

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doug Arrowsmith, Chairman; Bill Terian, Vice-Chairman; Coni Heimann, Secretary; Commissioners Bill Mazzara, Bette Nasholm (arrived at 7:05), Emily Ridgway, Bob Schwartz, Steve Wolfe

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Marty Drury

**ALSO PRESENT:** Leah Groya, Township Parks & Recreation Planner; Rich Chowaniec, Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals; Ric Mueller, Planning Commissioner & Chairman, Friends of Milford Skate Park; Aileen Wingblad, The Milford Times; Nine Audience Members, Holly Brandt, Recording Secretary

Chairman Arrowsmith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and determined that a quorum was present.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE 2008-2012**

Mrs. Groya presented a Power Point summary and explained the update process.

Chairman Arrowsmith opened the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. and asked if there were comments from the public.

Mrs. Alessandra Navetta, 2929 Wildemere, Milford, expressed concern that the equestrian community's issues regarding trails are heard and acted upon. She gave specific suggestions for trail signage and a horse crossing signal at Milford Road and Huron River Parkway.

Mr. Rich Chowaniec, 207 S. Garner Road, Milford, expressed concern for using township funds to build a youth center in the village. He questioned why the township would need more parkland when so much of the township is already parkland. Mr. Chowaniec said there would not be enough money in the budget to maintain parkland once obtained. Commissioner Schwartz responded that land is needed for active recreation such as various types of ball fields. He also noted the township does not own any parks and residents have to use other parks for active recreation. Mr. Chowaniec agreed with Commissioner Schwartz on that point.

Mrs. Vicki Rohrer, 1065 Adams Road, Milford, expressed concern for trails maintenance. She said she was happy to share multi-use trails that meet everyone's needs and not just for special interest groups. She hoped that all types of users would have recreational trails available for their sport.

Mr. Ric Mueller, 808 Old Milford Farms, Milford, stated the skate park funds are donations and future maintenance expenses would be included in the funds that are raised. He noted that the future users are raising the funds and residents are not being taxed to build a skate park. Mr. Mueller complimented the commission on the master plan update and said it was very nicely done.

Mrs. Groya read the highlights of an email received from Mr. Todd Scott, a member of the Oakland Trails Advisory Council, the Citizen's Committee for Michigan State Parks and the Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program Advisory Board. After discussion the commissioners decided to include Mr. Scott's comments regarding page 28 – Programs and Clubs; page 48 – Partnerships; and page 53 – Possible Funding Sources.

Chairman Arrowsmith closed the public hearing at 7:34 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, OCTOBER 15, 2007**

Commissioner Schwartz moved, Commissioner Mazzara seconded to approve the meeting minutes of October 15, 2007 as presented. Vote unanimously carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Arrowsmith stated that he received an email from Mr. Earl Kwiecinski, founder of Go Green Longboarding, which expressed his concerns about being unable to use his longboard in Kensington Metropark. Chairman Arrowsmith directed him to Commissioner Wolfe as he is employed at Kensington.

Chairman Arrowsmith said he received an invitation on behalf of the commission to join the Oakland County Parks Day Camp Program. He felt the commission could review the information at their next meeting.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

There was no response from the public.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE 2008-2012**

The commissioners made the following comments: Commissioner Mazzara said the intent is to provide an overview plan, and not something that has too much detail. He felt the public's input throughout the update process was important. Commissioner Schwartz agreed with previous comments that multi-use trails with a buffer between them are a good idea. Commissioner Heimann stated that the plan tries to fit many needs and groups in the community. Commissioner Wolfe said the commission really tried to include the entire community's interests in the plan. He said the plan provides goals to work toward. Commissioner Terian commented that everyone wants their special interest group to get something and everyone needs to remember to work together.

Commissioner Mazzara moved, Commissioner Heimann seconded to recommend approval the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update as amended with Mr. Scott's comments to the township board. Roll call vote: Mazzara, Heimann, Schwartz, Terian, Ridgway, Wolfe, Nasholm, Arrowsmith. **Vote unanimously carried.**

#### WINTER 2008 POOL PARTY

Commissioner Ridgway stated that she and Commissioner Schwartz met with Mr. Muck, Director of Recreation and Community Education, Huron Valley Schools. She said the pools and rooms could be rented for \$375.00 from 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., which would also cover the cost of the life guards. Commissioner Ridgway said a movie could be shown under their ASCAP license, but a screen, projector and sound system would need to be rented. She said Mr. Muck said the movie equipment could be rented from Brighton Parks & Recreation Department.

The commissioners discussed going forward with the event and began to plan the details. They directed Commissioner Ridgway to contact Mr. Muck to schedule the event for Saturday, March 1, 2008 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. The commissioners decided to put together some of the costs associated with the event and ask the township board for funds in January.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items under new business.

#### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

##### FEEDBACK ON PLANNING COMMISSION'S JOINT MASTER LAND USE PLAN UPDATE (MLUP) MEETING

Commissioner Mazzara reported that various land use scenarios were presented by the planning consultant, which included estimated future density with a green space overlay. He said the MLUP compliments the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

##### PROPOSED JANUARY 2008 AGENDA & INTERIM CHAIRMAN SELECTION

Chairman Arrowsmith asked for input regarding the proposed agenda. The commissioners agreed on the proposed agenda. Chairman Arrowsmith asked Commissioner Mazzara to chair the meeting until the election of officers was held and he agreed.

Commissioner Ridgway asked about requesting donations for the spring and fall picnic from the Milford Downtown Development Authority.

It was noted that the ice rink is open in Central Park. However no one was contacted to help with set-up or maintenance.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, January 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Milford Police Conference Room.

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MILFORD**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Arrowsmith adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Charter Township of Milford,

Coni Heimann  
Secretary