

# Charter Township of Orion

## Orion Parks & Recreation

### Advisory Committee

### Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.

Members in Attendance: Joan Rowling, Jeff Menig, Lisa Sokol, Logan Kaiser, Jeff Stout, Aaron Whatley, Ken Grant, Penny Shults,

Members Absent: Garry Reynolds, Greg Radyko with notice, Robb York, John Sweet with notice, Steve Frye

Meeting called to order by Joan Rowling. Approval of agenda motioned by Penny Shults minutes from January and March Meetings. Seconded by Jeff Menig Minutes approved. Will bring February minutes to next meeting for approval.

#### Pending Business

- Jeff Menig commended Jeff, Aaron and crew for shoveling the safety paths this winter.
- Jeff and Aaron gave updates on the Parks and Grounds Department:
- Master Plan approved at 2/20-2014 meeting. Comments included- focus on little league fields, No comments on priorities, Senior commented on no more money should be spent on tax burden, no more taxes.
- Master Plan will be made available on line See February 20 Board Meeting Agenda and items for agenda.
- Discussed the creation of a 501c3 Friends Non Profit Group. Discussed having Alice Young come to discuss overview of financial and set up side of Friends Group. Discussed whether there was enough people to get traction with this group or enough leadership and volunteer base. Parks volunteers and friends need to get stronger and diversify, focus and have people who will commit the time and energy to get this group started.
- Research and Grant Resources- Discussed status of information on the grant chart the PRAC members are creating. Still several sections need to be completed and sent to Joan to embed in the spread sheet.
- Placemaking Grants- Have Chris Barnett come and talk about this topic and possible grants.
- Applied for Brookside Way Grant for Run Wild, Concert and the Wildlife Fair and Wildwood to be held on June 17, 2014.
- Penny is working on a letter of introduction for foundations.
- Exploration of MRPA Grant Options will be explored along with potential Corporate Grants through Home Depot, Target, Chrysler, Kmart, and GM.
- Explore grants for trailheads next year by applying for Passport Grant through the state of Michigan grants with the DNR.
- Skate Park – Discussion on the Skate Park and desire to have it incorporated into the Master Plan and the 5 year plan for the parks. Logan is lobbying for a location for 10 – 18 year olds to have a recreational venue in the parks and a place to hang out. He is recommending the skate park as a project to fill that need for that age group. It was discussed that no dollars for the park had been allocated in 2014 although funds had been set aside and then removed in the budget process in 2013 by the board. It was discussed that it did not have support as a top priority in the master plan. It was discussed that since there was support by Advisory Council Members it would be added to the presentation which would be made to the Board at the first meeting in May. The committee need to identify funds, costs, maintenance, staffing if needed, scope of project, expenses, steps, quotes, location, etc.

- The Committee Reviewed the Board Presentation in Detail along with the five year work plan that was created by Joan Rolwing with input from advisory council members. A copy will be given to the board.
- Community Programs will work on resources, focus on revenue generation, grants, sponsorships, senior activities, and special events.
- In depth review of the Park five year plan by Joan and the committee in preparation for the board meeting.
- WiFi will be put at Friendship Park.
- Request to close gates at Friendship Park, Jesse Decker Park and lock off Joslyn Court to restrict access during off seasons and for better security and less vandalism in parks
- Support of Cross Walk at Civic Center Park.

#### New Business

Presentation to the Township Board the first board meeting in May on the programs, parks and progress of the PRAC Committee with recommendations to the board. Joan will present and committee members will attend the meeting.

#### Reports

Director's Report –Lisa passed out a Director of Community Programs report to the advisory committee members for April. She will be presenting a written report from her department each month.

Meeting adjourned.