

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2024**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Art Bukowski, Andy Hoort (6:12), William Scott, Fern Spence, and Chris DeGood

Absent and Excused: Chris Remy and Denise Schmuckal

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

Call to Order: Chair DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all in attendance.

1. Public Comment (6:01)

Fern Spence indicated she will be stepping down from the Parks and Recreation Commission since she has been voted onto the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners.

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

Bukowski moved and Spence seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Yeas: Bukowski, Spence, Scott, DeGood

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2024 (6:06)

Spence moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2024 meeting as presented.

Yeas: Spence, Bukowski, Scott, DeGood

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:06)

None

5. Reports (6:07)

a. Commissioner Reports

None

b. Staff Report/Updates

i. Parks Steward Report (6:08)

Kehoe submitted his report in writing and added that staff met with the ISN (Invasive Species Network) to deal with invasive species in

the Commons Natural Area and other parks. All parks have been winterized and the River East dog park is being well used. He met with Sinclair Recreation about the playground at River East and the company indicated the playground may be ready by summer 2025.

Hannon indicated that the Township Board asked about the status of the 2024 parks projects, and the Township Board is preparing a 2025 budget with the priority parks projects identified by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

ii. **PD 2024-106 – Commons Natural Area Accessible Trail Grant Project – December 2024 Update**

Hannon stated that the Township Engineer, Gourdie-Fraser (GFA), is working on the final design for the trail and the grant agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) was completed. GFA is preparing draft bid documents for construction of this project. The MDNR must approve all documents before the bids can be formally let out. Other upcoming projects include the Copper Ridge trailhead construction, and engineering for the Red Drive trailhead.

Andrew Farron, mountain bike subcommittee member, said that a group ride took place, and that a small sign was installed in honor of the cyclist who recently passed away on the trail.

6. **Old Business**

None

7. **New Business (6:27)**

a. **2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule**

Hoort moved and Scott seconded to adopt the 2025 meeting schedule.

Yeas: Hoort, Scott, Bukowski, Spence, DeGood

Nays: None

8. **Public Comment (6:30)**

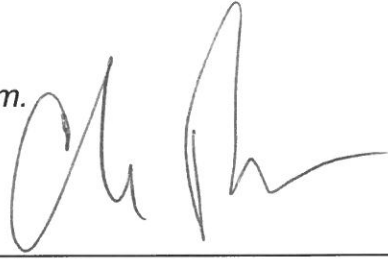
Farron commented on safety issues with the bike trails in the Pines in the City of Traverse City and asked about the sledding hill at Silver Lake Recreation Area.

9. **Items for Next Agenda – February 3, 2025 (6:32)**

Items for the February 3, 2025 meeting include the 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report.

10. **Adjournment**

DeGood to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 pm.



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
3848 Veterans Drive
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