

**Springfield Township
Park & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The January 10, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Bower at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan 48350.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Diane Baker
Roger Bower
Lisa Christensen
Dennis Omell
Rich Parke
Jean Vallad

Staff Present

Sarah Richmond

Others Present

Commissioners Absent:

Angela Spicer with notification

IV. AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL

Commissioner Vallad moved to accept the agenda as presented. Supported by Commissioner Christensen. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Christensen, Omell, Parke, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Spicer. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes-December 13, 2016 with Additional Disbursements of \$7,086.48 for the Parks & Recreation Fund and \$300.00 for Trust & Agency
- B. Receipt of Activities Report for December
- C. Receipt of Progress Report for December
- D. Receipt of Fifty Plus Active Adults January and February Newsletter
- E. Receipt of Natural Resource Manager December Monthly Report
- F. Receipt of Memo re: 2017 MRPA Annual Conference
- G. Approval of 2017 Programs and Events Schedule

Receipt of Communications

Commissioner Parke moved to accept the consent agenda as revised. Supported by Commissioner Baker.

Director Richmond explained the stewardship hiring process that will take place as was mentioned in the Natural Resource Manager December Monthly Report. (consent item E) The support that Mr. Losey refers to is support that is in the pre-proposal stage; if he is invited to submit a complete proposal, he must have the support of the Township Board.

Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Christensen, Omell, Parke, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Spicer. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Potential Additional Events for 2017

Director Richmond summarized the Twilight Trail event that has taken place in recent years. She suggested that the low turnout last time may have been a timing issue. She stated that the event for 2017 will be called, "Tales and Trails" and that it incorporates the Storybook Trail. She stated that they will add a book with an animal theme and the activities would be centered around that theme. She summarized the registration for the event and added that they would work out the details. She stated that this event will more be visible than the event last year since it is utilizing the southern trail at the Shiawassee Basin Preserve. She suggested that if attendees choose, they can leave the Storybook Trail and extend their walk out to the Long Lake Overlook.

Commissioner Baker asked if there would be people along the trail out to the overlook.

Director Richmond answered that it would depend on how many volunteers they were able to get. They are trying to keep staff time down and utilize volunteers.

Chairperson Bower stated that he agrees with renaming the event and understands why it would be centered around dogs because dogs are frequent visitors to the trail.

Commissioner Vallad stated that she understands why they need to cut costs and suggested that it is a good idea to incorporate the Storybook Trail.

Commissioners discussed the use of the north and the south trail and the attendance at past events.

Commissioner Parke stated that he understands the budget and coordinating revenue with the library.

Commissioner Bower suggested that they hand out or display something showing the other trails. He offered to take pictures for the display.

Director Richmond stated that this event is being planned for Wednesday, June 21, 2017. She suggested that they can do the s'mores right over a grill, instead of a bonfire, because there are grills in the pavilion. She also suggested that they might be looking at getting character costumes.

Commissioner Christensen suggested having a pre-marketing event where if a resident "catches" a picture of their child reading outside and posts it, maybe they get a free ticket.

Director Richmond explained the Halloween event that was in her memo. They are still working on this event. She suggested a Friday and Saturday event that is centered around Halloween. She suggested that they have an escape room with a maze at the end of this that needs to be walked through. She summarized some ideas that the Department has come up with for the event and possible partnering with a local church. She stated that they might be making some changes to the Easter Egg Hunt event too. She summarized the Easter Egg Hunt from last year that was sold out but they lost money because of the building rental at Springfield Oaks even at a discounted rental rate. She suggested ways to hold the event this year that would be beneficial.

Commissioner Omell stated that he is in favor of having the event at Springfield Oaks, it is much safer.

Commissioners concurred.

Commissioners and Director Richmond suggested ways to make the timing more efficient for all children.

Commissioner Baker asked about the teen Halloween event. She suggested adding a magician because it would not take them long to get through the room and maze.

Director Richmond answered that this is a good idea, it may come down to the area that is available and whether or not they can utilize the partnership church property.

Commissioners suggested ideas for the teen maze.

Director Richmond stated that the Santa event may be changed after they receive survey results back from participants. They are still examining this event.

Commissioner Omell moved to consider adding the Tails and Trails event on June 21, 2017 to the list of events. Supported by Commissioner Vallad. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Christensen, Omell, Parke, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Spicer. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Bills List

Commissioner Parke asked about the charge to Kerton Lumber. He asked what it was for.

Director Richmond answered that this was for Mill Pond pavilion new posts and wrapping.

Commissioner Baker moved to approve the January bills list totaling \$5,755.19 and \$200.00 for Trust and Agency. Supported by Commissioner Omell. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Christensen, Omell, Parke, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Spicer. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

XII. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Vallad stated that volunteers are needed for the Spaghetti Dinner event.

Director Richmond concurred and urged the Commissioners to attend the event on Monday, January 23, 2017. This event will not cancel even if there is no school for Holly Area Schools.

Commissioner Vallad asked if there was any way to hold the Easter Egg Hunt at Shiawassee.

Director Richmond replied no; there are too many weather dependent concerns and she explained those.

Commissioner Vallad stated that she has no problem not breaking even for this event because it is a well-attended event.

Commissioner Omell stated that he is looking forward to the Spaghetti Dinner event.

Commissioners wished each other Happy New Year.

Commissioner Baker commented on Mike Losey's report. She stated that it is great that they are working well with the Township and it is a nice interface with the community. She is happy with the continued focus on the environment.

Chairperson Bower commented that all departments have a great working relationship.

Commissioner Baker asked if they had a community compost area.

Commissioners discussed a community compost and the fact that they do not have one and why.

Commissioner Baker suggested that they have alternative energy classes.

Commissioner Bower stated that there is an electrical contractor in Independence and he will look for his phone number.

Commissioners discussed alternative energy sources.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Omell moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:50 pm. Supported by Commissioner Baker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Christensen, Omell, Parke, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Spicer. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.