

**Charter Township of Van Buren  
Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2021 via Zoom**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Co-Chair Coleman.

**Members Present:** Denise Willoughby, Tammy Wall, Charles Coleman, Clerk Wright and Todd O'Neill.

**Excused:**

**Unexcused:** Kimberly Nofz and Daniel Belanger.

**Staff Present:** Interium Director Zanglein, Director Best, Executive Assistant Elizabeth Renuad, DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland and Secretary Price.

**Audience:** 11 via Zoom.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion Wall, O'Neill seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

**ROLL CALL:**

Yeas: Willoughby, Coleman, O'Neill, Wall, Wright.

Nays: None.

Absent: Nofz and Belanger.

**Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion O'Neill, Willoughby seconded to approve the minutes from April 13, 2021, as corrected showing Tammy Wall excused.

**ROLL CALL:**

Yeas: Willoughby, Coleman, O'Neill, Wall, Wright.

Nays: None.

Absent: Nofz and Belanger.

**Motion Carried.**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Recomendation to Board of Trustees on Community Center: Director Best thanked committee for their dedication for the Community Center conceptual design. Best indicated that feedback has been received from several different social media outlets. Director Best announced that the Downtown Development Authority has dedicated \$1.137 million dollars for sponsorship of the The Blackbox Theatre to be added to the Community Center Development if approved by the Board of Trustees. Blackbox theater as discussed in previous meetings is a multiuse space that can be utilized for several events. Residents and Committee members requested the addition of this type of space for use in several different events it will be 2,500 square foot addition that will be added on to the conceptual design.

Clerk Wright thanked the DDA to take this plan to fruition, definitely a great opportunity for the residents of Van Buren Township for both cultural and recreational opportunities. Director Ireland indicated the DDA is excited to be a part of the project.

The Committee discussed that they have been waiting for quite some time for an opportunity like this. Director Best indicated that this is the start of this project and that additional information is forthcoming. Members thanked Director Best for all the hard work that he has done.

Clerk Wright motioned, Wall seconded to recommend to the Board of Trustees Recreation Center along with the cultural center addition.

## **ROLL CALL:**

Yeas: Willoughby, Coleman, O'Neill, Wall, Wright.

Nays: None.

Absent: Nofz and Belanger.

**Motion Carried.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

### **RECREATION UPDATES:**

Interium Director Zaenglein shared Recreation has no indoor programming. Staff getting RecDesk software getting up and running, pavilion rentals, classes and events will be available online.

Board of Trustees moved forward with cancellation of the 2021 Fireworks due to surrounding communities canceling their fireworks, showing concern that may draw a large crowd to our fireworks and public safety team and the event site would be overwhelmed. It's a possibility that a fall event for the Community will be planned.

### **PARK UPDATES:**

Interium Director Zaenglein stated full and part time staff opportunities are available throughout our park system. Parks have been preparing to open. Community Garden plots are available at Van Buren Park. Pavilion rentals are underway. Van Buren Park back loop road is being repaired as part of the Iron Bell Trail project the area will be paved with a walking path. Splash Pad will be opening Memorial Day weekend. Executive Assistant Renuad presented to the Township Board of Trustees phase 1 improvements for French Landing Park \$277,000 will involve landscaping, walking paths, small pavilion, outdoor furniture and electrical upgrades. Outdoor Pickleball courts are operating. Van Buren Civic Fund has dedicated \$43,000 for a sun shade and outdoor furniture.

O'Neill motioned, Wright seconded to adjourn at 5:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Price  
Recording Secretary