

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 6, 2023**

**Roll Call of Commission Members:**

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

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

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

**1. Public Comment (6:03)**

A member of the Northern Michigan Mountain Biking Association thanked Schmuckal for presenting to the Township Board the information regarding the trails at the Commons Natural Area.

**2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:03)**

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

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

*Nays: None*

**3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 3, 2023 (6:04)**

*Remy moved and Spence seconded to approve the minutes of January 3, 2023.*

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

*Nays: None*

**4. Correspondence (6:04)**

None

**5. Reports (6:04)**

**a. Commissioner Reports**

Schmuckal stated that the Township was unable to purchase a property that was up for sale.

**b. Staff Report/Updates**

**i. Parks Steward Report**

Kehoe submitted the Parks Steward report in writing and indicated the men's bathroom at Silver Lake Recreation Area needs some work. A drone flyover was done over the Commons Natural Area and staff met with Township Engineer Jennifer Graham regarding details for upcoming parks priority projects, including River East Recreation Area.

Hannon stated that the Township Board adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Staff has submitted it to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

**6. Old Business**

**a. PD 2023-23 – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan Implementation / Grants (6:10)**

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant applications for 2023 have now opened on the DNR grants website, and Staff have begun filling out the required information. As part of the grant application process, there will need to be a public meeting to allow for discussion on the submission of the grant application. Commissioners decided that as part of their March 6 regular meeting, discussion would be heard on the MNRTF grant application.

Hannon stated that Staff and the Joint Planning Commission discussed the Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) program from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) as a potential resource for infrastructure improvements. Garfield Township and the City of Traverse City have been conducting an Infrastructure Assessment for the Commons area. The SOGL program may apply to this area and have potential benefits including improving stormwater management. There are many significant wetlands in the area, including on the Commons Natural Area site, which could be restored and may qualify for funding through this program.

Hannon added that another potential grant application may be the Trail Accelerator Grants offered through the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), which is anticipated to have a grant cycle opening in summer 2023. The mountain bike subcommittee may collect information pertaining to this grant.

Staff will prepare the information on the grant for the upcoming March 6 meeting. Grant assistance was discussed, and staff will investigate what work may be needed and come up with a cost for a potential grant writer. Other possible grant sources and programs include the MDNR Michigan Spark Grant and Rotary Charities.

**7. New Business (6:45)**

**8. Public Comment (6:45)**

**9. Items for Next Agenda – March 6, 2023 (6:45)**

There will be a public discussion on the MNRTF grant application, and Staff will check requirements for noticing this meeting. There will also be updates on the grant applications process and the mountain biking subcommittee. Spence added that reaching out to the disabled community should be a high priority for any grants applied for.

**10. Adjournment**

*DeGood adjourned the meeting at 6:48.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CR', written over a horizontal line.

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