

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 4, 2023**

**Roll Call of Commission Members:**

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

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

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

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

**1. Public Comment (6:01)**

*Phillip Leete* of Silver Valley Lane and representing Silver Lake Farms Homeowners Association commented on the TART trail as relates to their neighborhood.

*Daniel Sarya* of Silver Farms Lane commented in support of the proposed Buffalo Ridge Trail expansion.

*Sid Van Slyke* of Silver Farms Lane commented on the proposed trail expansion.

*Rick Ellery* of Silver Farms Lane expressed his support for a proposed trail expansion in the Buffalo Ridge area.

*Ed Lemieur* of Silver Farms Lane commented on a proposed trail expansion

*Mark Bernier* of Silver Valley Lane commented on the TART trail.

*Doug Spence* of Old Incochee Farm Trail commented on the TART trail.

*Mark Wilson* of Silver Hills Lane commented on the proposed trail expansion.

**2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:15)**

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

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

*Nays: None*

**3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2023 (6:16)**

*Hoort moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the minutes of October 2, 2023.*

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

*Nays: None*

**4. Correspondence (6:16)**

None

**5. Reports (6:16)****a. Commissioner Reports**

Schmuckal commented that some Township ARPA funds will be allocated to Parks projects.

DeGood stated the Planning Commission continues to work on the Master Plan and that the Draft Master Plan is available online for public review.

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

Kehoe submitted his report in writing. He added that a foot bridge was replaced at River East Recreation Area and that Phase 3 of projects at River East, including bathrooms, is moving forward.

Hannon explained that the Township received their final score from the Michigan DNR for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for the Commons Natural Area accessible trail. The Trust Fund board will soon meet to recommend which projects receive funding. The mountain bike group did a work bee and flagged areas where new signage should be placed.

**6. Old Business**

None

**7. New Business****a. Buffalo Ridge Trail Phase #3 – Discussion (6:33)**

Tim Hughes of Silver Valley Lane talked about a possible Buffalo Ridge trail expansion in the Township. He has spoken with several potential partners to get the trail moving forward. Amy Hartzog, a trail planner with TART, spoke to the Commissioners and supports the Buffalo Ridge Trail extension. She emphasized the easy access from this neighborhood and other nearby neighborhoods to the trail network that this extension would provide. Commissioners asked questions and discussed the proposed trail extension. DeGood described which projects that Commissioners had already recommended for the 2024 budget and stated that the trail expansion would need to be added to a future budget year. He gave the interested parties the steps to follow to help with the proposed budgeting of this project.

**b. PD 2023-136 – Parks and Recreation Plan Implementation Matrix (7:19)**

Staff drafted this matrix for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to help implement goals and objectives of the Plan. Commissioners discussed the matrix and agreed it was a very useful tool.

**8. Public Comment (7:33)**

None

**9. Items for Next Agenda – February 5, 2023 (7:34)**

- a. 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report

**10. Adjournment**

*DeGood adjourned the meeting at 7:34pm.*

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