

Mr. Krueger – Well, Byers' farmhouse is considerably smaller. It basically runs \$35-\$40 per linear foot installed.

Mr. Berkheiser – At the farm, we had the whole roof outlined and everything was done on it. We don't put it up or maintain it, and we don't take it down. I'm not opposed to looking at it.

Mr. Krueger – The advantage to this is that it's permanently mounted. The lights are always going to be there and you have total control on the colors and how it's going to work. One has difficult lights to change, and one is really easy. I'm trying to see what is the easiest and of course, maintaining it is a key factor. However, most systems, once they're in, there's very little that will go wrong with the actual lights. Then, you have multiple transformers that you have to put in certain areas. Some only run up to 75 feet and another up to 400 feet. It's all based in the pricing. Do you want me to continue to pursue this?

Director England – I'm going to bring up my other matter right now. We have been requested to attend the April 22<sup>nd</sup> quarterly meeting with the Township Board at 7:00pm. We haven't had one in two or three years. It's time for us to have that joint discussion meeting with them. This might be a great topic to bring up at that time. Get as much information as you can get for free. Bob asked if there is anybody local who utilizes the product so we can see what it is. If you can find it, that's great. Let's have a discussion with the Township Board and I'll let them direct us.

Mr. Berkheiser – You would want to have dollar figures. How much are we talking about? Linear feet might be on the current one if they put dimensions on there.

Director England – I'll check.

Mr. Krueger – I went to lotsize.com and I measured off the community center about 170 feet by 70 feet; just ballparking it. If you're going up gables and things like that, of course, it will add to the linear footage, and do we do the back of the building? There's other things to consider, but I'll continue to research.

Director England – It does not have dimensions on the invoice.

Mr. Berkheiser – The original intent was to light things up in the dark winter. If we're looking at doing different colors, which we tried on the bridge, it's a little harder. In the summertime, it's not dark until 10:00, so you're not going to put lights on until late and by then, we would turn them off anyway. It's only something we would utilize 6 months a year.

Mr. Krueger – But the difference between regular landscape lighting that is permanent that everybody uses, it's a lot easier to use and maintain. The fixtures will have lifetime warranties.

Mr. Berkheiser – Whatever you find out, we just need to have as much information, and hopefully moneywise, by the end of April.

Mr. Krueger – Okay.

### **Township Board Quarterly Meeting**

Director England – So the meeting is Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm. I will send out a reminder. We can add agenda items that we want to have for discussion at the quarterly meeting, such as the permanent lighting. Typically, an agenda item means that you want action on it, but it also lets the Board know what we want to discuss. I will prepare a packet like I do for them every month so that they have the background of why these are topics.

If there is anything you want to have included, we can discuss that next month at our March meeting. Start thinking about that. Go through our Master Plan. This isn't just about now; it's about the future too. Where do you see Parks going? What would you like to see? We need to make sure that you are balanced with the Township Board.

Mr. Krueger – This is more of a meeting about what our Committee is looking for, not individuals.

Director England – Correct. It's the Parks Committee's vision and we need to make sure it aligns with the Township Board's vision.

Mr. Berkheiser – We usually review things we have done over the last year or so, and what we have planned for the current year. They have already approved the budget so they're somewhat familiar with that, and then we're looking at the somewhat short-term, the next 4-5 years, and those would come from the Master Plan. Those types of things that we have been talking about, such as ice rinks, dog parks, et cetera. Those would be put on a slide and presented to the Board to get feedback. If they don't think permanent lighting is something worth pursuing, then it's something we don't have to waste our time on. It's more to coordinate with them.

### **Resident Versus Non-Resident Pricing**

Mr. Berkheiser – So, I mentioned it a couple times and when I was reading minutes, we were talking about costs. I know the Township Board had discussed different pricing for things for Commerce Township residents versus non-residents. Not that we need to decide anything, but it's something we should be thinking about. We will put it on the agenda for next month. We can discuss it and, for whoever is out here, consider how

much of a pain it would be to have different pricing. Please get that to Emily so that we provide that information to the Township Board at the April meeting.

Vice Chairperson Walker – Are you thinking a percentage or a straight dollar amount?

Mr. Berkheiser – I was thinking percentage, but I suppose it can be whatever. Most recently, we looked at this with the horse farm. If Little League is bringing people in from outside, or pickleball, et cetera., I think residents should get a deal.

**The next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2025, at 6:00PM at the Township Hall. (No park visits before meetings from November to March)**

**ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Krueger, supported by Schwartz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Krystal Schwartz, Secretary