

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 2, 2023**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

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

Absent and Excused: Fern Spence

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 (6:00)

None

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

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

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

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2023 (6:02)

Schmuckal moved and Hoort seconded to approve the minutes of August 7, 2023.

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

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:02)

None

5. Reports (6:02)

a. Commissioner Reports

Schmuckal stated that the Township Board has discussed putting some ARPA funds into the parks.

DeGood stated that the Master Plan update process is still moving along.

Bukowski commented that Silver Lake Recreation Area is one of the premier parks in the region.

b. Staff Report/Updates**i. Parks Steward Report (6:05)**

Kehoe submitted his report in writing and added that the walking loop at Silver Lake was repaired and pavement was resealed. For the Commons Natural Area, he met with Copper Ridge staff about the proposed trailhead and indicated that ECT has completed the wetlands delineation. Staff are working on the next phase of the River East Recreation Area projects with the Township Engineer. Plans for winterization are underway at all parks.

ii. PD 2023-113 – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area – October 2023 Updates (6:14)

Hannon provided an update on the Commons Natural Area. The Township received a preliminary score of 365/500 on the MDNR grant application, and staff met with the MDNR grants coordinator to walk the proposed trail loop. ECT has completed the wetlands delineation and Gourdie-Fraser will work on the boundary survey. The mountain biking subcommittee is scheduling a work bee for October 22 to install signage. Potential designs for the trailhead area at Copper Ridge are being evaluated.

6. Old Business**a. PD 2023-113 – 2024 Parks Priority Projects – Recommended Project List (6:16)**

Hannon reviewed 2024 parks priority projects and the estimated budget for these projects. The local match for the Commons Natural Area grant was taken off the priority list because if awarded, grant funds may not be received until late 2024. Commissioners discussed requesting funds in the priority list for the engineering, design, and survey work for the grant application since this portion of the work could potentially begin as soon as the grant funds are received.

Remy moved and Scott seconded to RECOMMEND to the Township Board the list of priority Parks and Recreation projects for 2024, subject to the following:

- 1. Staff will review the budget for the Red Drive Trailhead Engineering and Design with the Township Engineer*
- 2. Add in Engineering, Design, and Survey Work for the Commons Natural Area Accessible Trail project*
- 3. List projects in priority order*

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

Nays: None

7. New Business

a. 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission Schedule (6:41)

Commissioners reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2024.

Hoort moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the 2024 meeting dates as presented.

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

Nays: None

8. Public Comment (6:43)

Kehoe brought up making improvements on the portion of lake shoreline owned by the Township at Silver Lake Recreation Area. Commissioners discussed the idea and the potential impacts on surrounding areas.

9. Items for Next Agenda – December 4, 2023 (6:57)

Items for the next meeting will include an update on Township Board budget and ARPA discussions, an update from the mountain bike subcommittee after doing their work bee, and an implementation matrix for the goals and objectives of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

10. Adjournment

DeGood adjourned the meeting at 6:58 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