

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

Lincoln Charter Township
2055 West John Beers Road
Stevensville, Michigan 49127

Tuesday, October 4, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gardner at 7:08 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Todd Gardner, Kim Risk, Mike Lucker, Rich Knapp, Rick Knight
ABSENT: Bill Tucker and John Hoskins.

ALSO PRESENT: Fran Elliott of the Ridge Road Neighborhood Association.

Opening – Audience Comments: None.

Secretary's Report: Risk is updating the website lincolntownshiparks.org and adding new content and links. Knapp, seconded by Lucker, made a **MOTION to approve** minutes from September 6th meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer's Report: We have \$95,000 remaining in our current budget for all expenses through March 31, 2006. Knight turned in a list of treasurer responsibilities. He is working on compiling account balances. Chairman requested unused funds be moved to other accounts for budget planning purposes.

Update given on \$8,053.76 water bill received last month: township reduced the sewer portion from \$2917 to \$500 based on new baseline meter readings, community surcharge of \$1720 was waived, and late penalty fee of \$805 was also waived. Revised bill in the amount \$3,914.50 or \$3,914.50 will be put to vote at the township meeting next week.

Gardner, seconded by Knapp, made a **MOTION to approve** revised water bill not to exceed \$3,915.50 and payment of invoices presented in the amount of \$7,383.60. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Trustee Reports: Discussed projects to be completed by end of this year. No report from Hoskins on roof bids for the community park shelter. Vending machines at the community park and baseball fields are not bringing in income to the parks, yet we pay for the electricity. The vending machines need to be removed unless we can get a share of the proceeds. Knight will contact area Pepsi distributor.

Risk gave update on dog park prospect. She met with members of the Berrien Kennel Club and gave a tour of parks in consideration. The Lincoln Township Community Park was favored due to water access, parking, future sidewalks, and surrounding neighborhoods. Dog walkers already regularly use the park. BKC members are researching agility structures and "Bark Park" rules at dog parks across the country and will put together a proposal to present to the commission.

Risk also reported an area scout is considering a parks project as part of his Eagle Scout requirements.

Chair Report: Gardner led discussion concerning user fees for any group that uses parks property and/or facilities. Ideas proposed:

- A per person registration fee that would cover January-December 2006 for any player on any recreation league that "pays to play".
- A 12-15% administration fee based on registration fee.
- A parks policy for collection and usage of fees.

- Include one or two parking passes for every person registered. A Recreation pass would be separate from any future Parks pass.
- Create funds with specific account numbers so that 100% of all fees collected will be spent to directly benefit that park.
- Revise our bylaws to include administration fee policy, collection, and distribution.

Next discussion concerned our legal authority as a Parks and Recreation Commission and the idea to create a formalized township recreation department. To do so would require the following steps:

1. Research possibility of taking all the recreational leagues (baseball, softball, soccer, football) and rolling them under an "umbrella", a Lincoln Charter Township Recreation Commission, as a subset of the Parks Commission.
2. All the registration, management, and budgeting of the recreation programs would be funneled through this new commission with a full-time paid director. The Parks House could be offered as housing for the director, making the job appealing to young college graduates with degrees in recreation management who would be willing to receive a smaller salary in return for paid living expenses.
3. The recreation leagues would still exist to support their organizations but administration, maintenance, and promotion responsibilities would be shifted. Having a separate recreation commission and recreation director would ensure more buying power, access to accounting software, and proper status to apply for recreation grants.
4. Summer recreation programs and sports clinics could be added to benefit more township residents and bring extra income to the parks.
5. The public and rec league representatives should be invited to discuss this issue further.

Gardner encouraged the commission to continue to think of ways to produce revenue from our parks. Ideas mentioned: summer programs, small sailboat storage rack at township beach, billboard rental on property bordering I-94, ice-skating pond, and toboggan run.

Special Projects/Committees: Chairman requested preparations begin for budget planning by the end of December with input from the recreational leagues. Knapp and Tucker will work with LYBSA, Risk with LYSL and SWM, and Lucker with Rocket Football. Include short-range and long-range repairs, maintenance issues, projects requiring grant applications, prioritized needs, and rough cost estimates.

Discussed benefits of moving Rocket Football to the Rocky Weed Sports Complex and consolidating all the rec leagues. Commissioners looked at master plan map and discussed need for creating tournament fields and adding bathroom facilities and more parking. Instituting parking fees for tournaments could bring in substantial money to be put towards improvements and maintenance at the Rocky Weed fields.

Baseball – Construction is coming along at the indoor hitting facility. The lease agreement giving access to build expired on August 31, 2005, according to Chairman. Parks Commission needs a copy of the building insurance policy. Gardner will contact township lawyer to make sure legal issues are resolved. ACTION PENDING.

Soccer – No report.

Football – No report.

North Lake Park – No report.

Glenlord Beach – Fran Elliott, representing the Ridge Road Neighborhood Association, wanted clarification on project timeline for Glenlord Beach improvements. The

commission reiterated safety concerns with current structure and need to tear it down as soon as a plan has been approved. A community focus group has not yet been scheduled. ACTION TABLED.

Lincoln Township Beach – Discussed winter maintenance concerns. Boardwalk needs some kind of skirt or snow fencing to prevent sand from blowing under it. Agreed to ask for Randy Rood's advice for an effective, low-cost option. ACTION PENDING.

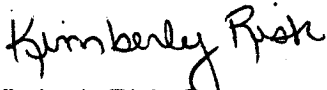
Community Center – Chairman proposed re-opening an ice-skating area at the community park this winter and utilizing the shelter as a warming house. The idea is being explored with the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation and may include help with staffing, refreshments, and decorating. LEF and Parks could equally split profits. ACTION PENDING.

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation – Gardner has met with the LEF Asset Advisory Committee, a group of 15 Lakeshore High School students, and discussed starting an environmental project in the spring. The group may adopt a park or sponsor a series of parks projects to benefit our parks and environment in Lincoln Township. ACTION PENDING.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Chairman at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Risk, Secretary
Parks Commission