

**Springfield Township
Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 12, 2008, Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairperson Parke at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan 48350.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Ron Hudson
Dot LaLone
Rich Parke
Annette Zemon-Parker
Jean Vallad

Staff Present

Casey Reed
Jennifer Tucker

Others Present

Keith Banes

Commissioners Absent

Diane Baker with notification
Kelly Hyer with notification

IV. AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL

Add "Prescribe Burning Policy and Procedure" as item "D" under New Business

Add "Discussion of Health Care Benefits" as item "E" under New Business.

Commissioner Vallad moved to accept the agenda as revised. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner LaLone. Vote on the motion: Yes: Hudson, LaLone, Parke, Zemon-Parker, and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Baker and Hyer. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes-January 8, 2008 with Additional Disbursements of \$7,467.49 for Parks & Recreation Fund.
- B. Receipt of Parks & Recreation Activities Report for January
- C. Receipt of Before Audit December Printouts

- D. Receipt of Approved Township Board Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2007
- E. Receipt of Tentative February Calendar of Events
- F. Receipt of Letter to Dan Stencil, Executive Director of Oakland County Parks dated January 17, 2008
- G. Receipt of Internal Revenue Service 2008 Mileage Rates
- H. Approval of Request for Bid Proposal of Youth T-ball, Baseball, Softball, Soccer & Basketball Photography
- I. Approval of Request for Bid Proposal of Youth T-ball, Baseball, Softball, & Basketball Uniforms
- J. Receipt of Township Board Agenda for February 14, 2008
- K. Receipt of Young At Heart Active Adult February and March Newsletter

Receipt of Communication

1.

Commissioner Vallad moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Zemon-Parker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Hudson, LaLone, Parke, Zemon-Parker, and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Baker and Hyer. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Basketball Issues

Chairperson Parke stated that a coach termination appeal had been received by the Commission for their consideration. Staff had found that the coach in question had violated his signed coaches' agreement on multiple occasions via e-mail and during league play.

The Park Commission discussed the materials that were included in the meeting packets, along with an additional e-mail from Recreation Coordinator, Casey Reed, explaining the timeline of events.

Chairperson Parke stated that he had discussed the issues with this coach when the coach had contacted him.

Chairperson Parke stated he personally did not have any problems with how this entire situation was handled either by the Basketball Commissioner or by the Recreation Coordinator or the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Chairperson Parke asked the other Commissioners if any of them have a reason why this coach should have another chance beyond those several that he has already been given.

Commissioner Zemon-Parker expressed her opinion that he has had more than adequate chances to prove himself. The Director of Parks and Recreation and the Recreation Coordinator were more than generous in the time that they allowed him and that this situation needs to be put to rest.

Chairperson Parke stated that even though this coach was no longer going to be coaching the team he was more than welcome to attend the games as long as he could sit in the stands and observe the game as a parent and not create any problems.

Chairperson Parke stated that a letter should be sent to this individual stating that the Park Commission has ratified the decision of the Director of Parks and Recreation that he be removed as a coach and that each parent on the team will also be receiving a letter stating that he is no longer going to be coaching the team. In addition, it will be stated in the letter that he must refrain from coaching from the sidelines at the games and not participate in the practices of the team.

Chairperson Parke moved that the Park Commission ratify the decision of the Director of Parks and Recreation to remove this coach from the position of a 3rd and 4th grade Broncho Basketball coach. This gentleman will be informed of this decision by letter and he will be notified that he is to not participate at the practices and that he is more than welcome to attend the games but he is to not coach from the stands. In addition a letter will be sent to the parents on the team to inform them that the gentleman is no longer the coach of the team. Chairperson Parker was supported by Commissioner LaLone. Vote on the motion: Yes: Hudson, LaLone, Parke, Zemon-Parker, and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Baker and Hyer. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Chairperson Parke indicated that Commissioner Hyer had sent a letter stating that she supported the decision that the Director of Parks and Recreation made.

B. Aquatic Weed Management Contracts

Director Tucker stated that she had received a response from Oakland County Parks after they had received her letter inquiring if they would be interested in working with Springfield Township Parks and Recreation on the aquatic weed situation at Mill Pond Park. Director Tucker stated that Oakland County Parks stated that they would be willing to work with us.

Director Tucker stated that she had just received contact from Oakland County Parks on Monday, February 11, 2008 and the details have to be clarified. Director Tucker indicated that she would like to still obtain the require permits in the interim.

Commissioner Vallad moved that Director Tucker move forward in obtaining the necessary permits for the aquatic weed management contracts. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Zemon-Parker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Hudson, Parke, Zemon-Parker, and Vallad; No: LaLone; Absent: Baker and Hyer. The motion carried by a 4-1 vote.

C. Grant Opportunity

Director Tucker stated that she had received an e-mail from Commissioner Vallad who was inquiring about a Land and Water Conservation grant. This grant is administered through the Department of Natural Resources. The grant deadline is March 1st. The reason that in the past the department has not pursued this type of grant is that this grant requires matching funds.

The specific use for the grant funds would be used towards trails, which is a project that is in the master plan.

Commission Zemon-Parker stated that she is very hesitant to pursue this type of grant because it does require matching funds and our budget is very limited.

Commissioner Vallad expressed hesitance about spending the funds from the Parks and Recreation budget. She also stated that she wanted to see the rest of the survey results because while she knows that people want open space and trails she would like to see what else the public is looking for.

Commissioner Hudson stated that he would also like to see trails but feels that there are not the funds in this Parks and Recreation budget.

Chairperson Parke stated that considering the current financial situation of the department he can not see allocating funds for this project.

Commissioner LaLone stated that this grant opportunity was brought to her attention by Supervisor Walls at the end of January. She also stated it is her understanding that the original intention of the Park Commission was that after the restrooms were done they were going to do a circle path out the back of the Civic Center around the ponds and back. This path would be a "health walk" so that the employees could get out and walk. Commissioner LaLone understands that funding is very tight but her concern is that it does not look like the Commission is doing that much towards the pathway projects.

The Commission decided that at this time they will not be pursuing this grant due to the uncertainty of the budget for 2009. They do not feel that it is prudent to spend the prior year fund down to zero.

D. Prescribed Burn Policy and Procedure

Chairperson Parke indicated that the Prescribe Burn Policy and Procedure meets the approval of the Fire Chief. The policy states the procedure of how a prescribed burn will be implemented.

Director Tucker stated that the policy would be reviewed once more by Chief Oaks and then would be reviewed by Supervisor Walls.

Commissioner LaLone moved to approve the clarification of the Prescribed Burn Policy and Procedure at the February 2008 meeting. Commissioner LaLone was supported by Commissioner Vallad. Vote on the motion: Yes: Hudson, LaLone, Parke, Zemon-Parker, and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Baker and Hyer. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

E. Discussion of Health Care Benefits

Commissioner Vallad brought to the rest of the Commissions attention that the price of employee contribution is \$ 30.00 for a single person coverage and \$ 65.00 for two person coverage for the 2008 calendar year.

Chairperson Parke stated that the employees were contributing in 2007 and that rates have gone up in 2008.

Commissioner Vallad stated that she was not aware that the employees were required to contribute.

Commissioner Hudson stated the Park and Recreation staff is being paid less than the Township employees so the department employees would have to receive a larger raise to meet the \$ 65.00. They are not getting paid the same as their comparable counterparts in the Township so they should not have to pay the higher premiums.

Commissioner Vallad asked if the matter of the waiver for medically necessary medications could be looked into and the information given to the Commission at the next meeting.

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Bills List

Commissioner Vallad moved to approve payment of the bills as follows: Parks and Recreation at \$ 21,989.46. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Hudson. Vote on the motion: Yes: Hudson, LaLone, Parke, Zemon-Parker, and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Baker and Hyer. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policies and Procedure Committee

None

B. Shiawassee Basin Preserve Rental Properties Committee

None

C. Non-Profit Community Group Committee

None

E. Clarkston Leadership Steering Committee

None

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XII. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner LaLone moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation at 8:25 pm. Commissioner LaLone was supported by Commissioner Zemon-Parker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Hudson, LaLone, Parke, Zemon-Parker, and Vallad; No: None; Absent: Baker and Hyer. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Jennifer Tucker, Director of Parks & Recreation

Rich Parke, Chairperson of Park Commission