

MEMBER PRESENT: Marty Drury, Chairman; Steve Wolfe, Vice-Chairman; Secretary, Lewis Tripp; Bette Nasholm, Treasurer; Commissioners Bill Mazzara, John Parks,

ABSENT: Bob Schwartz

ALSO PRESENT: Donald Green, Township Supervisor; Susan Wells, Chief of Recreation, Oakland County Parks; Margaret Gatliff, Trails Network Coordinator, Oakland County Parks; Holly Brandt, Recording Secretary

Chairman Drury called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mazzara moved, Commissioner Parks seconded to approve the minutes of March 21, 2005 as presented. **Vote unanimously carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Drury noted a recent Detroit News article regarding a new skate park facility in the City of Howell in Livingston County.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Susan Wells, Chief of Recreation, Oakland County Parks, and Ms. Margaret Gatliff, Trails Network Coordinator, Oakland County Parks, gave a brief presentation regarding the features of the county parks system, programs and funding opportunities. They related the County's plans to partner with communities for building a countywide network of trails. Ms. Wells noted the web address for Oakland County Parks as follows: www.co.oakland.mi.us. Ms. Gatliff said the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, whose web address is mrpaonline.org, is also a good resource for various events and programs.

Mr. Green noted that the Township currently has no park facilities for hosting county programs.

Chairman Drury discussed the possibility of utilizing the County's mobile skate park for a Friends of Milford Skate Park (FoMSP) fundraiser, if the Township could rent the equipment and donate it.

Ms. Wells and Ms. Gatliff thanked the Commission for inviting them to the meeting and urged the Commissioners to contact them if they could be of assistance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MILFORD RECREATIONAL TRAIL

Engineering/Grant Updates

Mr. Green stated that the \$50,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM), for engineering costs, has been expended. A construction grant from CFSEM for \$75,000 is forthcoming and will be valid for three years. Mr. Green said any future grants would be for construction costs.

MNRTF Grant Application Deadline – 4/1/2005

Mr. Green stated the application for this grant has been submitted, with the grant amount of \$400,000.

MDOT Grant Application Deadline

Mr. Green stated this grant application would be filed by August 1, 2005. MDOT would notify the Township by the end of the year, if awarded.

Trail Maintenance Agreement

Mr. Green stated the trail agreement with Kensington Metropark is near completion and would clarify such items as replacement/maintenance issues and closing/opening conditions due to inclement weather.

Mr. Green announced that Kensington Metropark would pursue a grant from MDOT, with Milford Village acting as applicant under Act 51 for a trail loop extending from the new trail east to Milford Road, by the Dairy Queen. The loop measures 5200 ft and is estimated to cost \$413,000. He noted that this grant would *not* be in conjunction with or funded by grants or millage monies for the Milford Recreational Trail.

SKATE PARK

Friends of Milford Skate Park Update

Chairman Drury noted that FoMSP meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month at South Hill Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in supporting the group's efforts is welcome to attend. Commissioner Mazzara said the 501c3 federal tax exemption application has been received by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). He said the IRS implements a 120-day review period for

these applications.

Fundraising Plans

Chairman Drury and Commissioner Mazzara informed the Commissioners of upcoming fundraisers or promotions, in planning or under consideration, for the skate park as follows:

1. Negotiating with Knights of Columbus for the sale of water bottles at their booth during Milford Memories Festival in August.
2. Skate park literature will be distributed at the Community Booth during Milford Memories.
3. Several local businesses have agreed to sell the FoMSP fundraiser water bottles. They will be sold for \$1.00 \$1.25 per bottle
4. T-shirts are on sale for \$10.00 each.

TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION LOGO

The Commissioners discussed several different ways to use the existing township logo to create a logo with a recreational theme. A Sub-committee was established to create the logo, which consisted of Commissioners Wolfe, Schwartz, Nasholm and Mazzara.

FUTURE TOWNSHIP PARKS

Areas of Interest for Township Park Sites

Chairman Drury asked the Commissioners to study the township map for potential future park locations.

Mr. Green said he would be meeting with the Land Acquisition Criteria Committee (LACC), established by the Township Board, to locate potential areas of interest and suitability for pursuing open space land purchases. The Commissioners discussed the objectives of the LACC and felt a representative from the Parks & Recreation Commission ought to attend their meetings. Chairman Drury asked Commissioner Tripp to act as liaison to the LACC.

Cost of Park Elements (ball/soccer fields, courts, etc.)

Mr. Green stated that the Township has established a land acquisition account in the General Fund and funds from that account could be transferred to another account for acquiring or creating park elements, especially if the land has been donated.

OTHER TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Adopt-A-Road Program, Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC)

Chairman Drury felt this would be a good way for the Commission to become involved and raise awareness of the Commission's existence within the Township. He hoped to obtain the stretch Milford Road between Buno and

Pontiac Trail. He said, the Appeteezer Restaurant, in previous years had been involved in the program and had maintained that portion of road, but had not actually done any cleanup recently. The County was still working to re-assign the road to the Commission. After discussion, the Commissioners decided that an alternate road location would be Wixom Trail from the Village limit to Charms Road. Mr. Green agreed to oversee this program for the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Huron River Clean Up

Mr. Green stated that the Friends of the Huron River organize an annual river clean up the 3rd Saturday in August. The Commissioners discussed volunteering as a group for the clean up.

Other Ideas

Commissioner Tripp suggested there are opportunities to volunteer with the Huron River Watershed Council.

Commissioner Mazzara felt the Parks & Recreation Commission ought to host or sponsor an annual event of some sort, which would raise more community interest/involvement in township parks. Chairman Drury felt the Commission could co-host an event along with the Village Parks & Recreation if they were interested.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

Chairman Drury said he has been encouraging several members of the FoMSP to possibly become involved in the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Green stated that the City of Dearborn Parks & Recreation Commission has been discussing the possibility of locating an indoor ice rink at Camp Dearborn.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Parks related that he spoke with Bob Peterson, YMCA Director, regarding the possibility of locating a skate park facility on their grounds. He said Mr. Peterson expressed enthusiasm for the concept and said it would be a good fit with the center's plans for a youth center.

Chairman Drury asked if the Township would consider a partnership with other communities for funding for the skate park. Mr. Green responded that state law does not allow a municipality to expend taxpayer funds in another jurisdiction.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 16, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., Milford Township Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mazzara moved, Commissioner Tripp seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. **Vote unanimously carried.**

Charter Township of Milford,

Lewis Tripp,
Secretary