

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 - 4:30PM

**Garfield Township Hall
Fieger Meeting Room
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684
Ph: (231) 941-1620**

A G E N D A

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call of Commission Members

- 1. Review and Approval of the Agenda - Conflict of Interest**
- 2. Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - a. April 7, 2015
- 3. Business to Come Before the Commission**
 - a. Silver Lake Dog Park (*See PD Report No. 2015-44*)
 - Dog Park Rules: Small dogs within large dog areas
 - Benches and Picnic Tables within park
 - Discussion of potential agility course
 - b. Commons Pump Track / Skills Park - Discussion
 - c. Ongoing project updates
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Commissioner Reports**
- 6. Other Business**
- 7. Items for Next Agenda – June 2, 2015**
 - a. To be determined
- 8. Adjourn**

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting

April 7, 2015

Call Meeting to Order: Handy called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30pm at the Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City MI 49684.

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Valarie Handy, Dale Majerczyk, Fern Spence, Chris Remy, Alisa Kroupa

Staff Present: Brian VanDenBrand, Tom Vitale (GTCD)

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was noted. VanDenBrand asked to amend the agenda by adding a discussion about Hickory Meadows as item 3.d and a discussion of the Silver Lake Rec Area sidewalk bids as item 3.e. *Majerczyk moved THAT the agenda be approved as amended. Spence seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Majerczyk moved THAT the February 18, 2015 minutes be approved. Handy seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Business to Come Before the Commission

a. Mr. Jay Buckmaster - Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

The Commission was introduced to Mr. Jay Buckmaster, the new CEO of the YMCA. Future partnerships and opportunities between the YMCA and the Township were discussed. Mr. Buckmaster updated the Commission regarding maintenance and improvements currently underway at the Township-owned "Old Y" on the Boardman River.

b. Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Park Plan

The Commission discussed a conceptual park plan for the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve and directed Staff to continue to work on this project.

c. Ongoing Project Updates

Township and GTCD Staff updated the Parks Commission on a number of ongoing projects, including grant applications and regular park maintenance projects.

d. Hickory Meadows Access

The Commission discussed a parcel within Commissioner Spence's neighborhood, and which she and her husband had purchased to preserve an important access route from her neighborhood (Incochee Hills) to a Hickory Meadows trailhead off of Wayne Street (within the City of Traverse City). The parcel has a complicated legal history and is deed restricted to prohibit a pedestrian path. Commissioner Spence is working on getting the deed restrictions lifted, and is interested in selling the land to the City or Township to become public land if she is successful.

e. Silver Lake Recreation Area - Sidewalk Bids

VanDenBrand said that only one bid had been submitted for the Silver Lake Recreation Area. Discussion was held to determine if the Commission would like to recommend that the Township Board consider this bid, or if it should be restructured and re-bid to try to secure additional competitive results.

Majerczyk MOVED to recommend that the Township Board re-bid this project with changes to encourage a higher number of bid results. Remy seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. **Public Comment**

None.

5. **Commissioner Comment**

None.

6. **Other Business**

None.

7. **Items for next agenda – May 12, 2015**

a. To be determined.

8. **Adjourn**

Handy moved THAT the meeting be adjourned at approximately 6:05PM.

Dale Majerczyk, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684



Charter Township of Garfield
Planning Department Report No. 2015-43

Prepared:	May 7, 2015	Pages:	1 of 2
Meeting:	May 12, 2015 Parks Commission	Attachments:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subject:	Silver Lake Rec Area - Dog Park		

STAFF COMMENT:

As the Parks Commission is aware, Staff has been monitoring and participating in a Facebook page for users of the dog park (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/silverlakedogpark/>) at the Silver Lake Recreation Area.

This Facebook group is a great way to keep tabs on the park, and some posts have generated discussion points for the Park Commission's consideration, as follows.

Dog Park Rules:

Some users have had poor experiences when owners of small dogs allow their pets within the large dog enclosures. Per the dog park rules:

"For the safety of our users the small dog area is limited to pets less than 25 pounds. Small dogs are allowed in the large dog enclosure, but exercise common sense. Not all small and large dogs get along. Please use the small dog enclosure if your small dog disagrees with a large dog."

Unfortunately, some small dog owners are not observing this rule. Because this is not a problem with all small dogs, it would be unfortunate to ban all of them from playing in the larger enclosure, but that may become necessary if the problem persists.

At this point, it may be best to leave the existing rule in place and continue to monitor the situation, and ask the Ordinance Enforcement officer to keep closer tabs on the dog park. We will also ask park users to call in this complaint so Ordinance Enforcement can visit the site while a problem is occurring, or back up a user who is asking a problem small dog owner to take the small dog to the appropriate enclosure. Again, the Commission should expect to consider a rule change if better monitoring does not solve the issue.

Picnic Tables / Benches:

When the park first opened, it was discussed and intentional to not place any picnic tables or benches within the park. The idea was that we wanted people to walk around with their pet, rather than sit and talk, to be relatively close at hand case you needed to grab the dog.

At this point, someone has borrowed (pirated?) a table from one of the pavilions and placed it in the dog park. The picnic table always seems to have people on or around it, and it being there has not caused any known issues. It may be that the small size of the park negates the

original concern. We could consider adding additional picnic tables or benches within the dog park for owners to enjoy while their pets play, which the user group has expressed interest in.

Agility Course:

Members of the Facebook page have expressed interest in fundraising for an agility course within the dog park. With a moderate fundraising drive and a Township match, a high quality, durable system could be purchased and installed. (Costs for multi-piece kits are in \$3,000 - \$10,000.00 range, depending upon the number of pieces).

As with the group who is fundraising for reconstruction of the pickleball courts at the Boardman Nature Preserve, we would need some sort of MOU that the agility course will become public property and may be moved, removed, or otherwise changed in the future, depending on the system's lifetime.