

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

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

Tuesday, September 6, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gardner at 7:12 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: President Bob Elliott of the Ridge Road Neighborhood Association, Karen Reinhardt and Debbie Bly representing soccer, and Carol Petros.

Opening – Audience Comments: None.

Secretary's Report: Presented article for upcoming township newsletter. Discussed updating website and adding content about park activities and a calendar of events. Risk will meet with Tucker to learn how to make additions to the website.

Tucker, seconded by Gardner, made a **MOTION to amend** minutes from July 5th meeting to remove "Last year's highest quarterly bill for this meter was \$1800, of which \$900 is a community surcharge" and add "Last year's highest quarterly bill for this meter was \$1500, of which \$502 is a community surcharge. Another bill of \$1,196 had a surcharge of \$400." These bills will be attached to the July minutes for reference. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Tucker, seconded by Knapp, made a **MOTION to approve** minutes from August 2nd meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer's Report: Bills that have come through since last meeting total \$5,400.71, *not including* a water bill from the baseball complex for \$8,053.76. Information is being gathered about the high water bill covering a period of May 3rd through August 8th, 2005. Lucker will turn off sprinklers immediately and Tucker will contact the water department and request another meter reading. Water bill payment tabled until source of leak has been investigated. Estimate for adding a well at the baseball complex has not been received.

Tucker, seconded by Gardner, made a **MOTION to approve** payment of bills as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Knight presented a cost breakdown of insurance liability coverage. Full coverage on the two park's vehicles was changed to liability-only. Reducing the Parks House value of \$192,000 to \$100,000 would save \$113 a year. Chairman requested Knight find out more about the "Miscellaneous" category of \$2,400 and get explanations for mowers, fencing, and lights.

Knight informed Commission that members are covered under the insurance policy when using park's equipment if their time is recorded. Knight learned that Grace Lutheran wrote a check to Lakeshore Youth Soccer League for soccer field usage instead of parks at the end of last year. LYSL Treasurer Deb Bly explained how the soccer groups (high school, rec league, travel league, and Lutheran schools) were billed for striping paint, new nets, and new goals by LYSL and each group paid an amount based on their field usage.

Report of Officers: Hoskins reported receiving two bids for replacement of the community park shelter's roof: Tom Frakes bid \$5800 and Professional Roofing bid \$4,985, but did not include price for a metal roof. Chairman requested Hoskins contact Professional Roofing again.

Tucker reported fencing at the baseball/softball fields is nearly completed after falling two months behind schedule. Recommended final payment of \$5,000 held until project is done.

Tucker received a call from a township senior citizen about the proposed parks user fees. Due to the fixed income status of many seniors, she suggested we consider a waiver for residents over a certain age. The Commission agreed to take her request under consideration.

Risk reported contact with the Berrien Kennel Club about a possible dog park in Lincoln Township. The club has substantial money set aside to develop such a facility and is willing to research and design it. St. Joseph's Kiwanis Park has a large, fenced-in dog park with a drinking fountain and bench that opened this summer. The Commission agreed the area has many pet lovers and is interested in hearing a proposal.

Report of Special Committees/Projects:

Baseball Hitting Facility Update – Block laying begins this week. Completion is on target for October. A dedication ceremony will take place this fall. LYBSA is getting quotes for metal roofs for the dugouts. The roofs are in serious need of repair.

North Lake Park – The township board of trustees voted to extend city water lines into the park at a cost of close to \$5,000. Lakeshore Rotary has already purchased a drinking fountain for installation. Their next project will be upgrading the bathrooms.

Roosevelt Non-Motorized Path – Gardner attended second meeting of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation. The MDOT Enhancement Program Director explained how federal highway dollars may be used for specific enhancement projects, such as the non-motorized path built along Red Arrow Highway from Cracker Barrel to Glenlord Road last year. The township paid \$11,000 of the total \$130,000 project cost. MDOT has agreed to support the township application for the proposed South Roosevelt non-motorized path which would connect John Beers to Marquette Woods. The federal government would provide 80% of the funding if the application is approved. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is submitting the grant by early October on behalf of the township.

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation – Gardner will meet with the LEF Asset Advisory Committee comprised of 15 Lakeshore High School students to talk about their "wish list" for the township. High on their list is a community center. Some of their ideas may tie in with park initiatives and result in a future joint project.

Glenlord Beach – Bob Elliott spoke on behalf of the Ridge Road Neighborhood Association. They would like to arrange for a focus group on Glenlord Beach improvements. The township board has verbally agreed to the parks commission's proposal to fund a Glenlord Beach project not to exceed \$50,000. Parks agreed to pursue additional funds for beautification. Developer Rob Cummings has offered \$2,000 for every lot sold in his housing development to use towards improvements and beach access at Glenlord. Williams & Works is putting together a site plan.

Chairman asked if the association would support sidewalks or a trail along Ridge Road. Elliott stated they are not in favor of sidewalks but instead concerned about traffic-control. He also said it would be hard to find room for a non-motorized trail with all the trees lining the narrow road.

Parks Maintenance – No report.

Soccer Fields Concession Stand/Bathrooms Planning Update: Soccer representatives had a drawing showing a re-design of the soccer fields including a new concession stand/bathroom /storage facility, two portable bathrooms, a second parking lot off Cleveland, handicapped parking, separate football fields, and a play area.

Soccer representatives Karen Reinhardt and Deb Bly questioned whether parks would be able to put any funding toward the project this year or next. Chairman reiterated the willingness of the parks commission to work together with the soccer committee on obtaining a \$100,000 grant and helping with the 20% matching funds. At this time, the Commission cannot say if money will be available yet this year to put towards this project. The Commission plans to set aside money in next year's budget for the soccer project and costs associated with the grant application. Chairman encouraged the committee to firm up their plan and raise money.

If flushable toilets are part of soccer's plan, the cost of the project doubles. Although neighborhood development is in progress across Cleveland Road, it is not known when water and sewer lines will be put in close enough to the soccer complex or if a lift station would still be required. Bly said a new concession facility would have to meet stricter sanitation codes requiring hot water be available for food workers to wash their hands.

Risk suggested the soccer committee involve their sponsors in the planning process and offered to call consultant Pam Blough for advice on how the parks and soccer committee should proceed.

Announcements: Tucker reminded the Commission that Berrien County Parks Director Randy Rood will come this fall to evaluate our parks. Commission members were reminded to attend the special planning meeting on Saturday, September 10, 8:30 a.m. at the municipal building.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Chairman at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Risk, Secretary
Parks Commission