

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 5, 2024**

**Roll Call of Commission Members:**

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

Absent and Excused: Fern Spence

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

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited by all in attendance

**1. Public Comment (6:02)**

None

**2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:04)**

*Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the agenda as presented.*

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

*Nays: None*

**3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2024 (6:03)**

*Schmuckal moved and Hoort seconded to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2024 meeting as presented.*

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

*Nays: None*

**4. Correspondence (6:03)**

None

**5. Reports (6:03)**

**a. Commissioner Reports**

Schmuckal reported that there was a special board meeting at which the River East Recreation Area bathrooms were addressed, and a new ADA compliant model was ordered to include a urinal for the men's bathroom. Schmuckal also indicated that the Board turned down BATA's request for building occupancy. DeGood added that the Township Master Plan was approved by the Board. Scott stated that he hiked near Miller Creek and shared concerns about signage and lack of shade for benches.

**b. Staff Report/Updates**

**i. Parks Steward Report (6:14)**

Kehoe submitted his report in writing and said that pickleball courts are being considered at Silver Lake Recreation Area and that Staff may ask for a quote for this project. Benches were ordered for the dog parks. Staff have removed old trash cans at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve which were deteriorating. A new bench has been installed on the Buffalo Ridge Trail near the senior living facility.

Hannon commented that the trail maps at each of the parks can be updated this winter once the Township completes its branding and website update project. Hannon also stated that the updated maps for the Commons Natural Area will account for the new trailhead at Copper Ridge.

**6. Old Business (6:19)**

**a. PD 2024-57 – Copper Ridge Trailhead Conceptual Design – Continued**

Commissioners reviewed a conceptual drawing for this project at the June 3, 2024 meeting. Since then, Staff have conducted an onsite visit with the Township Engineer, Gourdie-Fraser (GFA), and members of the mountain bike subcommittee. GFA prepared an updated conceptual drawing for the project based on feedback following the site visit and this updated drawing was provided to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The updated drawing was also shared with representatives of the Copper Ridge Surgery Center and Copper Ridge association. They provided their comments to Staff and indicated a preference for a preference of avoiding routing the trail on their property, and asked if bathrooms were part of the proposed amenities. Staff replied to the representatives' comments.

Commissioners discussed the proposed project and suggested that there should be two RFPs prepared: one for the parking lot / trailhead area and one for the trail.

*Schmuckal moved and Remy seconded TO RECOMMEND to the Township Board that two Request for Proposals (RFPs) be published for the Copper Ridge Trailhead project.*

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

**7. New Business (6:50)**

**a. PD 2024-58 – 2025 Parks Priority Projects – Discussion**

Commissioners reviewed the 2024 priority projects and the status of each project. One project included a playground at River East Recreation Area and the Township may seek a grant to help cover the costs of this project if it is further pursued.

The Township Engineer is preparing drawings for the accessible trail loop project at the Commons Natural Area. The drawings will be used as part of the bid process which is anticipated for later this year.

Commissioners discussed potential 2025 projects such as the accessible trail at Commons Natural Area, resurfacing pickleball courts at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, and adding pickleball courts near the playground at Silver Lake Recreation Area.

8. **Public Comment (7:14)**

None

9. **Items for Next Agenda – October 7, 2024 (7:14)**

Agenda items include the 2025 parks priority projects, and follow-up on ongoing projects.

10. **Adjournment**

*DeGood motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm*



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Chris Remy, Secretary  
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation  
Commission  
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