

**Springfield Township
Park & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The September 14, 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
Dennis Omell
Rich Parke
Angela Spicer
Jean Vallad

Staff Present:

Sarah Richmond

Others Present

Supervisor Moreau

Commissioners Absent:

Anne Loncar with notification

IV. AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL

Commissioner Vallad moved to proceed with the agenda as presented. Supported by Commissioner Omell. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Loncar. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2021 with Additional Disbursements of \$5,647.39 for the Parks & Recreation Fund and \$600 for Trust & Agency
- B. Receipt of Activities Report for August
- C. Receipt of Financial Summaries
- D. Receipt of Progress Report for August
- E. Receipt of Natural Resource Manager August Monthly Report
- F. Receipt of August Budget Printouts

Receipt of Communications

Commissioner Vallad moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Supported by Commissioner Spicer. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Loncar. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of 2022 Budget – 2nd Draft

Director Richmond summarized the proposed second draft of the 2022 Budget. She explained the changes made since the last meeting. She stated that they will be utilizing \$67,500.00 of the prior year funds to balance the budget.

Commissioner Vallad asked Supervisor Moreau about the line in her memo that indicated that there would be money charged to Parks and Recreation Department for the Mill Pond Dam.

Supervisor Moreau stated that this would be for the redevelopment of Mill Pond Park and as indicated in that line it says Springfield Township and Parks Department.

Director Richmond stated for the redevelopment portion of the project they would be going for grants to help cover the costs of the items that they would like to do. In addition, she indicated that they would be using Reallocated Development Funds as potential matching source for the grant dollars.

Commissioner Parke stated that he believes that the area is going to be reestablished and then any changes that are made from that point forward to include, for example, a trail would be actions that this Commission would take to make those changes. The dollars for that would come from their budget. It is going to be refurbished when the Mill Pond Dam project is done and there maybe a year or two of growth that needs to take place.

Commissioner Vallad confirmed that she is talking about anything that is not going to be part of the plan that they might have to cover.

Director Richmond stated that the Commission has never said that the improvements would be done in one phase. The redevelopment of the park will most likely have to be done in a phased approach dependent on grant dollars. She stated that based on feedback from surveys trails is a priority and in her opinion so is new park entrance signage.

Supervisor Moreau reviewed her memo that was included in the Commissioner's packets regarding the Mill Pond Dam project.

Commissioner Parke commented that trails would be a perfect example. He stated that if they put together dollars for trails, they need to look at all the potential places where that money could be spent to get the best outcome. When the long-term plan was discussed, this was a large part of the discussion. He thinks it all has to be evaluated as one big picture.

Supervisor Moreau commented that the Township has a priorities Pathway Plan and she summarized it. She stated that they also have a Strategic 5-year Pathways Plan and she

explained that plan and the connections between the plans. She stated that they are working together, but there is no commitment from the Parks giving an exact dollar amount. She summarized the Mill Pond Dam project and how it will be developed.

Director Richmond stated that they are also working with Oakland County and that helps when applying for grant funds.

Commissioner Vallad stated that she was concerned that they were not putting aside enough money for the future.

Director Richmond stated that they are working with a plan now and that can be changed depending on what projects can be completed. She stated that when she talked to the Commission in June, she was clear that they need to keep putting money away for development because they have an aging infrastructure and aging equipment. She provided the funding available currently in development.

Commissioner Parke stated that any of the development that they do within their own department are not done in a vacuum and he provided examples. He added that he is interested in the far side of Long Lake project.

Commissioner Vallad moved that they adopt the 2022 Parks and Recreation Budget version 2 with a total revenue of \$639,400.00 and total expenditure of \$706,900.00. Supported by Commissioner Baker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Loncar. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Potential Relocation of Sheriff's Department Substation to the Civic Center

Supervisor Moreau provided an overview of the potential relocation of the Sheriff's Department Substation to the Civic Center. She also explained sections of a PowerPoint presentation that was given at the Joint Planning Commission and Township Board meeting recently held. This relocation would also involve the relocation of the Parks and Recreation Department and Code Enforcement Services which is the Building Department, and she explained the new arrangement which is a better utilization of Township space. The Township Board authorized up to \$6,500 for the project to determine if it is workable. She stated that the project would be done so they would have a fully functioning substation and a fully functioning Parks and Recreation space.

Director Richmond commented that if this plan moved forward the Department would lose some of it's existing space but she believes that things can be arranged to make things work.

Supervisor Moreau commented that there would always be two Sheriff vehicles in the parking lot, and this might act as a deterrent.

Commissioner Omell commented that he likes the concept.

Supervisor Moreau stated that these are the staff that the Township pays for in the contract that would be housed here. She explained the use of the substation and how the shared space would work.

Commissioner Parke agreed that the police presence can enhance many things. He stated that the people that are coming in and out of the lobby but there is also the potential for other individuals to visit the substation. He would like to make sure that the entry area into the Parks Department is guarded and they have the ability to buzz people in and out, so they are protected. He stated that it might be useful to have the Sergeant's office have a clear vision into the vestibule, maybe a one-way mirrored window.

Supervisor Moreau stated that from his security standpoint, this might not be something that they would be open to. She doesn't agree with the idea that the bad guys are going to be coming into the sheriff's office. She thinks it would be more of a deterrent.

Commissioner Parke stated that he wants to make sure that the Parks staff is protected, especially Kathy whose desk is close to the counter.

Supervisor Moreau confirmed that they have this situation every day in dealing with the public. She stated that she agrees with having the door to the vestibule to the Parks department needs to be locked and security is important.

Commissioner Vallad asked about storage.

Director Richmond stated that they will lose their conference table, but they don't know yet if they will lose their large counter. The exact layout is yet to be determined. She added that they have short term storage area for additional storage. She stated that they will make it work.

Commissioner Vallad suggested that the counter be higher.

Director Richmond stated that it needs to be wheelchair accessible. She added that it is nice to be included in the planning discussion for the area.

Commissioner Parke commented on a historical fire in an office building in downtown Detroit caused by an angry client.

Supervisor Moreau commented that this is why they want a police presence. She stated that the Sheriff Office is also working with the Township.

Chairman Bower stated that if they have reduced the Parks and Recreation space by 1/3, would it be workable for the staff.

Supervisor Moreau stated that they are looking at how much space they have and how much is used on a daily basis.

Commissioner Parke commented that there are pluses and minuses to all of it.

Director Richmond stated that she hopes to continue to have the sight lines they have so they can all see each other, and to have a flow similar to what they have now. The department can adapt.

Supervisor Moreau commented on the current layout of the department. She stated that Director Richmond will be back before the Commission with a preliminary plan, but they wanted to get the Commission's feedback and inform them of the possible change.

Commissioners and Director Richmond discussed the best way to secure their office.

B. Update on Mill Pond Dam Project

Supervisor Moreau provided an update on the Mill Pond Dam project including a summary of the meeting held on August 31, 2021, and grants that they have applied for and the progress of those grants.

Commissioner Parke commented on the meeting held on August 31, 2021. He stated that he was impressed with the number of people that showed up, but he was not impressed with the attitude of the people that were there and how they were against it no matter what the facts are. He stated that there is so much information that is available on the Township website. He commented that he commended the Township Board and the Oakland County Park staff on doing this the right way. He commented that the County official that showed up to the meeting asked questions regarding information that was readily available, and he was disappointed by this. He commented on his experience in private business. He thinks that it is appropriate after the Township and the County have decided to move in a particular direction, for public officials to get behind this decision and do their part. He thinks that public officials should get behind decision that has been made. The study was started in 2017 and that is when the Committee started and the decision to follow the best option was made in June 2019 and they are way beyond that. He stated that money has been being set aside for this project by the Township for 10 years.

Commissioner Vallad concurred.

Commissioner Spicer commented on the professionalism at which the officials handled themselves and comments from the public.

Supervisor Moreau stated that a very vocal minority does not speak for the majority and urged the Commission to accept this. She explained that they conducted a public survey, and it was overwhelmingly positive. She commented on the history of the public comment of the project since it began.

Director Richmond added that all the meetings dates and time have been posted and there has been a lot of information provided through the whole process.

Supervisor Moreau provided an update on the Mill Pond project and where they are now including plans for an improved roadway.

Commissioner Vallad stated that she is happy as a resident and a Park Commissioner that Supervisor Moreau is Supervisor.

Director Richmond stated that she would be happy to work with AECOM as the project management of the redevelopment of the park since they are so familiar with the project.

Commissioner Parke commented on his experience with AECOM.

Commissioner Baker asked about the crossing of Davisburg Road.

Supervisor Moreau commented on the details of the conceptual plan.

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Bills List

Commissioner Spicer moved to approve the bills list totaling \$8,491.34 and \$150.00 for Trust and Agency. Supported by Commissioner Baker. Vote on the motion: Yes: Baker, Bower, Omell, Parke, Spicer, Vallad; No: None; Absent: Loncar. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XII. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Baker stated that she could help with space planning. She extended her condolences to the Cooper family. She thanked the seasonal staff for a good job this year. She was happy about all the work awarded in grant funds that Mike Losey obtained.

Director Richmond commented on the recent attempted burglary of the batteries out of a tractor and additional items that were vandalized. She stated that they cannot see anything on the cameras that are installed. Since that point, they have been parking the vehicles inside a building when possible. She stated that she is also working on re-keying the Hart Center. She would also like to look at a card reader here. She commented on the presence of Black-Eyed Susan flowers in the Township.

Commissioner Omell stated that he looks forward to the substation being moved.

Commissioner Spicer stated that she is impressed with what was done at Green Lake.

Chairperson Bower stated that Springfield Township is an amazing place to live and thanked the staff.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Baker moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission at 7:59 pm. Supported by Commissioner Vallad.