

**Springfield Township
Park & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 9, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:05 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
Anne Loncar
Dennis Omell
Angela Spicer
Jean Vallad

Staff Present:

Sarah Richmond

Others Present:

Mike Losey, Natural Resources Manager
Diana Walls, Davisburg Rotary Club
Joan Wolfe, Neighbor for Neighbor

Commissioners Absent:

Rich Parke

IV. AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL

**Commissioner Vallad moved to accept the agenda as presented.
Supported by Commissioner Loncar. 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-March 12, 2019 with Additional Disbursements of \$3446.86 for the Parks & Recreation Fund and \$450.00 for Trust & Agency
- B. Receipt of Activities Report for March
- C. Receipt of Financial Summaries

- D. Receipt of Progress Report for March
- E. Receipt of Natural Resource Manger March Monthly Report
- F. Receipt of March Budget Printouts
- G. Receipt of Memo regarding returning contractors
- H. Receipt of Request for Proposals for Replacement Doors at the Hart Community Center
Receipt of Communications

Chairperson Bower moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Supported by Commissioner Spicer. 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

A. Discussion of Air Conditioning for Neighbor for Neighbor

Director Richmond stated that this matter was tabled at the last meeting to give her a chance to talk to Neighbor for Neighbor more extensively on this topic. Neighbor for Neighbor has been able to secure a donation of \$4,000 and she is requesting that the Commission pay the difference of \$700 for the installation of the air conditioning unit. She is also asking the Commission to cover the cost for the fencing and the painting of the fencing around the air conditioning unit.

Commissioner Vallad moved to award the air conditioning bid to Troy Electric at a cost not to exceed \$4700 with the understanding that the Parks and Recreation Department will be installing the fence around the unit, covering the cost of the fence and painting the fence around the unit. Supported by Commissioner Baker.

Commissioner Omell commented on the contractor.

Commissioner Vallad replied that Director Richmond followed bid submission guidelines and she asked for bids from different companies.

Commissioner Omell stated that he was a landlord for 26 years and in his experience, he had to pay for the air conditioner for the tenant. One company he used was Dave Lamb in Fenton. He did not see a bid from them.

Director Richmond stated that the bids obtained were in the original packet. Some were obtained by Davisburg Rotary because Neighbor for Neighbor was trying to receive some assistance from them but was not able to do so. One of the bids received was from Troy Electric and that is who she is recommending. This is a known contractor for the Township. He does good work and he is an experienced mechanical and electrical contractor. This is also who Neighbor for Neighbor requested. It is a Township resident who owns Troy Electric.

Commissioner Vallad commented that the Township tries to utilize local companies. This is part of the policy and it has been this way for a long time.

Commissioner Omell asked if they needed that big of a unit, 4 ton. He saw a bid for a 5 ton.

Director Richmond replied that 5 ton is excessive. The furnace can handle up to 5 tons but cannot go over this amount. All the measurements were done, and the recommendation was for a 4 ton, which can accommodate what they need.

Diana Walls presented a letter to the Commissioners. She stated that it explains why Davisburg Rotary withdrew.

Chairperson Bower asked if she wanted to offer an explanation.

Ms. Walls replied no; this is for the record.

Joan Wolfe, Neighbor for Neighbor, thanked the Rotary for their effort through this process. She explained why they needed the air conditioning in the building.

Commissioner Vallad commented that she is grateful that they received a donation, so this could be done because the Parks Department does not have the budgeted money to pay the full amount.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Seasonal Closure of Critical Habitat Areas for Poweshiek Skipperling

Director Richmond explained that the Poweshiek Skipperling is a rare butterfly listed as an endangered species. It has been found at several sites within the Shiawassee Basin Preserve. Within the last year, there has been a lot of press coverage about this butterfly. Due to this public interest, there has been an increase in the amount of people visiting this area to see the rare butterfly and they are damaging the habitat. They are also interfering with professional monitoring of the species. Since the Skipperling is an endangered species, all federal laws apply and Director Richmond summarized those laws. The proposed season is between June 1st through September 1st which is when the majority of the larval and flight takes place. The closure that they are recommending is like the closure that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has enacted at other sites. She summarized the attached map which outlines the critical area and indicates where the critical habitat areas would be closed. She stated that they are working on the exact verbage for the closure sign and the goal is to have maps and signage completed prior to the current flight season and she explained where that signage would be installed. And she suggested that this is added to the large rule sign at Davis Lake when it is updated. North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) is in favor of the seasonal closure and their Stewardship Committee has indicated that they would assist in the development of any interpretive signage that the Parks Department put on the property. She explained that the trail would still be open.

Commissioners discussed possible verbage for the signs.

Commissioner Vallad moved to close the sensitive area to protect the Poweshiek Skipperling from June 1st through September 1st as outlined in Director Richmond's memo dated April 3, 2019. Supported by Commissioner Baker.

Commissioner Baker asked how they are going to monitor this.

Director Richmond replied that most people are respectful. When staff and researchers are out there and if they see people where they shouldn't be, they will ask them to move back to the trail and educate them on the reason for that request.

Commissioner Loncar asked how long the trail was in this area.

Mr. Losey stated that the area proposed for closure is about 15 – 20 acres in size. The trail along this area is approximately 700 yards. This is a challenging area to walk through including rattlesnakes and poison sumac.

Commissioner Baker asked if there was a mowed trail that leads down to Davis Lake.

Director Richmond replied there are several times a year that they don't mow it because there are some rare species that bloom there and they have had instances where people have tried to remove them. It is not an established trail but is used for stewardship activities.

Commissioner Baker asked if they were going to advertise this in a podcast on the TV.

Director Richmond stated that they will update the website.

Mr. Losey commented that there is already a lot of information out there regarding the species and he summarized some of these.

Chairperson Bower suggested that they include information about the rattlesnake too since they are in the same area.

Mr. Losey replied that their goal is to make the trail a point of interest and to have this information along the trail.

Commissioner Spicer asked how many butterflies are out in a season.

Mr. Losey replied the numbers have reduced considerably and the estimated population is between 50 and 70 per year. He provided information about the Poweshiek Skipperling.

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

B. Discussion of 2018 Projects to Move into 2019 Budget Year

Director Richmond stated that she provided a list of projects from 2018 that they were unable to complete due to weather and other factors. It is her request that they use Prior Year Funds to complete this list of projects.

Commissioner Vallad moved to have Director Richmond to finish the projects outlined in her April 5, 2019 memorandum. Supported by Commissioner Omell. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Loncar, Omell, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Parke. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Bills List

Commissioner Vallad moved to approve the April bills list totaling \$8,696.04 and Trust in Agency \$450.00. Supported by Commissioner Baker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Loncar, Omell, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Parke. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Hartman Property Committee

B. Maintenance Garage Committee

Chairperson Bower stated that the Commissioners already received the report on both of these committees at the special joint meeting. He commented that Director Richmond did a great job and asked if Director Richmond could thank Mr. Mike Losey and Mr. Mike Forst for all of their hard work.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Wolfe, Neighbor for Neighbor, stated that it has been a hard winter and the Parks and Recreation Department has bent over backwards to keep the lot cleared and safe. She added that in the coming winters, when the schools are closed, their organization would be closed too.

XII. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Baker suggested that they absorb the cost to create a butterfly garden with plants that would help butterfly and bee migration. She thanked Director Richmond for the reporting at the joint Township Board meeting.

Director Richmond replied that there is a butterfly garden established by the girl scouts outside of the library. She also said that there are nectaring plants for butterflies.

Chairperson Bower encouraged Commissioners to take a walk back to the overlook. There are area that were cleared when the forestry mowing took place this winter.

Commissioner Omell stated that the Easter Egg Hunt is coming up.

Director Richmond confirmed that the Teen Egg Hunt is Thursday, April 18 and the regular Easter Egg Hunt is on Friday, April 19 for ages 12 and under. She will check the list and let the Commissioners know if volunteers are still needed.

Commissioner Loncar commented that she is volunteering for both egg hunts. She commented on the beaver dam area on the new property.

Commissioner Spicer thanked everyone for their hard work.

Director Richmond confirmed the times of the egg hunt.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Omell moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:38 pm. Supported by Commissioner Vallad. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Loncar, Omell, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Parke. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.