

**Charter Township of Van Buren  
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chairperson Belanger.

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

**Excused:**

**Unexcused:**

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

**Audience:** 0

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion Coleman, Wall seconded to approve the agenda of December 10, 2019 as presented.

***Motion Carried.***

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion Willoughby, Clerk Wright seconded to approve the minutes from August 13, 2019 as presented. ***Motion Carried.***

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**General Discussion:**

1. Recreation Updates:

Director Wright stated that the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (mParks) selected the Van Buren Township DDA to receive the 2020 Park Award Design for Quirk Park Spalsh Pad and Playground. The award will be presented at mParks Conference & Trade Show in Novi on January 13, 2020. She also shared that the Grand Opening and first season of the Spash Pad were well received. There have been several inquiries from other organizations to use the concession stand for fundraising, Director Wright and Deputy Director Zaenglein are looking into the requirements for outside organizations to use the concession stand.

Director Wright shared that the renovations in the recreation lobby and multi-purpose room have been completed. They are waiting on just a few more items like the logo, magazine racks, message boards, DIRT wall (electronic information center), etc. The dance floor is in and the dance instructor is very happy with it.

The feasibility study results are back. 250 residents participated thru phone calls. Over half of the participants stated the community needs a Recreation Center. Clerk Wright shared the results were as expected, over 77% stated they liked what was provided, but the community needs have outgrown the current facility, and they go elsewhere to get what they want. The study suggested it would be best to use the current campus for any renovations or new builds. Clerk Wright also mentioned the purchase of the property

across the street from Belleville Road to Beck Road has been finalized for 1.5 million dollars.

Director Wright mentioned that on Friday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, she and Deputy Director Zaenglein will be meeting with the architect to discuss their vision and needs for Parks & Rec. One of the main needs is more space, especially storage space. Some ideas are more rental spaces, meeting rooms, weight room, walking track, gym, and indoor play area. Clerk Wright recommended bringing the Committee's ideas to the Board thru him and also working on ideas for the Parks to bring to the board for capital outlay as the CDBG has changed the way they are issuing grants.

Director Wright said the Candy Loop had over 800 kids even though the weather was bad and it had to be brought inside. The Craft Show was sold out with vendors, but possibly changing it up in the future to attract more attendees.

Iron Bell Trail Update: The vision is to have the Washtenaw County Trail come up to the main entrance of Van Buren Park in the spring. Huron Waterloo's Pathway, a subcommittee of the Ralph Wilson Foundation, has expressed interest in running the trail thru the Park and connecting to the saddle in the back. The Engineers for PEA are exploring this option. The saddle itself is being paid for by CBDG funding, and is being overseen by Wayne County. PEA Engineering, with the first \$50,000 grant, is still studying connecting the trail thru Denton Road to the city of Belleville. The other \$50,000 grant is being used to study the east side of Van Buren Township to connect to Lower Huron Metro Park. In the spring, we should be able to do the Huron River Dr. portion of the trail, and the letter from Wayne County approving the use of the right of way for this project was just received.

2. Park Updates:

Deputy Director stated the Sled Hill is open and ready for the Season. Buildings and Grounds will be re-doing, straightening the hand rail for the hill.

She also mentioned that PEA will be doing some surveying in the Parks, for the Iron Bell Trail.

The Park staff will be getting a few, needed, used trucks from other departments

The Splash Pad will be open Memorial Weekend thru Labor Weekend next year.

Co-chairman Coleman mentioned he would really like to see some student reps on the Committee, maybe contacting the schools for students to get volunteer hours.

**Adjournment:** Motion Wall, Coleman second to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

***Motion Carried.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Dohring  
Recording Secretary