

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 7, 2024**

**Roll Call of Commission Members:**

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

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

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited by all in attendance

1. **Public Comment (6:01)**  
None
2. **Review and Approval of the Amended Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:02)**  
*Schmuckal moved and Scott seconded to approve the agenda as presented.*  
  
*Yeas: Schmuckal, Scott, Bukowski, Hoort, Remy, Spence, DeGood*  
*Nays: None*
3. **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2024 (6:02)**  
*Scott moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the minutes of August 5, 2024 as presented.*  
  
*Yeas: Scott, Bukowski, Hoort, Remy, Schmuckal, Spence, DeGood*  
*Nays: None*
4. **Correspondence (6:03)**  
None
5. **Reports (6:03)**
  - a. **Commissioner Reports**  
Schmuckal stated that the Township Board is working on the 2025 budget and input on the Parks budget is needed. Schmuckal also indicated that Chris Barsheff will start as Township Manager on October 28.
  - b. **Staff Report/Updates**
    - i. **Parks Steward Report (6:05)**  
Kehoe submitted his report in writing and indicated the Silver Lake drinking fountains are installed and operational. The tennis courts at Silver Lake have been repaired and he will be obtaining quotes

for future pickleball courts. Old trash cans have also been hauled out of Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.

ii. **PD 2024-85 – Commons Natural Area Accessible Trail Grant Project – Update**

Hannon reported that in September 2024, the Michigan Legislature passed legislation with the 2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grants as recommended by the MNRTF Board; this legislation is awaiting signature by the Governor. Once this occurs, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will receive authorization to issue a Project Agreement contract. Terms of the Project Agreement must be adopted by resolution by the Township Board. Hannon reviewed steps that can be taken in the meantime.

iii. **Mountain Biking Subcommittee – Update**

Remy mapped the mountain bike trails at Commons Natural Area. He shared a finalized map with the Commissioners and explained his process of creating the map. Andrew Farron, a mountain bike subcommittee member, updated Commissioners and said that the most recent work bee only drew about 6 people. He is attempting to restart the excitement and momentum about the mountain bike trails. On November 3, there will be a dedication ceremony and a ride in memory of James Musil. Farron inquired about the budget for non-motorized trails and requested the subcommittee to meet soon to plan fundraising projects. Farron also indicated that there has been very little maintenance done on the cross-country biking trails. DeGood proposed asking the Township Board for money in the 2025 budget for projects such as marketing, and planning and design for implementation of the next phase of the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan.

6. **Old Business (6:48)**

a. **PD 2024-84 – 2025 Parks Priority Projects – Continued**

The three priority projects discussed were matching funds for the MNRTF grant accessible trail project at Commons Natural Area, Boardman Valley Nature Preserve pickleball court resurfacing, and potential new pickleball courts at Silver Lake Recreation Area. Commissioners would request the Township Board include slightly over \$450,000 in the 2025 Parks budget for these projects. DeGood asked for more discussion on future projects and planning for the future.

*Hoort moved and Bukowski seconded to RECOMMEND to the Township Board the list of priority Parks and Recreation projects for 2025.*

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

*Nays: None*

**7. New Business (7:22)****a. River East Playground Equipment quotes**

Schmuckal brought this item to the Commission for consideration and said the proposed playground at River East could be paid for with ARPA funds. The playground would need to be ordered by the end of 2024 to meet the ARPA deadline and could be delivered by spring of 2025. Kehoe provided an overview of each company and their playgrounds and showed pictures of different playground sets, along with prices. Commissioners discussed the playground designs and ultimately debated between two designs from Sinclair Recreation: Four-Square unit and Quad Adventure unit.

*Bukowski moved and Hoort seconded to recommend the purchase of the Four-Square unit from Sinclair Recreation at a price of \$436,892.00.*

*Yeas: Hoort and Schmuckal*

*Nays: Bukowski, Remy, Scott, Spence, DeGood*

*Bukowski moved and Remy seconded to recommend the purchase of the Quad Adventure unit from Sinclair Recreation at a price of \$478,899.00.*

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

*Nays: Hoort and Schmuckal*

**8. Public Comment (7:51)**

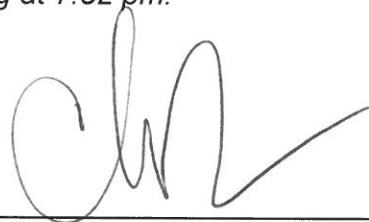
None

**9. Items for Next Agenda – December 2, 2024 (7:51)**

- a. Set 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting schedule
- b. MNRTF Grant / accessible loop trail update / design drawings from GFA
- c. Mountain biking subcommittee report

**10. Adjournment**

*DeGood motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm.*



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