

Charter Township of Van Buren
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Gant. **Members Present:** Speed Gant, Charles Coleman, Ken Askew, Joy Ann Ferris, Ralph Nodwell, Mark Duff, and Clerk Wright. **Excused:** None. **Staff Present:** Director Wright, Deputy Director Burns and Secretary Harman. **Members of the Audience:** Trustee Partridge.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion Nodwell, Ferris second to approve the agenda of August 9, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion Nodwell, Coleman second to approve the minutes of June 14, 2011 as presented. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Student Representative:** Director Wright is working with the National Honors Society President to locate a Student Representative for the Committee. She is looking for a student willing to commit and bring updates from the High School to the Committee. Plans to have a few candidates to review at the October Recreation Committee meeting.
2. **Recreation Updates:** Director Wright presented a letter to Committee members from the State of Michigan approving Summer Camp license renewal. The Fall/Winter Recreation Program is at the print shop and should be out in about 2 weeks, will be posted to the website and on local cable channel. Clerk Wright would like information on the cost of mailing out the Recreation Program. September 6th the new gym floor installation begins and will be completed in the beginning of October. A ribbon cutting ceremony is to be held when finished in the end of October beginning of November. Takin it to the Streets is on Friday, August 19th and the location has been changed to Tyler Elementary School. Dining to Donate at Applebee's on Wednesday, August 24th all day 15% of the bill will be donated to the Parks and Recreation Department, must bring in flyer to donate. The money will go towards project youth scholarships.
3. **Park Updates:** Deputy Director Burns, the Parks received \$2,000 from ITC to plant new plants and trees in the parks. Summer Concert Series has gone well, the last band had 215 people attend, and 3 concerts remain. Tracking system at the gate house has shown an increase in revenue up in June by more than \$2,000 and July \$5,000 compared to summer 2010. On August 14th, CAF5 will be holding a 5k at Van Buren Park. Launching a Facebook webpage for Van Buren Parks and Recreation soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Healthy Lifestyles Coalition:** Deputy Director Drew Burns gave a Powerpoint presentation overview on the Achieve grant training in Baltimore. The Healthy Lifestyles Coalition is comprised of local businesses and residents who want to make Van Buren a healthier community. The group will work to impact chronic disease by identifying

changes that contribute to these problems and instituting policy changes to prevent them. Walmart, Coca-Cola, Belleville Lake Current and several other local businesses already involved. The next meeting is Thursday, August 25th at 11:00 a.m. and will speak on the budget and what it will go towards. Several Committee members are interested in seeing a Health Expo implement for youth. Achieve grant money can only go toward policy change, not events. The group is working with local partners to implement such an event.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Trustee Partridge announced the Van Buren Township Cultural Advisory Committee was approved at the last Board meeting. Their first meeting is to be held in September. Partridge thanked Director Wright for her positive attitude and allowing the Cultural Advisory Committee to be under the Recreation Committee. Partridge will continue to attend Recreation Committee meetings with updates from the Cultural Advisory Committee.

Clerk Wright thanked Director Wright, Deputy Director Burns and Secretary Harman for their hard work. Clerk Wright noted that he and Director Wright have been in collaboration with the High School Superintendent and are hoping to put together some collaborative programs between Parks and Recreation and the High School.

Chairperson Gant noted the Thunder Over Michigan Air Show is the largest event to come to Van Buren Township, approximately 150,000 attended. Great job done by the Public Safety Department in handling the event and glad they were a part of it. The show netted about \$400,000 and the proceeds will go to the rebuild of the Air Museum.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Nodwell, Coleman second to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman
Recording Secretary