

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2023**

Call to Order (6:04): The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance (6:04): The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call of Commission Members (6:04):

Present: Chris DeGood, Chris Remy, Denise Schmuckal, and Fern Spence

Absent and Excused: Art Bukowski, Andy Hoort, and William Scott

Staff Present: Deputy Planning Director Steve Hannon

Introduction of William Scott – New Commission Member (6:04):

Commissioner Scott was absent and excused; he will be introduced at the next meeting.

Election of Officers (6:05):

Schmuckal moved and Spence seconded to keep the same officers as in 2022 including DeGood as Chair, Spence as Vice Chair, and Remy as Secretary.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Spence, Remy, DeGood

Nays: None

1. Public Comment (6:05)

None

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:06)

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

Yeas: Schmuckal, Remy, Spence, DeGood

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2022 (6:06)

Schmuckal moved and Remy seconded to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2022 meeting.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Remy, Spence, DeGood

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:06)

None

5. Reports (6:07)**a. Commissioner Reports**

Schmuckal indicated that the Township Board passed the 2023 budget at their December meeting.

Spence indicated that a social trail at River East Recreation Area along the bank of the Boardman River may be contributing to erosion, and that clearer signage may be needed in this area.

b. Staff Report/Updates

Hannon stated that the 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was available for public review and comment, and that a public hearing will be held at the Township Board meeting on January 10, 2023.

i. Parks Steward Report

The Parks Steward Report was submitted in writing.

6. Old Business**a. PD 2023-2 – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan Implementation (6:10)**

The Commissioners discussed the next steps for implementing the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan, including preparing for an application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant program, which is due April 1, 2023. Staff indicated that ECT, the firm which assisted the Township with the Design Plan, could potentially help assist with grant preparation and the scope of work of their contract could be amended. Commissioners recommended ECT prepare a quote for grant preparation services.

Other funding opportunities include other grants or foundation sources. DeGood recommended Staff contact the Oleson Foundation on potential funding opportunities through their organization.

Commissioners also discussed the mountain biking trails and next steps for this portion of the park. Several mountain bikers including those from the Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association (NMMBA) were in the audience. Commissioners agreed to form a subcommittee for mountain biking and recommended Remy to lead it, to tackle short-term issues for the mountain biking area, such as temporary signage and wayfinding, as well as long-term issues for the design of this area.

Schmuckal moved and Remy seconded to RECOMMEND that the Township Board prepare and apply for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trust Fund Development Grant for the initial implementation of the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan, and any other grant Staff deems appropriate.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Remy, Spence, DeGood

Nays: None

7. New Business**a. PD 2023-1 – Parks and Recreation Commission 2022 Annual Report (6:42)**

Every year, the Parks and Recreation Commission provides a report on the parks system to the Township Board. Hannon provided an overview of the 2022 report. Commissioners agreed to receive and file the report and forward it to the Township Board.

8. Public Comment (6:43)

Tim Reicha of NMMBA gave comments on the plans for the mountain biking trail area at the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area.

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

Items suggested for the next meeting agenda included an update on the grant application process for projects to implement the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan, as well as a discussion on suggestions for priority projects for the Township's American Rescue Plan Act funds. Commissioners discussed needing to have an extra meeting in March to help with the grant application process.

Schmuckal moved and Remy seconded to add a meeting to the Parks and Recreation Commission schedule for Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Remy, Spence, DeGood

Nays: None

10. Adjournment

DeGood adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm.



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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