

**Springfield Township  
Park & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, July 13, 2021  
VIA PHONE/VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The July 13, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6.33 p.m. by Chairperson Bower.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:**

Diane Baker  
Roger Bower  
Anne Loncar  
Dennis Omell  
Rich Parke  
Angela Spicer  
Jean Vallad

**Staff Present:**

Sarah Richmond

**Others Present:**

Chris Benedict, IT Administrator

**Commissioners Absent:**

**IV. AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL**

**Commissioner Vallad moved to proceed with the agenda as presented.  
Supported by Commissioner Spicer. 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 – June 8, 2021, with Additional Disbursements of \$9,159.56 for the Parks & Recreation Fund
- B. Receipt of Activities Report for June
- C. Receipt of Financial Summaries
- D. Receipt of Progress Report for June
- E. Receipt of Natural Resource Manager June Monthly Report
- F. Receipt of June Budget Printouts

- G. Approval of 2022 Rental Rates
- H. Receipt of Park Maintenance Employee Job Description and Posting

Receipt of Communications

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

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Meeting Format – Discussion Regarding Continuing Remote Participation Option**

Director Richmond stated that the Township Board made the decision to hold the August 2021 meeting in the hybrid format and in September they would have a normal in-person meeting with the option to Zoom meeting for residents to view the meeting. For the Planning Commission and Zoning Board for July, these meetings will be regular in-person meetings. It is her recommendation that the Park Commission hold the August meeting as a hybrid meeting and then they could return to the regular meeting format in September 2021. She is recommending this because she doesn't think we should live stream the meeting, because the IT Administrator must be here, which can result in a lot of comp time for this employee.

**Commissioner Vallad moved to adopt the Meeting Format as outlined in Director Richmond's memo dated July 9, 2021. Supported by Commissioner Baker. 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 Baker moved to approve the July bills list totaling \$13,058.48 and \$150.00 for Trust in Agency. Supported by Commissioner Omell. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Loncar, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: None. The motion carried by a 7-0 vote.**

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**XII. COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Commissioner Baker welcomed public comment. She was pleased with the joint meeting with the Township Board. She commented on the park signs and how nice they look.

Commissioner Omell commented on the joint meeting.

Chairperson Bower commented that he feels for the maintenance staff and anyone working outdoors since there really seems to be a problem with ticks, black flies, and mosquitoes this year.

Commissioner Loncar asked about the open maintenance position.

Director Richmond commented on the open maintenance position that is currently open and her plan to fill the position.

Commissioner Loncar suggested reaching out to Michigan State turf grass program to see if we could post our position with them.

Director Richmond stated that they are also looking for a senior cook.

Commissioner Spicer congratulated Mike Losey for obtaining grant funding for bridge work.

Commissioner Vallad commented on Commissioner Omell's viewpoint and comments on the Mill Pond Dam. She urged him to tell individuals to go to the website for information when it is needed. Commissioner Vallad stated that she is starting to get the feeling that Commissioner Omell is offending Township Board members and she would like it to stop.

Mr. Tom Weiler asked if the dam is just going to be voted on by Boards and Commissions or are they going to have a public vote and let the resident's vote.

Director Richmond stated that the dam is owned by Oakland County so it will be the County and the Township Board that are responsible. The Springfield Township Park Commission does not make any decisions regarding the removal of the dam.

Mr. Weiler asked about bringing endangered species into a park and whether you would need a permit.

Director Richmond commented on bringing in mute swans to a park area.

Commissioner Loncar commented on swans.

Commissioners discussed the recent death of local swans.

Commissioner Vallad thanked Director Richmond for her reporting for the joint meeting.

Commissioner Parke asked about Commissioner Vallad's comments to Commissioner Omell about the dam.

Director Richmond explained that Commissioner Omell brought it up at the joint meeting.

Commissioner Parke commented that as a Commission, it is time for them to get on board with the Township Board and decisions that have been made regarding the dam.

Commissioners agreed.

Commissioners discussed the traffic on Davisburg Road and the mill pond improvements.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Loncar moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:00 pm. Supported by Commissioner Spicer.**