

**Springfield Township
Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The January 9, 2007, Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:01 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

Diane Baker (arrived at 7:47pm)
Ron Hudson
Kelly Hyer
Dot LaLone
Rich Parke
Jean Vallad

Staff Present

Sarah Richmond
Jennifer Tucker

Others Present

John Cocciolone
Steve Gore
Joe Hassell
Al Lopez
Nancy Lopez
Susan Wallace
Diana Walls
Helen Vergin

Commissioners Absent

Annette Zemon-Parker (absent with notification)

IV. AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL

Commissioner LaLone moved to accept the agenda as presented. Commissioner LaLone was supported by Commissioner Hudson. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Davisburg Rotary Group was represented by John Cocciolone and Joe Hassell. Mr. Cocciolone read a prepared statement to the Commission addressing some of the Rotary's concern especially regarding the most recent non-profit contract for the Hart Community Center and the lack of communication and understanding between the Rotary Club Membership and the Parks Commission, and the Director regarding the contract for the use of the Hart Community Center. It is the feeling of the Rotary Club that this new contract is more restrictive. The Rotary Group would like to either sit down with a sub-committee of the Park Commission and/or Director Tucker and discuss their concerns because there are several issues in the contract that need to be revisited in their opinion. Mr. Cocciolone expressed it is not the Rotary's intention to attack anyone or cause any

problems but it is their wish to find some solutions, and it is their hope that by having this meeting that some resolutions may be found.

Chairperson Parke wanted to address the perception that some members of the Rotary Club may have that the Park Commission is trying to discourage the group from using the Hart Community Center. Chairperson Parke stated that nothing could be farther from the truth. The Park Commission wants to have a good relationship with the Rotary Club and other non-profit organizations within the community. Chairperson Parke stated that it was his understanding that the main changes to the non-profit contract had more to do with reformatting then changing content. All requirements of the contracts apply equally to all groups that use the Hart Community Center.

Director Tucker stated that there are several miscommunications that she would like to address. The main changes to the non-profit contract were the formatting and the storage fees that are now required. There were some sections that were reworded and Director Tucker had highlighted those at the Community Group Meeting that was held on January 2, 2007. Director Tucker did point out that in both the revised and the older versions of the contract it does state that groups are required to clean-up after their rentals, but that does not mean that a group must scrub the toilets.

Commissioner Vallad suggested that a committee be formed to meet with the community groups and to address any miscommunications and concerns of those groups. Commissioner Vallad would like to nominate Chairperson Parke and herself for the committee.

Commissioner Hudson would also like to be on the committee.

Chairperson Parke suggested since there were multiple members present from the Rotary Club this evening perhaps the Park Commission could add Rotary as an agenda item to have further discussion regarding their communication concerns.

Helen Vergin pointed out to Chairperson Parke that there are perhaps other groups other than just the Rotary Club that may have some issues that they would like to have addressed.

Chairperson Parke moved that Under New Business "A" Rotary be added. Chairperson Parke was supported by Commissioner Vallad. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes-December 12, 2006, 2006 with Additional Disbursements of \$ 5,928.54 for Parks & Recreation Fund; and \$ 450.00 Trust & Agency.
- B. Receipt of Parks & Recreation Activities Report for December
- C. Receipt of November Budget Printouts
- D. Receipt of Township Board Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2006
- E. Receipt of Tentative January Calendar of Events

- F. Receipt of Young At Heart Senior Citizen January Newsletter
- G. Approval of the Township Revised 2007 Holiday Schedule

Commissioner Vallad moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Hudson. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Davisburg Rotary

Chairperson Parke addressed the storage unit issue and fees first. Director Tucker stated that as was discussed at the Community Group Meeting, all the groups had to remove their items from their storage closets temporarily in order for the Parks and Recreation staff to paint the closets to bring them up to Oakland County Health Division code. The code requires that any storage unit be painted and washable in order to store any single serving items, which includes paper goods. Once this process is completed the groups will be able to move their items back into their closets.

The second issue addressed was pertaining to the profits that a group makes during in-kind service. Director Tucker stated that groups can absolutely still do in-kind service in lieu of paying for their rental usage fees and any profits they make while doing the in-kind service will be given to the Parks and Recreation Department to be applied towards their rental usage fees.

Helen Vergin stated that in the beginning all the community groups that used the Hart Community Center did their own work to use to use center. Now those groups are being told that more things are going to cost more money and while people understand that budgets are tight, the community groups that are using the Hart Community Center are the stable ones that have always been there and what she would like to know is why those groups have to pay what is not being covered by programs other than those ones that they do themselves. She feels that the groups are having a lot of overhead tacked onto their fees.

Chairperson Parke stated that the Parks and Recreation Department does everything possible to generate revenue from its programs. It is the goal of the department to balance between how we get the most participation and the most benefit to the community while not expending the township dollars for the benefit of a few people. In regard to the programs, the Parks and Recreation Department is making every effort to generate revenues. The Parks Commission along the Parks and Recreation staff very much want to have partnerships with the non-profit groups of the community. Chairperson Parke also stated that if there are issues within the contract that the community groups had concerns with then the Park Commission wants to address them.

Joe Hassell suggested that the yearly meeting for the community groups be held in mid-November not at the beginning of January so that issues can be addressed before the groups need to use the building in the next calendar year.

Commissioner Vallad wanted to stress that all the non-profit community groups sign the same standard contract.

Joe Hassell stated that when matters are addressed to the Rotary Club the history of the club should be thought of and somewhat taken into consideration. Mr. Hassell is not suggesting that the Rotary Club be given a free pass on things but that the Park Commission think of all the past things that the club has done for the community and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Commissioner Hyer felt that the non-profit community group committee should begin first meeting with just the Rotary Club and then meet with representatives from the other community groups as needed. Commissioner Hyer stated that this format may be more productive in addressing each groups concerns.

Commissioner Vallad moved that the Park Commission form a Non-Profit Community Group Committee. The Park Commission will be represented by Commissioner Vallad, Chairperson Parke, and Commissioner Hudson. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner LaLone. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

The intent of the Non-Profit Community Group Committee is to meet with all non-profit community groups using Parks and Recreation facilities to address any concerns said groups might have with the Parks Department and/or Parks Commission. The meeting for the Non-Profit Community Group Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the lower level conference room of the Civic Center.

B. Aquatic Weed Management Contracts

The Park Commission discussed Director Tucker's memo regarding the options for handling the aquatic weeds in the Davisburg Mill Pond.

Commissioner Hyer stated that she would be in favor for harvesting some of the mill pond and doing chemical treatment.

Commissioner Hyer moved to award the 2007 chemical treatment contract to Aqua Weed Control at a cost not to exceed \$ 2,604.80. In addition award Professional Lake Management the weed harvesting contract for five acres at a cost of \$ 420.00 an acre for a total cost not to exceed to \$ 2,100.00. Commissioner Hyer was supported by Commissioner Baker. Vote on the Motion: Yes: Baker, Hyer, Parke; No: Hudson, LaLone, Vallad. The motion did not carry.

Commissioner LaLone wanted to know if there could be two chemical treatments versus having the weeds harvested.

Director Tucker stated that chemical treatment alone would not eliminate all the weeds that need to be eliminated.

Commissioner Hudson stated that he had voted no because he felt that there were not enough funds for both the harvesting and the chemical treatment.

Commissioner LaLone stated that she felt the department should only do chemical treatment this year.

Commissioner Vallad stated she would like to address the harvesting after the chemical treatment to see if the harvesting would be necessary.

Chairperson Parke requested Director Tucker to ask Aqua Weed Control if just chemical treatment is good enough for the mill pond or if Aqua Weed Control felt that harvesting would need to be done as well.

Commissioner Vallad stated that many years ago the Commission had looked into getting an aerating fountain for the pond which was suppose to be helpful for weed and muck control.

Director Tucker stated that if someone would be willing to donate a fountain could we put a sign on it stating who had made the donation.

The Commission agreed that said sign would not be a problem.

Chairperson Parke moved to award the chemical treatment contract to Aqua Weed Control at a cost not to exceed \$ 2,700.00. Furthermore that Director Tucker contact Mr. Pinagel of Aqua Weed Control to obtain his opinion on harvesting the pond and installing an aeration fountain. The harvesting of the Davisburg Mill Pond is tabled until further information is received at the February meeting. Chairperson Parke was supported by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

C. Mill Pond Park Parking Lot Repaving Project

Director Tucker handed out a Request for Bid Proposals and two other quotes from engineering companies. Director Tucker stated that the Park Commission needed to decide what they wanted the engineering company to do so that she would know where to go from this point.

Commissioner LaLone stated that she would like to see this project completed in April before the rental schedules increase in the later months.

Director Tucker stated that she would get more bids to be comparable with what Hubbell, Roth, and Clark, the Township Engineering Consultants, had bid on.

Commissioner Vallad stated she would like to speak with Township Supervisor Walls regarding soil boring and would like to see this matter on the agenda for the February meeting.

D. 2007 Wages and Salaries

Commissioner Vallad moved to table 2007 Wages and Salaries to the February Meeting due to the information presented at the meeting this evening. Any wage and salary increases approved at the February meeting will be made retroactive to January 1, 2007. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

E. Potential Meeting Dates for the Joint Meeting with the Township Board

The Commission discussed potential dates to hold the Joint Meeting with the Township Board and they are as follows:

First choice:	Saturday, February 3 rd in the morning
Second choice:	Thursday, February 15 th
Third choice:	February 20 th through February 23 rd
Fourth choice:	Tuesday, February 27 th
Fifth choice:	Wednesday, February 28 th

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Bills List

Commissioner Vallad moved to approve payment of the bills as follows: Parks and Recreation at \$ 16,387.42, Shiawassee Basin Preserve at \$ 403.73 and Trust and Agency at \$ 300.00. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Millage Investigation Committee

Commissioner LaLone passed out an article about Oxford Township's millage attempts.

Commissioner Hyer wanted to know if millages and specific goals would be discussed at the Joint Meeting with the Township Board.

B. Policies and Procedure Committee

None.

C. Shiawassee Basin Preserve Rental Properties Committee

Director Tucker stated that the quarterly report was sent in December.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XII. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Baker stated that she is proud of the way the Park Commission is working together and how they are addressing concerns not only with the public in doing their jobs but also the attempts they are making and will be making to communicate better with the Township Board. She feels it is important that the Commission and the Township Board have clear and honest communications and it will help immensely.

Commissioner LaLone presented a flyer from the Headwater Trail Group who will be hosting Roz Savage who is presenting her experience as the first woman to complete the Cross Atlantic Rowing Competition and her upcoming challenge to row across the Pacific Ocean.

Commissioner Vallad stated she hoped to see all the Park Commissioners and Township employees at the Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale on February 5, 2007 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. This event is a fundraiser for the Parks and Recreation Department and the Young At Heart Senior Group.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hudson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation at 11:10 pm. Commissioner Hudson was supported by Commissioner LaLone. Vote on the motion: Yes: 6; No: None; Absent: 1. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

Jennifer Tucker, Director of Parks & Recreation

Rich Parke, Chairperson of Park Commission