



Call to Order: Commissioner Bower called the June 13, 2023, Joint Meeting of the Springfield Township Board and the Springfield Township Park Commission to order at 5:36 pm at the Springfield Township Civic Center.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Board Members Present

Laura Moreau	Township Supervisor
Sean Miller	Township Clerk
Jason Pliska	Township Trustee
Denny Vallad	Township Trustee
Bill Whitley	Township Trustee

Park Commissioners Present

Roger Bower	Park Commissioner Chairman
Anne Loncar	Park Commissioner
Rich Parke	Park Commissioner
Angela Spicer	Park Commissioner
Jean Vallad	Park Commissioner
Diane Baker	Park Commissioner

Board Members/Commissioners Not Present

Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Dennis Omell	Park Commissioner

Others Present

Sarah Richmond	Parks and Recreation Director
Mike Losey	Natural Resources Manager



Agenda:

1. Overview of Parks & Recreation Activities, New Services & Programs

Director Richmond led this discussion by saying that the Senior program has continued to grow. Weekly lunches cooked by Kathy VanGilder have been very popular with the Seniors, while offering them the choice of a to-go meal. Other popular programs that were sold out last year were Junior tennis and kid's golf. The Halloween event was brought back with Trick or Treating down the trail. Enrichment workshops are still being offered with a great turnout. Karate classes have been a great success with 3 different time frames being offered. A few of the different programs and clinics offered include: Ice skating offered by Lakeland ice arena, basket weaving, archery, cookie decorating classes, cooking classes, basketball, tee-ball, baseball, softball, and pickleball. Other special events that have been very popular and done very well: Visit with Santa, Fishing Derby, Easter Egg hunt, Princess/Superhero. It was also a very busy year with rentals, since COVID restrictions were lifted. The ball fields were rented almost every night of the week in the months of April through August. The Hart Community Center was rented out almost every weekend for different events. The Parks maintenance staff has been busy with maintaining park property. Improvements have been made to the River Run Preserve northern parking lot area, which was squared off with fencing installed, trees were planted, a new sign was installed, and stone and trail work was completed. Trail markers have been installed on the northern and southern Shiawassee trails. Hart Center, Mill Pond Garage, and all the pavilions have been painted. Concrete work has been done at Mill Pond Park at the Basketball Courts and surrounding areas. Shultz Park was updated this Spring with an Add-on to the building.

2. Parks and Township Master Plan Updates

Supervisor Moreau started this discussion by saying that the Township is continuing to work on the Master Plan Project with the main focus being on the implementation section, which is comprised of objectives and actionable items, which will be folded into the Master Plan. The focus that the Planning Commission is working on right now is the areas of the Dixie corridor/downtown Davisburg. The Strategic Plan included the Dixie Overlay district, with upcoming goals of working with Parks and Recreation and installing pathways. Supervisor Moreau is also anticipating an overhaul of zoning ordinances, with corrections and implementations being made.

Director Richmond said that the Park Commission looked over the first draft of the Parks Master Plan. In July, the Park Commission will have the opportunity to look over the 2nd draft, with a 30-day public review period and a hopeful adoption at the September 12th



Park Commission meeting. The plan will then be submitted to MDNR, which will give Parks and Rec the opportunity to apply for grants next year.

3. OCSO Substation/Parks & Rec Office Renovation Update

All Parks staff is back in the Parks and Rec office. Everything has been moved back into the office space, with the exclusion of one filing cabinet and one storage cabinet staying in short term storage. Kathy's new desk has been built and is in place. There is a new countertop workstation that is going to be installed by this Friday, and new carpet has been installed throughout.

Supervisor Moreau stated she is very grateful for the Parks and Recreation staff and the Park Commission for approving this project, as they needed an updated flex space. She is also very grateful for the patience of the Parks and Rec staff having to deal with all the construction going on. She continued by saying that the last part of this project is furniture updates, more specifically new office chairs for Parks and Rec. The Oakland County Sheriff's Substation project should be completed by the week of June 19th. Right now, countertops are being installed. Later this week furnishing items should be arriving. Lockers are currently being installed, but some hardware items are missing so this project isn't completed yet. Oakland County Sheriff's Deputies should be moving into the area the following week. The goal was June 30th, and she feels they are on schedule for that date. The installation of a new sign is to come in August for Parks and Rec and the Substation. There will also be a call station on the sign for a 24-hour dispatch service, along with a section on the sign for trail maps. Electrical and phone lines have been run for this sign, with the goal being in August for it to be completed.

Clerk Miller asked if the sign out by the road will be updated for the Substation.

Supervisor Moreau answered no, but the sign at the end of Civic Center drive will be updated with an arrow pointing towards the Substation.

4. Mill Pond Park/Dam Update

Supervisor Moreau started this discussion by saying that she has biweekly meetings with Natural Resources staff, Parks and Recreation staff, Anglin Engineering firm, and Oakland County Road Commission to discuss the progress of this project. They have been waiting on the arch culvert, but currently there is a supply chain issue of MDOT approved Aggregate. Since the Road Commission is accepting ownership of the culvert once it is installed, they have to make sure the culvert is up to standard.



5. Hartman Property Update

Director Richmond started this discussion by saying that the pictures provided to the Board are all projects currently taking place on the property. Construction began in May with the removal of the failed culvert in the Shiawassee River. They are installing a pedestrian footbridge over the river to continue the trail over the river. They are planning on installing cattle gates and split fencing on the trail leading up to the railroad tracks for safe pedestrian crossing. A memorial bench will be installed in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Hartman. They are in the process of getting an EGLE permit to remove and move the fishing dock that is currently in Mill Pond Park to the Hartman property. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of this property will be held on July 28th at 3:30.

Commissioner Parke asked about the water wheel that is currently at Rotary Park and what will happen to it.

Director Richmond said that it will stay at Rotary Park as art with interpretive signage.

Commissioner Bower asked about the foundation that is currently in the park that was once the foundation of the Mill.

Supervisor Moreau said that it shouldn't be impacted at all with the construction. She suggested that it could maybe be dug out and the significance of it be highlighted.

6. Hart Community Center Renovation

Director Richmond stated that the Parks and Rec department received a \$50,000 matching grant through the Oakland County Senior Center matching grant program. The grant will allow for replacement of front doors and frames, an ADA door opener system, replacement of the doors leading into the community room, new flooring throughout except restrooms, new ceiling tiles, and renovation of the kitchen with all new cupboards, cabinets, countertops, and sink. It wasn't part of the original plan, but they had to replace the 22-year-old fridge and freezer. The Park Commission awarded the bid to L&R construction. They are anticipating closing the Hart center for 6 weeks starting October 9th. A storage unit will be on site to help with unloading the building. It will be back up and running by the end of November. They are working with the Library for rooms to use for classes and Springfield Oaks to hold pickleball classes.



7. Grant Application for Pathways

Director Richmond led by saying that with the removal of the dam, they are still looking for grants to connect the pathways from Rotary Park to Mill Pond Park. They currently have a \$45,000 engineering grant. They have applied for a grant through Oakland County Parks for \$100,000 with a 50% match, but the deadline has been pushed back to July so they won't know if it will be awarded until then. They are also applying for SPARK grant funds through DNR. Next year they will be able to apply for more grants for funding for additional renovations in the park. The connectivity of pathways from Rotary Park to Mill Pond Park is a priority.

Supervisor Moreau continued this discussion by explaining the proposed project for the pathways in downtown Davisburg/Broadway.

8. Renewal of the Parks Millage

Director Richmond stated that the Parks Millage will be up for renewal in 2024. They currently have a .75 mill. The township board will have to approve the rates and the ballot language next year.

Supervisor Moreau stated that the funds run out in 2023 and December taxes will be the last time the current millage will be funded. Therefore, it must be renewed in 2024.

Director Richmond stated that her current roll is collecting .71 because of inflation, but they want to renew at .75. She stated she needs to talk to Treasurer Dubre to gather more information. She also indicated that it makes the most sense to go for a 10-year time frame, especially with other millages the Township has.

9. Other Township Projects & Priorities

Supervisor Moreau stated that her and Trustee Whitley are working on a memorial walk to take place on Saturday September 30th at 10am for Mrs. Tippen, who was stuck and killed while walking on Kier Road last year. The walk will be done in the Bridge Lake Rd and Kier Rd area to bring awareness to the safety of our dirt roads and to get the speed limits on dirt roads reduced.

Trustee Whitley stated that are not looking at this as a fundraiser, but they will be taking donations.



Supervisor Moreau continued by saying that Fire station 1 was updated with new bunks and renovations have been completed. Fire station 2 is out for bids with updates underway soon.

Supervisor Moreau also mentioned the Devoted Barn and the issues pertaining to it. She stated that when it was functioning out of Rose Township there were many complaints about the property, as it was supposed to be a dog kennel but there were many farm animals on the property. She stated that they are now operating in Springfield Township off Clark Rd, on a property that allows for 11 type-2 animals, but currently there are over 110. Supervisor Moreau wanted it to be known that the Township is aware of the situation and is actively engaging in resolving the issue.

10. Public Comment

None.

Adjournment:

Hearing no other business, Supervisor Moreau adjourned the Joint Board meeting at 6:55 pm.

Laura Moreau, Supervisor

Sean R. Miller, Clerk