

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 3, 2022**

**Roll Call of Commission Members:**

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

Absent and Excused: Lynn Fricke

Staff Present: Deputy Planning Director Steve Hannon, Parks Steward Derek Morton

**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)**

None

**2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:01)**

*Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the agenda as presented.*

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

*Nays: None*

**3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2022 (6:02)**

*Spence moved and Schmuckal seconded to approve the minutes of September 12, 2022.*

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

*Nays: None*

**4. Correspondence (6:04)**

Letter from Mr. Scott Rokos, originally shared with Planning Commission.

**5. Reports (6:04)**

**a. Commissioner Reports**

Schmuckal reported that the board held a budget meeting and the 2023 funds request for the Parks Commission was submitted.

**b. Staff Report/Updates**

The Planning Commission received a draft of survey results sent to a random sample of Township residents to gain comments for the Master Plan. Hannon indicated the Commons Design Plan will be distributed to Commissioners for comments soon, and Commissioners asked Staff to indicate a deadline to submit their comments.

i. **Parks Steward Report**

Morton stated that the cameras caught pictures of people defacing the Commons Natural Area and those pictures have been posted in hopes that they will be recognized. Some encampments have been cleaned up along the Boardman River and some boardwalks will need to be replaced at Miller Creek Nature Reserve. Portable toilets were removed for the season at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. The pavilion at River East Recreation Area is complete. There will be a tree planting on October 7 in conjunction with DTE, and Releaf Michigan, along the Buffalo Ridge Trail.

6. **Old Business**

a. **PD 2022-93 – Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Discussion (6:23)**

The current Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan expires with the DNR on December 31, 2022. To be eligible for the DNR grant programs starting in 2023, a new plan would need to be submitted to the DNR by February 1, 2023. The updated plan should cover potential projects over the next five years in the parks including capital improvements, trails, potential property acquisitions, and other items. Hannon provided an overview of past projects in each park that were completed and reviewed some potential park projects in 2023. Commissioners discussed benches and the dredging of Oleson's Pond for Kids Creek Park, and a potential trailhead along Cass Road as part of Miller Creek Nature Reserve. Future trail connections were also discussed, and the Commissioners were favorable to many of them and would like to include them in the Plan, especially from Miller Creek Nature Reserve to the Mall Trail and along South Airport Road / LaFranier to the Boardman Lake Loop Trail. Staff will come back on December 5 with a proposed draft of the Parks Master Plan. Commissioners also indicated their availability to meet on November 7 if needed.

7. **New Business**

None

8. **Public Comment (7:43)**

None

9. **Items for Next Agenda – December 5, 2022 (7:43)**

- a. 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Presentation of Final Draft and Commence 30-Day Public Comment and Review Period
- b. 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule

**10. Adjournment**

*DeGood adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.*

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

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