

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2022**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

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

Absent and Excused: Lynne Fricke

Staff Present: Deputy Planning Director Steve Hannon

Call to Order: Chair DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all in attendance.

1. **Public Comment (6:02)**
None

2. **Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:02)**
Schmuckal moved and Spence seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

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

3. **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2022 (6:03)**
Hoort moved and Schmuckal seconded to approve the minutes of April 4, 2022.

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

4. **Correspondence (6:03)**
 - a. **Grand Traverse Conservation District Report**
Tom Vitale from the Conservation District indicated they are available to provide support on projects as needed.

5. **Reports (6:07)**
 - a. **Commissioner Reports**
Spence summarized the non-motorized analysis recently completed by the MSU urban planning student group. Their goal was to help develop Garfield Township's non-motorized transportation plan and to create an evidence-based process for future planning. The three highest priority corridors identified for non-motorized improvements in the area were the Mall Trail to Miller Creek, LaFranier Road, and South Airport Road from Barlow to the Boardman Lake Loop.

- b. **Staff Report/Updates**
 - i. **Parks Steward Report (6:07)**

Hannon indicated a written report was included in the packets.

- 6. **Old Business**
 - a. **PD 2022-46 – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan – Review of First Public Open House and Overview of Project Net Steps (6:10)**

On Wednesday May 11, the Township and Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT) hosted an open house at the Cathedral Barn seeking public feedback on the future design for the Commons Natural Area. Materials displayed at the open house included an overview of existing conditions and two conceptual designs: one showing primarily separated trails and another showing mainly shared-use trails. People were encouraged to leave comments on these conceptual designs and give their input. Members of the public commented on the trails, outdoor education areas, wayfinding, and highlighting natural features. An online survey was also made available and the public commented on many of the same items. The next open house will focus on design scenarios in more detail and options for the specific site elements. Hannon gave an overview of some key discussion points including potential options at the trailheads, and Commissioners discussed the site.

- 7. **New Business**
 - a. **Discussion – 2023 Priority Parks Projects (6:47)**

Hannon asked Commissioners to provide ideas for priorities projects for 2023. Commissioners talked about focusing on maintenance at Silver Lake Recreation Area as well as a second dog park there. They also discussed possible projects at Commons Natural Area and River East. Chair DeGood commented on obtaining Rotary funding for some park projects and completing a DNR Trust Fund application. Fundraising for projects at the Commons was also suggested, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy was suggested as another funding source.

- 8. **Public Comment (7:02)**

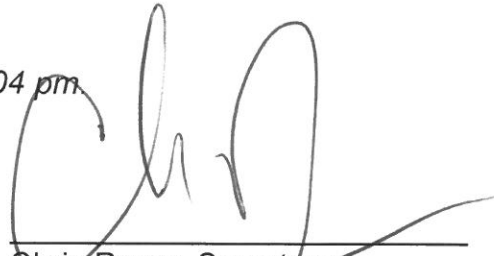
None

- 9. **Items for Next Agenda – August 1, 2022 (7:02)**

Items include discussion on priority projects for 2023, as well as further updates on the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan.

10. Adjournment

Schmuckal adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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