

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
October 7, 2019**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: James Guilmet, William Scott, Denise Schmuckal, Chris DeGood, Fern Spence, and Valarie Handy

Absent and Excused: Chris Remy

Staff Present: Deputy Planning Director Steve Hannon and Planning Director John Sych

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

1. Public Comment

Peter Zirnhelt, 1613 West Outer Drive – mentioned that he presented a proposal for consideration to groom ski trails at Silver Lake Recreation Area and Buffalo Ridge Trail.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest

Sych asked to add item 5.c. – Grand Traverse Conservation District Report and item 6.e. – Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Crushed Gravel Path Bid Award. *Schmuckal moved and DeGood seconded to approve the agenda as amended.*

Yeas: Schmuckal, Scott, DeGood, Guilmet, Spence, Handy

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes August 5, 2019

DeGood moved and Schmuckal seconded to adopt the minutes of August 5, 2019 as presented.

Yeas: Schmuckal, DeGood, Scott, Guilmet, Spence, Handy

Nays: None

4. Correspondence

- a. Grand Traverse County Conservation District September 2019 Report
- b. An email from Diane Vidovic in support of keeping the tennis courts at the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve

5. Reports

a. Commissioner Reports

Schmuckal reported on the Township Board's work to develop the 2020 Parks and Recreation budget, with their next budget session to occur on October 8.

b. Staff Report/Updates**i. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Closeout**

Hannon reported that closeout documents for the grant for the recent improvements at the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, including pickleball courts, kayak launch, and parking area, has been filed with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Once processed by the DNR, they will release the final \$10,000 from the grant to the Township.

ii. Serenity Park/Airport

Sych reported that Cherry Capital Airport contractors are restoring Serenity Park within the Gladewood subdivision. The initial tree removal contractor removed the trees as planned but restoration improvements were incomplete. Site grading, adding top soil and seeding are being done now.

c. Conservation District Report

Tom Vitale discussed various activities conducted by the Conservation District at Township park area, including some of the highlights from the September 2019 report.

6. New Business**a. Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Pickleball Courts Issues**

Sych indicated that there has been some issues with the guidelines for play at the new pickleball courts as some players are not playing equally with others. Chair Handy provided opportunity for a few pickleball player representatives to speak.

Michelle Richard, 4915 Black Bear Drive, said she would like the courts to follow the same rules at the indoor courts at the YMCA with alternate days for different levels of players.

Dan Succarde, 2192 Twin Eagles Drive, explained the pickleball player rating system and the desire of high-level players to play with others of equal skill level. He stated that the system at Veteran's Park Dog Park in the City of Traverse City works well.

Brad Barnes, 2226 Chelsea Lane, said the YMCA rules don't work and the reservation system works.

The Commission directed staff to investigate and compare the current Township policy with the policies of other communities. Staff should also review signage at other communities.

DeGood excused himself from the remainder of the meeting at 6:44 PM.

b. **Conceptual Plan for Expansion of Pickleball Courts**

Sych mentioned that this proposal was originally presented at the August meeting of the Commission. The Traverse Area Pickleball Association has presented cost estimates for new courts to replace existing tennis courts adjacent to the new pickleball courts. Sych noted that the Commission should evaluate the proposal and determine what is the best use for the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. Some issues to consider include the potential limits by the DNR for any parks acquired using Trust Fund grant money, the original intent for this park to be a nature preserve, and other site impacts.

Chair Handy referenced the survey in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and suggested that it be reviewed to determine the preferences by Township residents for pickleball and tennis. Staff will investigate further.

c. **Rental of Athletic Fields at SLRA**

Hannon reported that the Township permitted reservation of the rugby / soccer field at Silver Lake by the Traverse Bay Blues Rugby Club for three games on a trial basis to see how it would work. Hannon noted that staff visited the first game and the event appeared to work smoothly. The only major issue was some automobile parking on the grass areas. The Commission supported the idea to refine the proposed reservation policy and suggested that staff look at ways to mitigate issues with parking, the impacts of spectators such as increased garbage, and any tournaments. Commissioners recommended looking at the parks reservation policies in other communities such as Peninsula Township.

d. **Park Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

Hannon reviewed the projects to be funded for 2020 and a list of projects in the CIP for subsequent years. Sych also provided information on the overall Parks and Recreation budget for 2020. Individual projects on the CIP were discussed. Schmuckal recommended removing "demolition" of the BVNP tennis courts since it is not yet determined whether the courts will be demolished or rehabilitated. Commissioners agreed, and this was the only amendment to the Parks CIP.

After discussion, Spence moved and Scott seconded to recommend the Parks Capital Improvement Program, as amended, for Approval to the Township Board.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Guilmet, Scott, Spence, Handy

Nays: None

e. Boardman Valley Nature Preserve Crushed Gravel Path Bid Award

Sych provided an overview of the project and noted the lowest bid.

After discussion, Spence moved and Scott seconded to recommend to the Township Board the acceptance of the bid from Popp Excavating in the amount of \$22,133.00 for the crush gravel trail at the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Guilmet, Scott, Spence, Handy

Nays: None

7. Public Comment

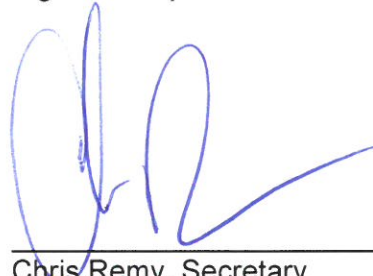
Schmuckal confirmed with Commissioners that the Parks and Recreation Commission will continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis.

8. Items for Next Agenda

Agenda will include follow up to several items from this meeting. Hannon also mentioned that the next agenda will include adoption of the 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting schedule.

9. Adjournment

Handy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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