

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2024**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Art Bukowski, Andy Hoort, Chris Remy, Denise Schmuckal, William Scott, Fern Spence, and Chris DeGood

Staff Present: Deputy Planning Director Steve Hannon, Parks Steward Sean Kehoe

Call to Order: DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all in attendance.

Election of Officers:

Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to retain the current slate of officers: DeGood as Chair, Spence as Vice Chair and Remy as Secretary.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Hoort, Remy, Scott, Spence, DeGood

Nays: None

1. Public Comment (6:04)

None

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:05)

Spence asked to add discussion on the Traverse City Light and Power property to the agenda under New Business item 7.c.

Schmuckal moved and Spence seconded to approve the agenda as amended.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Spence, Bukowski, Hoort, Remy, Scott, DeGood

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2023 (6:05)

Schmuckal moved and Hoort seconded to approve the meeting minutes of December 4, 2023 as presented.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Hoort, Bukowski, Remy, Scott, Spence, DeGood

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:06)

Hannon noted one item of correspondence from the Grand Traverse County Director of Parks and Recreation regarding adoption of the 2024-2028 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan, including a link to the plan.

5. Reports (6:07)**a. Commissioner Reports**

Hannon said that the Planning Commission is working on the Master Plan update and anticipates the Township adopting it in June. Commissioners discussed the status of a property on North Long Lake Road next to the Commons Natural Area at which extensive gravel mining had taken place near the park and wanted to explore strategies to prevent similar activity from happening again in the future.

b. Staff Report/Updates**i. Parks Steward Report (6:18)**

Kehoe submitted his report in writing and indicated that the vandal who broke into vehicles at Silver Lake Recreation Area has been arrested in Chicago. Updated kiosk posters have been ordered for Silver Lake Recreation Area. A meeting is scheduled with Copper Ridge personnel to discuss potential trail head options. A split rail fence is being replaced at Kids Creek Park and a new winter kiosk poster was created with information about animal tracks. Hannon indicated that the Township's grant application with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for an accessible trail at Commons Natural Area was recommended for funding by MDNR.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business**a. PD 2024-10 – 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report (6:22)**

The Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission shall submit an annual written report to the Township Board concerning its operations and the status of parks and recreation activities. Hannon gave an overview of the 2023 Annual Report with Commissioners.

Scott moved and Bukowski seconded THAT the Parks and Recreation Commission 2023 Annual Report as presented in Planning Department Report 2024-10 BE RECEIVED and FILED and FORWARDED to the Township Board.

*Yeas: Scott, Bukowski, Hoort, Remy, Schmuckal, Spence, DeGood
Nays: None*

b. Future Investments at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve (6:42)

Commissioners discussed the TAPA request for resurfacing the pickleball courts at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve and discussed how often the resurfacing is necessary and how to pay for it. Commissioners wanted to know the current condition of the courts and if resurfacing is truly needed at this time before evaluating the request from TAPA. Staff talked about creating a long-term maintenance schedule for all park amenities.

c. Traverse City Light & Power Property – Discussion

Commissioners held a discussion on a property owned by Traverse City Light and Power (TCLP) which is currently for sale and if the property is worth pursuing to add to the Township Parks system. TCLP is currently taking proposals from public entities and may want as much as \$600,000 for the property. Commissioners had concerns about the contamination from previous dumping of coal ash on the site as well as the asking price. The Commission had previously discussed this and other properties for evaluation as potential additions to the Garfield Township Parks system. Commissioners supported taking a wait and see approach.

8. Public Comment (7:15)

None

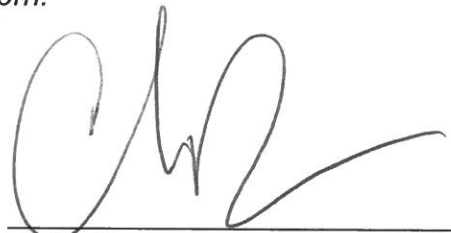
9. Items for Next Agenda – April 1, 2024 (7:15)

Commissioners noted the following items for the next agenda:

- A schedule and next tasks for the MNRTF grant for the Commons Natural Area now that the Township has been recommended for funding
- A potential next MNRTF grant application for 2025
- An update on the progress of projects at River East Recreation Area
- An update on potential pickleball court resurfacing at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve

10. Adjournment

DeGood adjourned the meeting at 7:18 pm.



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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