

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2022**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

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

Absent and Excused: Fern Spence and Lynne Fricke

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

Call to Order: Chair DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

1. Public Comment (6:05)

A student asked about the funding and organizational structure of the parks. Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association (NMMBA) members commented on the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area trails and asked to be involved in the process of implementing the Design Plan.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:10)

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

Yeas: Schmuckal, Hoort, Bukowski, Remy, DeGood

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2022 (6:11)

Schmuckal moved and Remy seconded to approve the minutes of November 7, 2022.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Remy, Bukowski, Hoort, DeGood

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:11)

None

5. Reports (6:12)

a. Commissioner Reports

Schmuckal stated that the 2023 budget would be approved at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

b. Staff Report/Updates

i. Parks Steward Report

Kehoe reported that a sledding hill is being constructed at Silver Lake Recreation Area and there is a beaver issue at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve which damaged the kiosk. Staff are also busy clearing trees at all parks that were blown down.

6. Old Business**a. PD 2022-107 – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan Public Comments (6:17)**

Hannon reviewed public comments that were received on the Commons Natural Area Design Plan. Commissioners agreed that all designs will need to be safe and serve all user groups since the trail will be shared. Public comments highlighted issues to keep aware of including concerns about access, protection of the natural environment, separation of users, and protection of the “freeride” mountain bike area, although many also expressed support for the overall Design Plan. Ownership of the trails was discussed pertaining to waivers and liability.

b. PD 2022-109 – 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (6:46)

Hannon gave an overview of the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan and explained how feedback has been incorporated into the Plan. The Commons Natural Area Design Plan will also be included as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is now ready for a 30-day public review period.

Hoort moved and Remy seconded THAT the draft 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan attached to PD Report 2022-109 BE MADE AVAILABLE for public review for a 30-day period and that a notice BE PUBLISHED for the public review period.

Yeas: Hoort, Remy, Schmuckal, Bukowski, DeGood
Nays: None

Remy moved and Bukowski seconded THAT Resolution #2022-1-PR, RECOMMENDING THAT the Township Board ADOPT the 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan attached to PD Report 2022-109 and following the 30-day public review period, BE ADOPTED.

Yeas: Remy, Bukowski, Schmuckal, Hoort, DeGood
Nays: None

7. New Business**a. PD 2022-108 – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan Implementation (6:58)**

Hannon gave an overview regarding four major areas as they pertain to the Commons Natural Area Design Plan – Funding; Volunteers / Further Public Engagement; Final Designs, Construction, and Maintenance; and Policy Development. Commissioners discussed applying for grants as a part of the funding for implementation projects, including the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant application due April 1. Commissioners asked if an RFP needs to be issued to assist with grant applications and agreed to meet on January 3, 2023 to discuss an RFP and other items regarding Design Plan implementation.

b. 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule (7:17)

Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to adopt the 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule as amended, with the addition of a meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

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

8. Public Comment (7:18)

NMMBA members stated they would attend all future meetings dealing with the Commons Natural Area Design Plan. Discussion took place on how to rebuild the relationship with the bike riders who built rogue trails and to include them in the discussions on Design Plan implementation.

9. Items for Next Agenda – January 3, 2023 (7:29)

- a. Election of Officers**
- b. Scope of Work for Grant Application – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan Implementation Projects**
- c. Parks and Recreation Commission 2022 Annual Report**

10. Adjournment

DeGood adjourned the meeting at 7:32.

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

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