

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 5, 2023**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Fern Spence, Denise Schmuckal, Andy Hoort, Chris Remy

Absent and Excused: Art Bukowski, Chris DeGood, William Scott

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

Call to Order: Vice Chair Spence called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all in attendance

1. Public Comment (6:01)

None

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:02)

Schmuckal moved and Remy seconded to approve the agenda as presented

Yeas: Schmuckal, Remy, Hoort, Spence

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2023 (6:02)

Schmuckal moved and Spence seconded to approve the minutes of May 1, 2023

Yeas: Schmuckal, Spence, Hoort, Remy

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:02)

None

5. Reports (6:02)

a. Commissioner Reports

None

b. Staff Report/Updates

i. Parks Steward Report (6:03)

Kehoe submitted his report in writing and indicated the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve pickleball players wanted more courts. At the Commons Natural Area, the DNR site visit for a review of the Township's grant application was postponed, Greenspire School a work bee was held, and the lid on the well area has been secured. At River East Recreation Area, a fence was installed, and watering stations are being added for the dog park.

6. Old Business**a. PD 2023-61 – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area – Updates (6:13)**

Hannon indicated the MNRTF grant app has been submitted and is under review. A walkthrough by a DNR representative will be done soon, but it did need to be rescheduled. A wetland delineation and boundary survey are out for bids. Once the bids are received, they will be presented to the Township Board. The mountain bike signage which Remy suggested will be sought out for quotes. Hannon said a proposed 501(c)(3) fundraising agreement was forwarded to the mountain biking subcommittee.

7. New Business**a. PD 2023-62 – 2024 Priority Projects – Discussion (6:27)**

Hannon gave an overview of the 2023 projects and gave a status update on each project. Commissioners discussed potential projects for 2024 as listed in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Capital Improvement Plan and discussed which 2023 projects could be carried into 2024. Projects considered to be high priorities included the completion of the River East Recreation Area improvements and the local match for the DNR grant at the Commons Natural Area. Other parks such as Silver Lake Recreation Area are seen as needing fewer projects at this point.

b. PD 2023-71 – BVNP Pickleball Courts Agreement (6:52)

Staff recommends that the Commissioners review the previous agreement with TAPA and forward any proposed changes to the Township Board. To avoid a potential future condition where the agreement expires, language could be considered to allow an agreement to continue until a replacement is adopted. Other items in the agreement, such as the rules for use of the courts and times available for court reservations, may also warrant review and adjustment as necessary. Commissioners discussed some proposed changes to the agreement language regarding the times for reservations.

Schmuckal moved and Spence seconded TO RECOMMEND to the Township Board that the revised agreement with the Traverse Area Pickleball Association (TAPA) for the pickleball courts at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, as attached to Planning Department Report 2023-71, and with corrections as discussed regarding hours, BE IMPLEMENTED.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Spence, Hoort, Remy

Nays: None

8. Public Comment (6:59)

None

9. Items for Next Agenda – August 7, 2023 (6:59)

Items to be included on the next agenda include a draft 2024 project priority list, updates on the Commons Natural Area including the MNRTF grant application and mountain biking subcommittee, and follow-up on bathrooms for River East Recreation Area.

10. Adjournment

Schmuckal adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm

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

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