

**Springfield Township
Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The April 11, 2006, Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Commissioner Hyer at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan 48350.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Diane Baker
Ron Hudson
Kelly Hyer
Dot LaLone
Jean Vallad

Staff Present

Sarah Richmond
Jennifer Tucker

Others Present

Commissioners Absent

Pat Deweese (absent with notification)
Rich Parke (absent with notification)

IV. AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL

A. Under "Old Business," (E) Davisburg Youth Athletic Association Equipment Inventory

Commissioner Vallad moved to accept the agenda as revised. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner LaLone. The motion carried unanimously by 5-0 vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2006 with Additional Disbursements of \$2,947.55 for Parks and Recreation Fund and \$200.00 for Trust & Agency.
- B. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2006
- C. Receipt of Director’s Report for March
- D. Receipt of Financial Summaries
- E. Receipt of February Budget Printouts
- F. Receipt of After Audit January Budget Printouts
- G. Receipt of After Audit December Budget Printouts
- H. Receipt of Township Board Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2006
- I. Receipt of Tentative April Calendar of Events
- J. Receipt of Director’s MRPA Conference Report
- K. Receipt of Administrative Assistant’s MRPA Conference Report
- L. Receipt of Recreation Coordinator’s MRPA Conference Report
- M. Approval of Bid Proposals for Uniforms for T-Ball, Baseball & Softball Leagues
- N. Approval of Bid Proposals for Photography for T-Ball, Baseball & Softball Leagues
- O. Approval of Mr. William Kramer Request for Use of the Garden Spot
- P. Receipt of Letter from Rose Township Supervisor re: Ball Fields
- Q. Receipt of Memo to Township Board re: Prescribed Burn
- R. Receipt of Township Board’s Tentative April 13, 2006 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Vallad moved to accept the consent agenda as presented with total additional disbursements in the amount of \$2,947.55 for the Parks and Recreation Fund and \$200.00 for Trust & Agency. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Baker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Hudson, Hyer, Vallad. No: LaLone. The motion carried by 4-1 vote.

Commissioner LaLone expressed concern that the Consent Agenda contained many items that should be discussed with individual detail.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Audit Issue for 8621 Eaton Road

Commissioner Vallad moved to table the discussion of the Audit Issue for 8621 Eaton Road until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried unanimously by 5-0 vote.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mill Pond Beach Operations

The Park Commission discussed their concerns with regard to Parks and Recreation's ability to support the 2006 lifeguard wages due to current budget constraints.

Director Tucker informed the Park Commission that she had contacted the Township's liability insurance carrier account manager to inquire what the implications are if the Park Commission would like to operate the beach without lifeguards and implement a "swim at your own risk" policy.

Commissioner Hyer brought to light the fact that by spending this money on the baseball/softball programs, they were actually serving substantially more people in the Township.

Commissioner Hudson was in favor of eliminating the lifeguards, but felt that the beach should then be closed to swimming.

Commissioner LaLone indicated that she also thought that more of the public will be served with baseball than with swimming. Commissioner LaLone indicated that she would like to remove the pay phone at the Hart Community Center and add an emergency phone for beach patrons.

Commissioner Vallad stated that she would like to keep the lifeguards for another year due to the fact that the money was already in the 2006 budget. Commissioner Vallad indicated that the Park Commission had already cut multiple items/projects from the 2006 budget at budget time.

Commissioner Vallad read the e-mail from Commissioner Deweese indicating that he was in favor of eliminating the lifeguard wages from the 2006 budget and making the beach "swim at you own risk."

Commissioner Parke, who was on the phone during the discussion, stated that he was in favor of eliminating the lifeguards for the 2006 swim season and making the beach "swim at your own risk".

Commissioner Baker also stated that she was in favor of having the beach be "swim at your own risk".

Commissioner LaLone moved to make the Mill Pond Beach "swim at your own risk" for the 2006 season. This decision is pending approval from the Township's liability insurance carrier . Any recommendations made by said company will be adhered to by Parks and Recreation. The beach operations will be re-addressed in the 2007 budget. Commissioner LaLone was supported by Commissioner Baker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Hyer, LaLone. No: Hudson, Vallad. The motion carried by 3-2 vote.

Commissioner Hyer indicated that she was disappointed to have to cut the lifeguards from the 2006 budget, but she was willing to make this decision in order to support the Township.

B. Approval of Relocation of Prescribed Burn

At the March meeting, the Park Commission had approved a cooperative prescribe burn with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Landowner Incentive Program. Unfortunately, Director Tucker had been informed that MDNR has some accounting issues to work out and will not have these issues resolved in time to burn their portion of the burn unit in 2006. Without burning the entire unit, new burn brakes would have to be established and that would increase the cost and time required to burn this particular parcel. MDNR is interested in postponing this project until next year.

Director Tucker recommended that in lieu of this burn that the department contract to burn an area of the fen that is further north.

The Park Commission reviewed the included map and bid proposal from David Borneman, LLC that showed the "North East" burn unit as the proposed sit of the possible locations for the prescribed burn.

Commissioner Vallad moved to contract with David Borneman, LLC, Native Vegetation Restoration Contractor to burn the 38.1 acre unit of the northeast burn unit of Shiawassee Basin Preserve as presented in his bid proposal dated April 7, 2006, at a cost not to exceed \$5,590.00 pending agreement of the adjacent property owner. If the adjacent property owner does not want his property burned then Parks and Recreation will burn the smaller 32.3 acre unit at a cost not to exceed \$5,275.00. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Hudson. The motion carried by 5-0 vote.

C. 2007 Budget Wish Lists

Director Tucker indicated that she would like the Park Commission to supply her with any program/project ideas in writing by the next regularly scheduled meeting.

D. Approval of Hiring Baseball/Softball Recreation Assistant

Director Tucker indicated that she would like to hire two people to handle the baseball/softball program. Director Tucker stated that she thought that she would need approximately \$8,000.00 for both people.

The Park Commission reviewed the job descriptions for the baseball/softball recreation assistants.

Commissioner Hyer moved to approve the hiring of two recreation assistants to oversee the baseball/softball program. The wages for these assistants would be between \$8.00 and \$10.00 per hour for a total up to \$8,000.00 for the year. Commissioner Hyer was supported by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried by 5-0 vote.

E. Davisburg Youth Athletic Association Baseball Equipment Inventory

The Park Commission reviewed the equipment inventory provided by Davisburg Youth Athletic Association. The Park Commission had requested that this list be turned in by April 4. The Park Commission agreed that due to the fact that the equipment list was not specific enough with regard to the condition of the equipment and the cost, they were not interested in purchasing it. In addition, the Park Commission requested that a letter be sent to DYAA indicating that Parks and Recreation would not be interested in purchasing the equipment, but would be glad to accept it as a donation.

Commissioner Vallad moved that Parks and Recreation not pursue purchasing DYAA's old baseball equipment at this time due to lack of information with regard to the equipment. The equipment inventory was requested by April 4, 2006 and was not received until April 11, 2006. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner LaLone. The motion carried by 5-0 vote.

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Bills List

Commissioner Vallad moved to approve payment of the bills as follows: Parks and Recreation at \$24,900.75 and Trust and Agency at \$600.00. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Hudson. Vote on the motion: The motion carried unanimously by 5-0 vote.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DYAA Advisory Committee

There was no report.

B. Millage Investigation Committee

At the joint meeting, the millages were discussed. Parks and Recreation was told it would be best not to pursue a millage for 2006.

C. Springfield Township Parks & Recreation Master Plan Committee

Commissioner Vallad moved to have the Master Plan Committee removed from the agenda. Commissioner Vallad was supported by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried by 5-0 vote.

D. Policies and Procedure Committee

There was no report.

E. Shiawassee Basin Preserve Rental Properties Committee

There was no report.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XII. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Baker indicated that she felt that Parks and Recreation was a valuable asset to the community.

Commissioner LaLone indicated that Southeastern Community Foundation would be having an area meeting to discuss the development of an inner connecting trail system.

Commissioner LaLone also stated that there would be a statewide trail planning meeting to develop statewide trailways.

Commissioner Vallad informed the Park Commission that a Township resident was unhappy with the format of the listing of Parks and Recreation supporters on the brochure.

Commissioner Hyer highlighted the fact that 80 people attended the “Sap to Syrup for Pancakes” program.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hyer moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation at 9:08 p.m. Commissioner Hyer was supported by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried unanimously by 5-0 vote.

**Christy L. Deweese
Parks and Recreation Recording Secretary**

Jennifer Tucker, Director of Parks & Recreation

Rich Parke, Chairperson of Park Commission