

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
November 4, 2019**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

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

Absent and Excused: Fern Spence

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

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Handy called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Public Comment**
Gary Ford from the Traverse Area Pickleball Association commented on a possible solution to some issues with the courts this past season.
3. **Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest**
Schmuckal moved and DeGood seconded to approve the agenda.

Yeas: Schmuckal, DeGood, Scott, Guilmet, Remy, Handy
Nays: None
4. **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes October 7, 2019**
Scott moved and Remy seconded to adopt the minutes of October 7, 2019 as presented.

Yeas: Scott, Remy, Schmuckal, DeGood, Guilmet, Handy
Nays: None
5. **Correspondence**
DNR email regarding athletic fields and rental fees
6. **Reports**
 - a. **Commissioner Reports**
Schmuckal reported that a part time parks facilities manager would be hired to oversee the parks in the township beginning in January.
DeGood commented on the Barlow Garfield planning project and said that speaker Bob Gibbs would be offering guidance for planning in the township.
 - b. **Staff Report/Updates**
 - i. **Seasonal Closure – BNVP Pickleball Courts and Canoe/Kayak Launch**
Staff is readying the parks for winter.

ii. MSU Landscape Architecture Class Project – Buffalo Ridge Trail Phase III

TART is working with Michigan State University to design Phase III of the Buffalo Ridge Trail. Hannon offered background on the trail to the MSU students.

c. Grand Traverse Conservation District Report

Tom Vitale offered follow up on the Boardman Valley Trail crushed gravel proposal and said that a major permit may be needed. He reported on the Kids Creek area and the Silver Lake Park as well.

7. Old Business**a. Discussion – BNVP Pickleball Courts Issues Update**

Hannon briefly reviewed the reservation system for the pickleball courts. Gary Ford, Representative of the Traverse Area Pickleball Association, spoke on the BNVP pickleball issue and said that many of the problems were due to transitional issues. TAPA will fix the problem and report back in February.

b. PD-2019-142 BVNP Conceptual Pickleball Court Expansion Proposal – Follow-Up

Gary Ford, representing TAPA, commented on the proposal given at the last meeting for an expansion of the pickleball courts. TAPA agreed to help fund the expansion. An expansion of the pickleball courts is not in the 2020 parks budget, but could be added to the CIP. Commissioners discussed whether the tennis court at Silver Lake Park was worth saving. Planning Director Sych reminded commissioners that the vision laid out in the Master Plan should be considered and that a balance of recreation uses should be developed for township park lands. Commissioners agreed to recommend that staff work with TAPA to formulate a proposal package which could be recommended to the board.

c. PD 2019-143 Rental of Athletic Fields at Silver Lake Recreation Area- Follow-up

Commissioners discussed the reservations and the rates. They talked about renting for a full season rate or an hourly or daily rate. Commissioners agreed that an hourly rate was consensus. Staff will bring this back in February for final approval after researching insurance liability on the rentals.

8. New Business**a. Adoption of 2020 Meeting Schedule**

Schmuckal moved and Scott seconded to approve the 2020 Meeting Schedule as presented.

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

Nays: None

9. Public Comment

None

10. Items for Next Agenda

- a. Pickleball courts and reservation issues
- b. Introduction of New Parks and Rec Manager

11. Adjournment

Handy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27

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

Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
3848 Veterans Drive
Traverse4 City, MI 49684