

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 2022
Kirkbride Hall at the Village of Grand Traverse Commons**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

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

Absent and Excused: Lynne Fricke and Art Bukowski

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

Call to Order: Chair DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all in attendance

1. **Public Comment (6:34)**
None

2. **Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:34)**
Schmuckal moved and Remy seconded to approve the agenda as presented

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

3. **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2022 (6:35)**
Hoort moved and Schmuckal seconded to approve the minutes of September 12, 2022

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

4. **Correspondence (6:35)**
None

5. **Reports (6:36)**
 - a. **Commissioner Reports**
Schmuckal reported that the board has not yet finalized the 2023 budget. DeGood stated that the Planning Commission will begin to engage in the Master Plan process soon.

 - b. **Staff Report/Updates**
 - i. **Parks Steward Report**
Park Steward Derek Morton submitted his report in writing.

ii. Planning Department

Sych stated that the Township submitted applications to Grand Traverse County for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, including some parks and non-motorized transportation projects.

6. Old Business**a. Grand Traverse Commons Natural Design Plan – Open House #3 Follow-Up (6:39)**

Representatives from ECT were present to discuss the differences in the Commons Natural Area Design Plan since the previous review by Commissioners. Changes were made to the Cedar Swamp Forest area and there will be a one-way traffic and loop throughout the trail system. Trailheads were fine-tuned and more trails were added. ECT talked about the phased plan for the Commons property. Commissioners discussed the comments collected at the open house and feel that they could engage the crowd who want trail jumps and rougher trails by allowing them to voice their opinion about the Plan. Commissioners agreed that these trails will be shared by all citizens and no one trail will be for the exclusive use of any one party.

b. PD 2022-101 – 2023- 2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Discussion Continued (7:09)

At the October 3, 2022 meeting, Commissioners reviewed an overview of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and discussed upcoming potential projects for each park to include in the Action Program of the Plan. Staff compiled seven Goals and Objectives for discussion. These include some Goals and Objectives carried over or slightly modified from those in the current Plan, and some newly proposed. According to guidelines from the MDNR, "Goals should be broad enough and have one or more objectives associated with them. Objectives will be more specific actions to help accomplish the goal." Goals include the improvement of non-motorized connectivity; protecting and preserving natural resources; providing safe parks and recreation areas to meet the needs of the public; promote responsible stewardship of the parks system; encourage continued public involvement in evaluating and improving the parks system; develop stable sources of funding; and evaluating the parks and recreation system on a regular basis. Hannon reviewed the draft Plan with Commissioners and presented the timeline for approval of the Plan. Staff will send out a draft for Commissioners to comment on by November 17.

7. New Business

None

8. Public Comment (7:36)

None

9. **Items for Next Agenda – December 5, 2022 (7:36)**
 - a. **2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Master Plan**
 - (i) Finalize Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - (ii) Notice of 30-Day Public Comment and Review Period
 - (iii) Recommend Adoption of Plan to the Township Board
 - b. **Finalize 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule**
10. **Adjournment**

DeGood adjourned the meeting at 7:38pm.



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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