

The regular meeting of the **Charter Township of Redford Park Commission** was held on August 13, 2007 in the Redford Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM.

**Roll Call** – Present: Steve Offman, Kevin Dodd, Laura Evich, Maureen Okasinski,

Absent: Saira Comerford, John Keenan, Diana Brang-Schroeder

Also in attendance: Tom O'Connor, Mike Curle, Jan Porkorny

Guests: Trustee Pat McRae, Bill McSween

**07-070 – Approval of Agenda**

Evich/Okasinski - Motion to approve the agenda as presented, all ayes, motion passed

**07-071 - Approval of Minutes**

Okasinski/Dodd – Motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2007, all ayes, motion passed.

**Old Business**

- *Master Plan Forum*: Discussion centered on the recent Public Forum that was held and it was noted that there many new and innovated ideas and some old ideas with updated information with them. Mr. McSween brought up some of the ideas and plans from the last master plan and added to the discussion many important points. He also talked about the study that was done regarding Lola Valley Park as that item was mentioned at the Public Forum. He also mentioned the concept of partnering with a local hospital or Redford Union School District regarding the fitness stations that was mentioned at the Public Forum. Lastly, how important it is to have a permanent Parks and Recreation Director.
- *Doggie- Rama*: Tabled until the next meeting.
- *Capitol Park Diamond Renovations*: Mike Curle presented the cost list for the renovations for Capitol Park Diamond #1 and the cost for list for the outdoor ice rink, per the Commission' request. Commissioner Okasinski questioned why it was way over budget? Mike Curle explained that some additional work needed to be done that wasn't known at the time of the quote and that the cost of the "red clay" hadn't been included in the quote. Commissioner Okasinski asked why the invoice was paid when the Parks Commission had voted not to pay it? Mike Curle explained that the invoice had all ready been paid even before the meeting because it went on his credit card. However, while it had all ready been paid their vote registered as such. Discussion followed as to how in the future this could be avoided.  
Mr. McSween continued the discussion adding that the \$47,000 in revenue from the cell towers was supposed to be used for capital improvements and asked if that was in fact the case this year.
- *Parks and Recreation Goals for 2007*: After some considerable time and research the original goals that the Parks Commission had agreed upon, last March, were located. After re-reviewing these goals the Parks Commission a motion was made to officially pass them. Discussion followed has to which commissioner would that the lead for the various goals, see attached sheet.  
Tom O'Connor would like to see Scott Gray be more involved at the elementary schools promoting the various park & recreation programs.

**07-072 – Approval of Parks Commission Goals for 2007**

Okasinski/Evich – Motion to pass Parks Commission Goals for 2007, all ayes, motion passed.

**New Business**

- *Memorial Bench – In memory of past Park Commissioner Judy Lowham*: The Redford Township Democratic Club would like to fund a memorial park bench and possibly some other items, funds permitting, but they want to channel these funds through the Parks Commission or make the funds available to the Parks Commission. At this time, there is a glitch in setting up account for donations, but it is being worked out. A motion was made to accept this donation.

*Maureen Okasinski*

**07-073 – Approval of Acceptance of Funds for a Memorial Bench in Memory of Past Parks Commissioner Judy Lowham.**

Evich/Dodd – Motion to accept funds for a Memorial Bench in memory of Past Parks Commissioner Judy Lowham, all ayes, motion passed.

- *Picnic Tables/Private Picnics:* Mike Curle explained that this year we have received numerous requests for picnic tables to be located in various parks for private picnics. In past years, we have tried to accommodate these requests, but again many requests this year. It takes approximately an hour to load up 6 -7 picnic tables with 3 or 4 staff and deliver them to another park. Mike Curle would like to place a moratorium on this practice as cuts into staff time and causes problems with people who rent the shelter not having enough tables for their picnic.  
This item is to be tabled until next meeting, when a draft of the proposed rule will be submitted.

**Department Report**

- **Burgess: Playground Program** – This is the last week of the program. Tomorrow we have an all park activity day with lunch and “Basketball Jones” special event. Pretty steady throughout the summer with attendance. Great staff this year, very happy with the way they worked with the children and handled any situations that arose. **Discount for Classes** – From July 11-31 there were 9 people that will be receiving a coupon fro enrolling in a class. Mike and I were discussing, as we looked up registrations that 7 other people enrolled on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, should we include these people since Parks and Recreation month was the entire month? Most of them (if not all) are fitness classes and for the summer sessions we made over \$600. from these classes. **Brochure** – S & D Publishing will be soliciting ads for the brochure. They are great to work with and did the design for the last brochure. We sent a support letter that they could send with the ads from our department. We are hoping to have the brochure by the second week in September with classes beginning late Sept, early October. **Contracts** – Copy for Commissioner Keenan who asked to look at them. These were written by the Townships’ attorneys. **Classes** – Still awaiting the information that John Cubba and Jeff Clark are looking into with Gymnastics. Karate, we will be working with Redford Karate now and they utilize volunteer instructors as these instructors work towards their black belt. They are all over 18 and have been background checked by us. We will have waivers for these instructors to sign since they are volunteer’s, Mr. Clark is completing a waiver form.
- **Curle:** Things are wrapping up in the parks for the summer, last two concerts are coming up along with our last movie in the park. In the process of changing Western-Graham and Capitol # 2 over to soccer fields. He will be losing summer staff, they are heading back to college. By Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> He will have only 2 or 3 fulltime seasonal staff left.
- **Pokomy:** Was real pleased that the skateboard kids came to the master plan meeting and participated in the process. She was also concerned that it was mentioned that the many police calls were because of skate parks kids when almost all the time it is because of the kids that hang out at the park.
- **O’Connor:** Thought that the master plan meeting went very well and we received a lot of good input for the new master plan. Thanked Pat McRae and Bill McSween for coming to the meeting and for their input.

**Commissioners’ Report**

- **Okasinski:** Based on the information and feedback I would like to bring up a point about changing our “2007-2208 action plan” to include more facilities in the “north end” of town, specifically Claude Allison Park. Possibly the addition of some “skate board” units either in the existing roller blade area or spread along the park, like the former exercise units.
- **Dodd:** Stated how humbled he was by the article in the paper and the award from the Redford Rotary Club. Quote: “Tact is the knack of making .....
- **Evich:** Wanted to thank Pat and Bill for coming tonight and values their input. Excited that the Sun Messengers were going to play at the concert tomorrow and what a great job Mike and his staff have been doing all year long with concerts.
- **Offman:** Also wanted to thank Pat and Bill for coming, but wanted to make a point about changing the “2007/2008 Action Plan” objectives without proper consideration.

*M. Curle*

**Park Bills**

**07 - 074 - Approval of Parks and Recreation Bills.**

Okasinski/Dodd – Motion to pay Parks and Recreation Bills, all ayes, motion passed.

**Communication**

No communications.

**Citizen Comments**

No comments.

**07- 075 – Adjournment**

Evich/Okasinski - Motion to adjourn the meeting, all ayes, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Mike Curle

Recorded by: Mike Curle

*William Okasinski*