

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 7, 2023**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Art Bukowski (arrived 6:04), Andy Hoort, Chris Remy, Denise Schmuckal, William Scott, Fern Spence, Chris DeGood

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

Call to Order: DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all in attendance.

1. Public Comment (6:01)

None

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:01)

Silver Lake Recreation Area Pavilion was suggested to be added under New Business (item 7.a).

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

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

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2023 (6:02)

Spence moved and Hoort seconded to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023 meeting.

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

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:03)

None

5. Reports (6:03)

a. Commissioner Reports

None

b. Staff Report/Updates

Hannon gave an update on the Township Master Plan update process, and reported on the recent pop-up community engagement event which was held to gather feedback from Township residents.

i. **Parks Steward Report (6:05)**

Kehoe submitted his report in writing and added that activity at the parks has increased in 2023. Bids letting has occurred for crack sealing at the Silver Lake Recreation Area, but Staff may rebid for repaving instead. A recent automobile crash resulted in damage to the Dog Park Pavilion at Silver Lake Recreation Area; the driver's insurance will pay for the damages. Homeless encampments have been cleaned up. The spring plantings at Kids Creek are not doing so well due to dry weather. A potential replant may be warranted, and grant funding may be sought for replanting in the fall or spring.

6. **Old Business**

a. **PD 2023-90 – 2024 Parks Priority Projects – Draft Project List**

Hannon provided an overview and status update on the projects from the 2023 priority list. Kehoe provided an update on the projects at River East Recreation Area including the proposed bathrooms, and Hannon stated that Staff is still waiting to schedule a visit from MDNR for the Commons Natural Area grant submitted earlier this year.

Hannon gave an overview of four proposed projects for 2024: a match for the MNRTF grant for the accessible loop trail at Commons Natural Area, engineering and design for the Red Drive Trailhead at Commons Natural Area, the Copper Ridge Trailhead at Commons Natural Area, and River East Recreational Area amenities. Commissioners asked for the details on project costs to present to the Township Board. Commissioners also indicated River East Recreation Area as the top priority in 2024 followed by the two trailheads. Staff will bring the updated priority list and project cost details to the next meeting.

b. **PD 2023-91 – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area – August 2023 Update**

Hannon stated that Staff is still waiting to schedule a visit from MDNR for the Commons Natural Area grant submitted earlier this year, and that the Township Board approved bids for the wetland delineation and boundary survey, with these projects expected to start shortly. The Township and the Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association (NMMBA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to allow for fundraising efforts through NMMBA's 501(c)(3) organization, while allowing for continued dialog with the mountain biking subcommittee.

7. **New Business**

a. **Silver Lake Recreation Area Pavilion**

Schmuckal indicated the flag pole previously donated by Dan Walters has been staked. Schmuckal stated that Walters wants to install electricity at Bill's Pavilion and will cover the costs of installation. Commissioners and Staff discussed coordinating with Metro Fire regarding lowering the flag to half-staff when required on days when Staff are not available to lower it.

Bukowski moved and Remy seconded to recommend that Mr. Walters' offer of electricity at the Silver Lake Pavilion be accepted and brought to the Township Board for approval.

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

8. Public Comment (7:12)

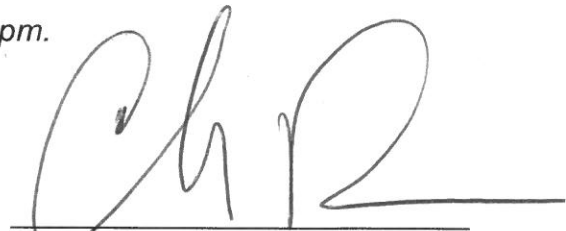
None

9. Items for Next Agenda – October 2, 2023 (7:12)

The next meeting will include an updated 2024 priority project list with details on project costs to forward to the Township Board as a recommendation. Bukowski indicated the rental rates at Silver Lake Recreation Area are good in comparison with other area venues.

10. Adjournment

DeGood adjourned the meeting at 7:13 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Remy", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684