

**Charter Township of Van Buren
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Charles Coleman.

Members Present: Denise Willoughby, Charles Coleman, Tammy Wall, and Kimberly Nofz, Student Rep Stuckey, Student Rep Plummer

Excused: Todd O'Neill and Daniel Belanger

Unexcused: Clerk Wright

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

Audience: 2

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Willoughby, Wall seconded to approve the agenda moving General Discussion item: Discussion on Riggs Park to item #1 New Business. ***Motion Carried.***

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Wall, Willoughby seconded to approve the minutes from December 10, 2019 as presented. ***Motion Carried.***

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Guests Kathleen Walsh & Phil Walsh presented their idea for a 30 ft circular planting of shrubs and flowers to improve the woodcock habitat and attract more pollinators. The Walshes would be able to purchase the plants at wholesale, which would be a significant saving to the Township. If approved, the Walshes would also require volunteers to help with the prepping of the area and the original planting. The shrubs, etc they are suggesting will require little maintenance once planted.
2. Election of Officers: Motion Willoughby, Coleman seconded to nominate Belanger for Chairperson and O'Neill for Co-chairperson. ***Motion Carried.***
3. Recommendation to hire PEA Inc. for professional services for the Huron River Dr. Iron Belle Trail (Edgemont to Martinsville Rd):
4. Recommendation to hire PEA Inc. for professional services for the Huron River Dr. Iron Belle Trail (East end of the Township): Director Wright presented both potential agreements to hire PEA Inc, for professional services for the two sections of Iron Belle train along Huron River Drive. These services,would also include coordinating and securing necessary permits from Wayne County and the railroad, the services would be paid for by grants received from the DNR. Motion Willoughby, Wall seconded to submit PEA, Inc. agreements to township board for approval. ***Motion Carried.***
5. Discussion on Memorial Bench Program (Action Needed); Deputy Director Zaenglein presented print outs of the proposed commemorative benches that would be available for purchase in Quirk Park. It was discussed whether to secure the benches in the ground or place on cement pad, which would impact pricing.

6. Parks and Recreation would determine exact location for each bench and control installation time frame.

Pamphlets could be created for people interested in participating in the program. Motion Willoughby, Seconded Wall to create pamphlet and present to Township Board for approval of Commemorative Bench Program. ***Motion Carried.***

General Discussion:

1. Recreation Updates:

Director Wright mentioned the upcoming Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held the upcoming weekend Feb 14, & 15, 2020-Saturday is already sold out with about 200 participants, and there are a few spaces left for Friday. The theme is Galaxy Gala. The new issue of Van Buren Today would be going approximately the next week. April 4th would be the Hopping Hulabaloo, with the Easter Bunny and Fire Dept. They are still looking for volunteers for this event. Director Wright and Deputy Director Zaenglein will be meeting with the YMCA to discuss adding onto the recreation building and a potential partnership with an afterschool program for teens.

2. Park Updates:

Deputy Director Zaenglein discussed the new Earth Day Program to be held on April 18th 10:00am until noon. The president of SEMBA (South Eastern Michigan Beekeepers Association) will be the guest speaker. The crafts will include making a solitary bee home, beeswax candles, and Save the Bee bracelets. She also mentioned three bands have been confirmed for the Summer Concert in the Park Series which will be held at Quirk Park this year. The bands are: Your Generation, Motor City Soul, and Allen Turner. Wayne County Community College has expressed interest in a potential partnership for these events, Director Wright and Deputy Director Zaenglein will be meeting with the college to next week to discuss. Deputy Director Zaenglein stated they are looking to hire summer staffing, positions to fill are gatehouse attendants, park maintenance, as well as camp staffing.

Adjournment: Motion Coleman, Willoughby second to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Dohring
Recording Secretary