

**Springfield Township
Park & Recreation Commission Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 2, 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The August 2, 2017 Special Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:30 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	Staff Present	Others Present
Diane Baker	Sarah Richmond	
Roger Bower		
Dennis Omell		
Rich Parke		
Angela Spicer		
Jean Vallad		

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. PARK COMMISSION CANDIDATES INTERVIEWS

6:35 p.m. – Anne Loncar

Chairperson Bower asked Ms. Loncar why she is interested in the position.

Ms. Loncar stated because there is a vacancy and she has been on the Commission before. She is experienced with Parks and Recreation and feels the need to give back to the community.

Chairperson Bower asked if she was familiar with the Department's Mission Statement.

Ms. Loncar answered that she is familiar with it.

Chairperson Bower asked how she sees her role as a Park Commissioner.

Ms. Loncar replied that they are overseers and they have staff to make sure that things get done. The Park Commissioners are here to provide guidance to make sure that they are on the right path.

Chairperson Bower asked if she has had prior experience.

Ms. Loncar replied that she has. She started working for the Metroparks at the age of 15 and she stayed 31 years with them until she retired. She has worked in all aspects of grounds maintenance. She was working at one of the first certified golf courses in the State of Michigan. She also has background in the stewardship program.

Commissioner Parke stated that he appreciated Ms. Loncar stepping in and completing his term in 2010 when he was unable to fulfill his responsibilities.

Chairperson Bower asked where in the Township Ms. Loncar lives.

Ms. Loncar replied the Big Lake area. She has lived in the Township for 27 years.

Chairperson Bower asked if she has participated in any parks and recreation program and events.

Ms. Loncar replied that she volunteered at events when she was on the Commission. She also walked trails.

Chairperson Bower asked if she has any ideas for the future direction of the Township and the direction that they should take regarding parks and recreation.

Ms. Loncar replied that they need to keep saving the open spaces and programming that brings in new people. She would like to see more people informed about the trails that are out there. She suggested that they discuss ways to make them more available for all people.

Chairperson Bower asked Ms. Loncar to describe her philosophy of Parks and Recreational programs and events and whether they should be user pay or self-supporting.

Ms. Loncar replied that it depends on the cost of the event. If it is a high cost program, there needs to be some type of co-pay. She believes that the hiking should be open to all people because of their tax dollars paid. The Easter Egg Hunt would be an activity that should be a paid event because it is a program with expenses. She stated that she used to do the budget for the maintenance department so she is very familiar with budgets and the process. She described her budgeting experience.

Chairperson Bower asked Ms. Loncar for her ideas on increasing revenue.

Ms. Loncar replied that she knows the staff size and there is only so much that you can ask your staff to do. If you have programs that aren't working, you eliminate them and try to bring in programs that will work. She suggested that programs that work can be done two to three times a year, like Taco Tuesday.

Chairperson Bower asked if Ms. Loncar would be willing to run for Commissioner in the next election (2018) once this term is expired.

Ms. Loncar replied yes.

Chairperson Bower asked about Ms. Loncar's availability of time and if she would be willing to volunteer.

Ms. Loncar replied that she will try to keep the second Tuesday of the month open and she is always willing to help provided she is in town. Now that she is retired, she does travel and she wants the Commission to understand that. The commitment is there though.

Chairperson Bower asked what Ms. Loncar thought she could contribute to the Park Commission.

Ms. Loncar replied that she is very knowledgeable in Parks and Recreation, budgets and the maintenance aspect of the department.

Chairperson Bower asked if Ms. Loncar had any questions for the Commission.

Ms. Loncar stated that she could provide more details about her background if the Commission was interested. She did spend some time with the Parks Director becoming educated on the new employees and the stewardship activities, etc.

Commissioner Vallad commented on the millage renewal.

Chairperson Bower thanked Ms. Loncar for coming.

Commissioner Parke thanked Ms. Loncar for stepping up. He stated that her qualifications seem to fit the position well.

7:00 p.m. – Kent Barnes

Director Richmond introduced the Commissioners to Mr. Barnes.

Chairperson Bower asked why Mr. Barnes is interested in a position on the Parks Commission.

Mr. Barnes stated that he has a vested interest in Parks and Recreation through his three granddaughters that live-in Springfield Township. The girls have taken advantage of the different programs. He summarized his experience as a Superintendent with Holly Area Schools. He has been on numerous Boards and he summarized those experiences. He likes Springfield Township and likes to be involved in the community and the philosophy of the Parks and Recreation. He stated that this is something that he would like to do and believes in being prepared and feels that he could offer something to the Commission.

Chairperson Bower asked if he was familiar with the Mission Statement.

Mr. Barnes replied that he has read the Mission Statement although he could not quote it. It was reasonable.

Chairperson Bower asked what Mr. Barnes sees as his role as a Park Commissioner.

Mr. Barnes answered that he would be somewhat of a cheerleader expounding on the good. He stated that most of the people that live in his subdivision are not aware of the contributions of the Parks and Recreation. He stated that his role would be to talk to people every chance he got to advise them of the Department and Programs. He thinks that communication is key. He

stated that you also have to be knowledgeable and if there is an issue to discuss, you discuss it reasonably with some rationale.

Chairperson Bower asked if Mr. Barnes had prior experience on Boards and Committees and commented that Mr. Barnes already answered that.

Mr. Barnes described where he lives in the Township.

Chairperson Bower asked how long Mr. Barnes had lived in the Township.

Mr. Barnes replied since 1999.

Chairperson Bower asked if he had any prior experience with the Park Commission.

Mr. Barnes replied, not at this level, only as a facilitator.

Commissioner Vallad asked if he had any experience in the Parks and Recreation field.

Mr. Barnes replied no, not at this level but he described his experience.

Chairperson Bower asked if he has any feeling regarding future direction of the Parks and Recreation Department regarding priorities, etc.

Mr. Barnes replied not at this time.

Chairperson Bower asked if he had any personal feelings about what Parks and Recreation should provide.

Mr. Barnes replied opportunities and those opportunities could depend on what can be offered in terms of the interest of the community. He commented on different collaboration efforts that he has been involved in and the positive parts of those experiences. He commented that the trails are wonderful.

Chairperson Bower asked what activities or facilities Mr. Barnes has associated with or visited in the last year.

Mr. Barnes answered that his granddaughters have attended events like the Easter Egg Hunt and his wife and he have visited the trails.

Director Richmond commented that Mr. Barnes volunteered to be a storybook reader for the Tales and Trails event.

Mr. Barnes stated that he has provided the information to other families in his subdivision regarding events and programs.

Chairperson Bower asked Mr. Barnes about his prior experience in budgeting and planning.

Mr. Barnes stated that he was responsible for overseeing 52 million in bond dollars. He was responsible for budgeting for the Holly Area Schools.

Commission Parke asked what was Mr. Barnes role with Holly Area Schools before he retired.

Mr. Barnes replied that he was the Superintendent all fourteen years.

Commissioner Omell summarized his son's experience in the Holly Area Schools.

Mr. Barnes summarized some of his experiences in Holly Area Schools.

Chairperson Bower asked Mr. Barnes to describe his philosophy on Parks and Recreation programs and events and whether or not they should be user pay or self-supporting.

Mr. Barnes replied that, like many organizations, they probably have a tight budget. He stated that many times people don't mind donating or paying a fee if they know what it is for. He stated that it depends on the situation and the circumstance and who is involved.

Chairperson Bower asked if Mr. Barnes had any ideas about increasing revenues.

Mr. Barnes replied that he doesn't know what they are doing now, but if you don't ask, the answer is always going to be no. He shared his experiences during his upbringing.

Chairperson Bower asked if Mr. Barnes was looking to run in the next election in 2018.

Mr. Barnes replied yes.

Chairperson Bower asked if Mr. Barnes had the time available to go to meetings and to volunteer with projects.

Mr. Barnes replied yes. He is retired and has time available for the meetings and for volunteering too.

Chairperson Bower asked Mr. Barnes what he feels he would contribute to the Parks Commission.

Mr. Barnes replied a willingness to learn. He also has expertise in budgeting and personnel. He stated that he does not like to meet just to meet, but wants to meet with a purpose. He will come to the meetings prepared. He stated that he will bring enthusiasm and candor.

Chairperson Bower asked if Mr. Barnes had any questions.

Mr. Barnes asked when the Commission will make a decision.

Commissioner Vallad replied tonight.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Barnes for his willingness to serve.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of 2018 Budget with Revision

Commissioner Vallad moved to approve the Revised 2018 Parks and Recreation Budget with a revenue total of \$606,050.00 and an expense total of \$656,150.00 as explained in Director Richmond's memo dated August 1, 2017. Supported by Commissioner Baker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners and Director Richmond discussed possible candidates, their abilities and what they could contribute to the Commission.

Commissioner Vallad moved to nominate Anne Loncar for the vacancy on the Park Commission. Supported by Commissioner Spicer. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: Bower, Omell; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 4-2 vote.

Chairperson Bower stated that he was voting no, not because he doesn't think Ms. Loncar will do a great job, but he knows Mr. Barnes and knows what he is capable of doing. Mr. Barnes would bring a much needed boost to the Commission.

Commissioner Omell stated that he is familiar with Mr. Barnes through Holly Area Schools and made a very good impression. He stated that either candidate would do a great job.

Commissioners commented that this was a very difficult decision and both candidates are extremely qualified.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Bower moved to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:56 pm. Supported by Commissioner Omell. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.