

**Springfield Township
Park & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020
VIA PHONE/VIDEO CONFERENCE**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The October 13, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6.30 p.m. by Chairperson Bower via Phone/Video Conference.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Diane Baker
Roger Bower
Anne Loncar
Dennis Omell
Rich Parke (Arrived at 7:03pm)
Angela Spicer
Jean Vallad

Staff Present:

Sarah Richmond

Others Present:

Chris Benedict, IT Administrator
Mike Donnellon, Chief of Parks Facilities Maintenance and Development – Oakland County Parks and Recreation
Zachary Crane, Project Manager and Landscape Architect – Oakland County Parks and Recreation

IV. AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL

Commissioner Vallad moved to proceed with the agenda as revised, adding under New Business, C. Discussion of Park Commission Meeting Format. In addition, under Consent H “Email from Attorney Need regarding Open Meetings Act” was added. Supported by Commissioner Baker. Roll Call Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Loncar, Omell, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Parke. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2020 with Additional Disbursements of \$2,840.75 for the Parks & Recreation Fund and \$50.00 Trust & Agency
- B. Receipt of Activities Report for September
- C. Receipt of Financial Summaries

- D. Receipt of Progress Report for September
- E. Receipt of August Budget Printouts
- F. Receipt of Natural Resource Manager September Monthly Report
- G. Receipt of Memo to Township Board dated September 29, 2020 re: 2021 Park Fund Budget for Budget Hearing
- H. Email Regarding Open Meetings Act from Attorney Greg Need

Receipt of Communications

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

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Oakland County Parks and Recreation Millage Awareness Presentation

Mr. Mike Donnellon, Chief of Park Facilities, Maintenance and Development, provided an electronic presentation regarding the 10-year replacement Oakland County Parks and Recreation Millage which is on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

Commissioner Vallad suggested posting the link on the FaceBook page.

Director Richmond commented that the Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with Oakland County and they collaborate on many different projects.

Mr. Donnellon agreed that they have a good relationship between Springfield Township Parks and Recreation and Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

B. Discussion of Mill Pond Dam-Review of 50% Engineering & Conceptual Park Design

Director Richmond introduced Zachary Crane, Project Manager/Landscape Architect of Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

Zachary Crane provided a review of Mill Pond Dam – 50% Engineering and Conceptual Park Design plans.

Commissioner Omell asked how long Davisburg Road would be closed down.

Mr. Crane replied that the project length would be about three months. He stated that they have started talking with the Road Commission and part of the permitting with them will include providing a detour. He knows that there is some concern about programming demands too but they will try to work around those schedules as best they can.

Director Richmond stated they also talking about using Hart Community Center, though perhaps limited functions, throughout the project depending on what section was being worked on.

Mr. Crane concurred that they wanted to keep Hart Community Center open so they will make every effort to do that.

Chairperson Bower asked what kinds of provisions have been made with the railroad.

Mr. Crane stated that there would be no flow difference so there would be no work with the railroad culvert.

Commissioner Parke joined the meeting at 7:03 pm

Commissioner Vallad asked about the holding area shown on Sheet B-1.1.

Director Richmond replied that the gazebo would not necessarily be demolished. If they had to move it, they could but they plan on using this area as a staging area.

Commissioner Vallad asked about the temporary road being shown

Mr. Crane stated that there would be a haul road complete with fencing and/or screening along that road to the north.

Commissioner Vallad commented that it looks great and it is going to be wonderful when it is finished.

Commissioner Omell commented on a situation in Harrison, Michigan. He asked how long the current culvert could hold up.

Mr. Donnellon stated that they are monitoring the existing culvert as they have done in the past. He commented that the culvert is undersized and would not be eligible for a replacement because it would require a much larger culvert. This was established during the feasibility study. It is currently a 30 or 36 inch culvert.

Chairperson Bower commented on how the water comes through the culvert very quickly at certain times of the year.

Commissioner Vallad asked about Commissioner Omell's comment. She asked why he is asking the question when this matter has been part of a feasibility study and discussed with the Township Board and at two public hearings plus has already been voted and decided upon.

Commissioner Omell answered that it is not a done deal. There is a lot of money involved and you don't know what is going to happen with the economy.

Director Richmond stated that they would need to have 50% of the grant money in place before construction started. She highlighted and explained the Conceptual Park Plan including details of the plan.

Commissioner Parke commented that pickle ball was brought up continually by one person during the Parks Master Plan discussions.

Director Richmond commented that this is an activity that is frequently requested by residents and visitors and it will be an asset to the community.

Commissioner Parke asked about where the property lines would be when the stream banks were restored. He asked what would be managed by the Township and what would be managed by Oakland County.

Mr. Donnellon replied that they took this discussion to the County Park Commission. Conceptually, if they follow the center line of the stream bank that is being exposed, anything towards Mill Pond Park would be managed by Springfield Township and anything to the other side of the stream bank would be Oakland County. This would include Springfield Township managing Rotary Park which is on the other side of the road; this park is currently under management of Springfield Oaks as an Oakland County park. The Master Plans are going to be guided by what areas they are managing.

Commissioner Parke commented that this makes sense.

Director Richmond stated that, if after reviewing the conceptual plan, the Commission agrees that it does align with the Commission priorities, the Township Board would like a motion concurring that the Commission agrees with the conceptual plans as they are currently being presented so they can be taken to the public for public outreach meeting.

Commissioner Vallad moved to concur with the conceptual plan presented for the phased approach for Mill Pond Park and that was presented at the October 13, 2020 meeting. Supported by Commissioner Loncar. Roll Call Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Loncar, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 7-0 vote.

C. Discussion of Park Commission Meeting Format

Director Richmond stated that this item came about because of changes that are currently happening with the previous executive orders and the decisions that have been recently made with the Michigan Supreme Court. She contacted the Township Attorney to clarify what format they can have their meeting in and how should they proceed moving forward with meetings. Mr. Need sent her his legal opinion today and she forwarded it to the Commissioners. She summarized the attorney's opinion.

Commissioners and Director Richmond discussed the different meeting options.

Commissioner Vallad stated that she would like everyone's opinion regarding this item before a motion is made.

Commissioner Vallad stated that she believes they should meet in person as long as appropriate guidelines are followed.

Director Richmond noted that if anyone feels ill, they should stay home.

Chairperson Bower stated that his opinion is why would they inconvenience the Civic Center staff to have a small portion of the Commission present in the building for a meeting.

Commissioner Baker stated that she would vote for a hybrid moving forward since the Civic Center office needs to be cleaned anyway.

Director Richmond clarified the cleaning that needed to take place in the Board room after a meeting. She clarified that attendants at the meeting are required to have a mask on and she defined the exceptions to that rule.

Commissioner Parke stated that based on the Michigan Court decision yesterday, he would not be surprised that the Michigan Department of Health is overstepping their responsibilities and objectives. He confirmed that he agrees with moving ahead with hybrid meetings and he doesn't feel it is appropriate to require every Commissioner to show up at the meeting in person. He also doesn't think they should be going virtual only.

Director Richmond asked if Commissioner Baker and Commissioner Parke supported meeting in-person with a quorum or regardless of if they have a quorum or not.

Commissioner Parke answered that he doesn't know what that means. If you have four commissioners that are participating either in person or through the online option, they have a quorum.

Director Richmond stated that MTA's approach is that you would have four people present in having a quorum, but the Township Attorney says you don't have to have four in person.

Commissioner Parke concurred with the Township Attorney.

Commissioner Baker stated that she doesn't think they need to have an in-person quorum. The Governor's mandate was true up until the Court's mandate said it wasn't.

Commissioner Vallad stated that if they do a hybrid, do they expect Director Richmond to attend in person. She asked Chris Benedict if he would have to be onsite for a hybrid meeting.

Mr. Benedict replied that for hybrid meetings, he would have to be onsite.

Commissioner Omell stated that he would rather be in person, but if he is in a mask for a long period of time, he gets chest pains and it makes him cough.

Commissioner Spicer stated that she doesn't have a problem with the hybrid meeting. Her concern is asking Director Richmond being there because she has small children and family members who are immune deficient.

Commissioner Vallad clarified that only she and Commissioner Parke would attend in-person meetings at this point.

Commissioner Spicer stated that she would attend in-person meetings as well. **Commissioner Parke moved that moving forward for the next 3 months, the Commission should opt for a hybrid option and at any time during this 3-month period subject to local, County, State or Federal guidelines that govern meetings of this type. Any and all participants should have the option of participating in-person or online and any votes or any input received from any of the participants should be treated as if they are in-person.** Supported by Commissioner Vallad.

Commissioners discussed the motion.

Director Richmond added that she will need to know prior to the meetings who is planning on attending in-person and online so that the room can be set up.

Roll Call Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Loncar, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: Bower; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 6-1 vote.

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Bills List

Commissioner Vallad moved to approve the October bills list totaling \$9,017.52 and \$350.00 in Trust in Agency. Supported by Commissioner Omell.

Commissioner Omell asked about the tennis instructor amount.

Director Richmond replied that the instructor was paid \$1,173.75, which was for the fall lessons for youth, teen and adults. They did not lose money on this program, which was shown on the financial that was included in the Commission's packets.

Roll Call Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Loncar, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 7-0 vote.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Baker stated that she appreciates the Commission's ability to work through issues. She thanked Director Richmond and staff for their hard work.

Chairperson Bower stated that the water front area that was previously the beach looks great without the fencing there. He asked about the cemetery tour.

Director Richmond provided details about the cemetery tour.

Commissioner Omell commented on a park in Pennsylvania he visited and the pickleball courts that they had there.

Commissioner Vallad commented on the scavenger hunt the Department had organized that she had participated in recently. She stated that they soon have to get back to having meetings face to face.

Commissioner Parke supported having face to face meetings. He thanked Director Richmond and staff for their continuing efforts.

Commissioner Vallad commented on the recent order from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and asked how it affects the Department.

Director Richmond updated the Commission on the current status of the programs and parks.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Vallad moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 8:10 pm. Supported by Commissioner Omell.

Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Loncar, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 7-0 vote.