



**Springfield Township
Park & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
VIA PHONE/VIDEO CONFERENCE**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chairperson Bower via Phone/Video Conference.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Diane Baker (present, Springfield Township, MI)
Roger Bower (present, Springfield Township, MI)
Anne Loncar (present, Springfield Township, MI)
Dennis Omell (present, Harrison, MI)
Rich Parke (present, Springfield Township, MI)
Angela Spicer (present, Springfield Township, MI)
Jean Vallad (present, Springfield Township, MI)

Staff Present:

Sarah Richmond

Others Present:

Chris Benedict, IT Administrator

IV. AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL

Commissioner Parke moved to accept the agenda as presented. Supported by Commissioner Spicer. 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.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2020 with Additional Disbursements of \$1,027.03 for the Parks & Recreation Fund
- B. Receipt of Activities Report for December
- C. Receipt of Financial Summaries
- D. Receipt of Progress Report for December
- E. Receipt of Natural Resource Manager December Monthly Report
- F. Receipt of December Budget Printouts

Receipt of Communications

Commissioner Vallad moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Supported by Commissioner Omell. 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.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Meeting Resolution

Director Richmond summarized the Resolution to continue electronic meeting participation. It was drafted by Attorney Need so that they would be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Commissioner Parke moved to adopt the Resolution to continue electronic meeting participation as outlined in Director Richmond's January 7, 2021 memo. Supported by Commissioner Vallad. 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.

B. Discussion of Tree Removal and Trimming on Hartman Property

Director Richmond stated that in 2019 the Commission discussed the need to remove two oaks and trim 8 oak trees on the southern portion of the newly acquired Hartman property. Due to many factors that year they were not able to address this project in 2019 and due to Covid they were not able to address it in 2020. Director Richmond stated that she would like to try and address this project this year.

Director Richmond highlighted in her memo that several factors have to align in order to complete this project. The ground needs to be hard so that the equipment can get into the area where the trees are without causing a significant amount of damage, meaning either the ground needs to be frozen with no ice or there hasn't been any rain and the ground is hard and dry. Both bidders have expressed concern about the drive into the area as well. One bidder indicated that there cannot be any snow or ice on the entire access drive since his equipment does not have chains on the tires. The other factor is the window of time the project can be completed because of oak wilt.

Director Richmond stated that due to all of these factors, it is most likely that they might have to split this project and do the trimming at one time and the tree removal at another, unless they get the perfect window of time.

Director Richmond stated that, based on the bids that were received, the lowest bid is Owen Tree Service at \$10,100.00, which does include the removal of stump grindings. Based on

this it would be her recommendation that the bid be awarded to Owen Tree Service with the understanding that the project could be completed anytime this year.

Commissioner Vallad moved to authorize Director Richmond to hire Owen Tree Service for the job presented in Director Richmond’s January 8, 2021 memo at a cost not to exceed \$11,000.00 and with the understanding that the work needs to be done weather permitting, ground permitting and oak wilt permitting. Supported by Commissioner Omell.

The Commission asked if there were other tree companies approached about this bid.

Director Richmond that there were other tree companies but there were approached about the bid but some of them did not have equipment to address the size of trees that are on the property along with the equipment to remove material off of the property as they are asking them to do. She explained other bids received in 2019. Owen Tree Service was the low bidder then and is the low bidder now. She explained that the other companies were higher than Davey or Owen in 2019. Owen Tree Service is part of the Oakland County collaborative.

Commissioner Omell stated that they need to do it before May because of Oak Wilt. Director Richmond agreed that the latest they should be doing the project is before early April. This is why they might need to split the jobs because of timing.

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.

IX. TREASURER’S REPORT

A. Bills List

Commissioner Vallad moved to approve the December bills list totaling \$6,738.81. 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.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Baker thanked Director Richmond for the good job on the Santa event in December complete with pictures and report. She is thankful that the democracy held up in the

attack on the Capital last week. She urged anyone that is upset with the vote outcome to pursue conversation and dialogue.

Chairperson Bower congratulated Ms. VanGilder on passing her exam. He commented on the recent COVID grant funds that were received by the Department.

Commissioner Loncar thanked Director Richmond and staff for thinking outside of the box and keeping the Department moving forward.

Commissioner Omell wished everyone a Happy New Year. He commented on the progress report received.

Commissioner Spicer agreed with Chairperson Bower.

Commissioner Vallad asked if the Department would purchase an electrostatic machine for disinfection now that the grant funds have been received.

Director Richmond responded that she wants to talk to the Township Facilities Manager to see if this is something that the Township and Parks Department may want to purchase jointly.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Omell moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:53 pm. Supported by Commissioner Vallad.