

Charter Township of Orion

Orion Parks & Recreation

Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 27, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.

Members in Attendance: Ken Grant, Garry Reynolds, Joan Rowling, Jeff Menig, Lisa Sokol, Logan Kaiser
Members Absent: Penny Shults with notice, Jeff Stout with notice, Aaron Whatley at conference, Bill Kokenos, Greg Radyko, Robb York with notice, John Sweet with notice, Steve Frye

Meeting called to order by Joan Rowling. Approval of agenda. Did not have a quorum so we discussed items on the agenda.

Pending Business

Master Plan: Approval and Feedback from Meeting Final discussion on Master Plan as presented to the board with comments for final feedback. Please Reference Master Plan in Board Packet posted on Township Website Board Meeting on February 20, 2014 for final Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Discussion of creating a **Friends of Orion Parks and Recreation** was undertaken to explore whether or not the committee wants to set up a 501c3 Friends group that would be separate from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Discussion about exploring with other groups about the costs, set up, commitment, were discussed and put into a line item on the plan which Joan has been developing as an action plan.

Action Item List Review The committee went over in detail a list that Joan has developed in an excel spreadsheet which included 8 action items: These items include 1) obtaining 2D layouts of Friendship Park and Civic Center Parks, 2) Meeting with Bald Mountain and Oakland County Parks, 3) PRAC reps to work with Aaron, Jeff and Lisa on a list for Howarth School and Porritt Barn, 4) Develop background on grants, 5) discuss use of McConnell Field, Investigate Place Making Grants, Brooksie Way Grants and GM Foundation, 8) Write and intro letter to GM Foundation, Kresge and Chrysler.

New Business

Grant Research – Committee members will volunteer to research potential grants which the departments can apply for including types of grants, grant websites, overview of grant and purpose. Lisa will create a list of Grant Opportunities and we will create a master list of grants that can be explored for future grant writing.

Five year planning – Goals and Actions Draft Review A list of Project Tasks and Top Priorities was created from the Master Plan by Joan in the following areas:

Friendship Park – Develop Park as Crown Jewel of Park, Increase Revenue Potential, Environmental Considerations

Civic Center Park- Increase Revenue and usage levels with facility enhancement, complement actions of focus group on Wildwood, Environmental Considerations

Jesse Decker Park- Maintain facility and capitalize on partnership with local housing development Develop park with youth league focus

Orion Center Maintain facility and provide enhancements focused on revenue enhancement and increased facility usage

Community Programs – Compare and review revenues and expenditures, increase grant and sponsorships, coordination with other park and programming entities

McConnell Field, Gingell Nature Center, Heron Springs – Minimize expense

General Park Improvements and Needs.

Discussion on Skate Park and Placement within the Master Plan and on the 5 year plan the committee is creating. Support from committee members to add the skate park as a higher

priority and to include it on presentation overview to board and in discussion with the committee.

Reports

Director's Report

Update on Community Programs- Lisa gave an update on Parks and Grounds and Community Programs to the Committee on events, classes, activities. Overview of the various new programs including community garden at Friendship Park, update on status of the playground, update on staffing for parks and for community programs, update on grant being applied for through Land and Water Conservation Grant and Passport Grants.

Presentation to Board Discussed for April.

Meeting adjourned.