

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 4, 2022**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Denise Schmuckal, Fern Spence, Lynne Fricke, Andy Hoort, Chris DeGood, Chris Remy, and Art Bukowski

Staff Present: Park Stewards Sean Kehoe and Derek Morton, and Deputy Planning Director Steve Hannon

Call to Order: Chair DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all in attendance.

1. Public Comment (6:03)

None

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:03)

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

Yeas: Schmuckal, Fricke, Spence, Remy, Bukowski, Hoort, DeGood

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2022 (6:03)

Fricke moved and Hoort seconded to approve the minutes of February 7, 2021.

Yeas: Fricke, Hoort, Remy, Spence, Bukowski, Schmuckal, DeGood

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:04)

a. Grand Traverse Conservation District Report

Steve Largent said he is looking forward to working on the parks alongside Garfield Township. The Conservation District hosted a lantern hike at Kids Creek Park which was well attended.

5. Reports (6:07)

a. Commissioner Reports

None

b. Staff Report/Updates

i. Parks Steward Report (6:08)

Morton stated DTE has donated about 20 additional trees which will be planted this fall in River East. A walk through of the Commons Natural Area is scheduled for this week and security cameras have been installed at River East. The Township continues to work with

Goodwill Inn on the homeless encampments issue and volunteers will continue to do clean up. Staff is preparing the pickleball courts at Boardman Valley and a trail has been started at River East.

ii. **Michigan State University Urban Planning Practicum – Presentation at Planning Commission Study Session – April 27, 2022 at 5:30pm. (6:26)**

Hannon stated that the MSU Urban Planning students have worked hard on this project and will make their presentation at the Planning Commission study session on April 27.

6. **Old Business (6:40)**

a. **Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan – Review of Stakeholder Meetings and Details for First Public Open House**

Hannon explained how stakeholders completed a brief survey regarding the Commons Natural Area. They identified issues such as accessibility, trailheads, maintenance, parking, funding opportunities, site amenities, and wayfinding. A tentative date for the first public open house has been set for May 11 to gather more information and feedback from the public. Commissioners gave suggestions for the open house.

7. **New Business**

a. **Updated Park Maps and Handouts (6:53)**

Hannon presented new revised park maps and information that he has been working on. He stated that a goal was to get all these maps in the same format and said future updates should include newer pictures.

8. **Public Comment (7:04)**

Steve Largent commented on the proposed Miller Creek Nature Reserve map, shared information about other plans, and said Munson should be included in feedback for the Design Plan. He also discussed plans for a foot bridge at the former Sabin Dam to be named the Ottaway Crossing, with blessing from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

9. **Items for Next Agenda – June 6, 2022 (7:08)**

Summary of input from the first public open house and discussion of next steps for the Commons Natural Area Design Plan.

10. **Adjournment**

DeGood adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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