

**Charter Township of Van Buren
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Gant. **Members Present:** Charles Coleman, Kimberly Nofz, Tammy Wall, Ralph Nodwell, Mark Duff (late 5:38 p.m.), Speed Gant and Clerk Wright **Excused:** Student Representative Ari Budioni. **Unexcused:** None. **Staff Present:** Director Wright, Deputy Director Burns and Secretary Harman. **Members of the Audience** Trustee Partridge.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion Nodwell, Wright second to approve the agenda of June 12, 2012 as presented. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion Wall, Nodwell second to approve the minutes of April 10, 2012 as presented. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Recreation Updates:** Director Wright gave updates for the recreation department. The Mother Daughter Tea Party was held May 6th, had 50 guests who enjoyed food/beverages and entertainment from local Miss South Central Michigan, Elyse Losen. Summer Camp Staff and recreation front desk staff and park staff have all received training in OSHA, distracted driving, bloodborne pathogens, ladder safety, equipment safety, sexual harassment policy and violence in the workplace policy. Summer camp staff also received crises prevention and intervention training (CPI). Camp starts next Monday, due to low numbers Tot Camp was moved up into Day Camp and a few older children were moved to Tween Camp. Director Wright met with the facilities team for Van Buren Public Schools. The recreation department will be able to rent their amenities for a fee that would be included in the cost of registering for the class; such as a swimming class. The parks and recreation department is 4th on the priority list for using their amenities. Wayne County Parks and Recreation and Van Buren hosted the Family Fun Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 9th, this was a free event in which there were 52 who registered and 100 in attendance. Director Wright acknowledged Jennifer Valinski the owner and instructor of the Jitterbugs Youth Dance program for putting on an amazing recital and the tremendous job she has done as an instructor for the youth dance program for the past 10 years. Director Wright noted that revenue is pretty good this year, so far only down \$2,000 from the previous year due to lack of softball league. She also informed the Committee members that the recreation van will be in the Strawberry Festival Parade this coming weekend with Jazzercise following behind them.
2. **Park Updates:** Deputy Director Burns gave the park updates. The water/sewage pipe at the back loop of the park has been fixed. The Community Garden is full again this year and has a waiting list. Revenue for the season is already up by \$1,500 from last year. Overall revenue including pavilion rentals is \$3,000 ahead of last year. Theo Miller is doing an Eagle Scout project for the garden and will be building storage lockers for the gardeners to rent. May 6th the boy scout troop did a picnic table re-build in which over 10 picnic tables were rebuilt and painted. Thank you to the boyscouts.

The park purchased 25 new 55 gallon trash drums. The Summer Concert Series was approved by the Board on June 5th. The lineup is as follows: July 13 – The Belleville Community Band, July 20 – Kelsey Rose & Teezer, July 27 – Delirious Love, August 3 – Toppermost, August 10 – The All Directions Band, and August 17 – Stolen Moments. The series is on Friday nights at 7:00 p.m. at Van Buren Park. Sponsors for the event this year are: McDonalds of Belleville Road, McDonalds of Rawsonville Road, Feed Rite Pet Store, Party Time Entertainment, The Van Buren Civic Fund, Wal-Mart of Belleville, Coca-Cola and The Belleville Lake Current. The department now has over 100 likes on its Facebook page linking residents to class information and new programs coming to the department. On June 7th GE came to Van Buren Park for a community service clean up day. They are considering renting the park for their company picnic at the end of the summer. The \$40,000 project agreement from Wayne County has been approved by the township attorney and is on file in the Clerk's Office and will be sent to the Board soon for review and signatures. This will put picnic areas along the first loop of Van Buren Park and create a walking path in the same area. Relay for Life was held May 5th at Quirk Park. Park staff has been working hard to keep up with the heavy use of the parks this year. A beach attendant at Van Buren Park this year has been a great help in keeping the beach area clean and residents in order. Deputy Director Burns thanked the police department for their help at the parks.

3. **Cultural Committee Update:** Denise Partridge gave the Cultural Committee update. The last Cultural Committee meeting was a work study meeting in which Treasurer Budd and Supervisor White attended, they are going to help with the funding process. Funding may be possible in 2013 from the EQ fund. Denise contacted Kathy Kovach at Van Buren Public Schools. The schools would like to have the Detroit Symphony Orchestra play at their opening of the new High School. Residents can vote on the DSO website and make a comment which may help to get DSO to come here. Several residents have already written letters to the DSO in support of them playing at the High School opening.
4. **Achieve Update:** Deputy Director Drew Burns gave the Achieve update. No smoking posters have been finished and the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition (HLC) is in the process of collecting information and opinions from the public. The schools are working on getting healthier foods for the students and have already switched to whole grain and are moving towards healthier methods of cooking food. They are also working on re-doing their health and wellness policy. The HLC has worked on a Healthy Alternatives for Parties (H.A.P. Packet) that will be handed out to classrooms this fall. On April 19th the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conducted their site visit and NRPA said that Van Buren was the most organized community they visited so far.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Gant informed that the Air Show will be held on August 4th and 5th and the Senior Health and Wellness Expo will be held on August 3rd.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Committee member Wall inquired what the roles are of the Committee members. She would like to be more involved with suggestions and seeing them through. Chairperson Gant advised

that anytime she has something she would like to bring to the meeting to contact Director Wright, Deputy Director Burns or Secretary Harman to add the item to the agenda.

Committee member Duff inquired about the possibility of another French Landing Dam Tour. This event was previously put on by the Historical Society.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Nodwell, Coleman second to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Harman
Recording Secretary