

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 6, 2021**

Call to Order: Chair DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: Chris DeGood, Fern Spence, Chris Remy, Art Bukowski, Andy Hoort, and William Scott

Absent and Excused: Denise Schmuckal

Staff Present: Park Steward Derek Morton, Park Steward Sean Kehoe, and Deputy Planning Director Steve Hannon

1. Public Comment (6:04)

None

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:05)

DeGood explained that his company, Beckett & Raeder, responded to the RFP for the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan (Item 5.b.i) and stated that if Beckett & Raeder were selected, he would not be involved.

Spence moved and Remy seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Yeas: Spence, Remy, Bukowski, Hoort, Scott, DeGood

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2021 (6:06)

Hoort moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the minutes of October 4, 2021.

Yeas: Hoort, Bukowski, Remy, Scott, Spence, DeGood

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:07)

None

5. Reports (6:07)

a. Commissioner Reports (6:07)

None

b. Staff Report / Updates (6:07)

Morton gave an overview of his report and activities in several of the Township parks, including the following:

- *Silver Lake Recreation Area* – Staff activities have included winterizing, mulching, monitoring for encampments, and planting a tree in memory of Bill Mouser. The rugby club has indicated they will remove their posts currently on the field. Staff is in contact with Apple Fence for a gate for the well house.
- *River East Recreation Area* – Arborvitae were planted along the parking lot. Other activities included winterizing and insulating the water pump, monitoring for encampments, and a formal hearing with Goodwill Inn. Commissioners discussed the situation with encampments and Goodwill Inn, expressing general support for Staff and acknowledging how the situation is challenging for everyone involved.
- *Boardman Valley Nature Preserve* – Pickleball nets and portable toilets are stored for the winter. Norm Fred is donating a trash can for the kayak launch area. Norm Fred and Staff are also looking to install a plaque for Noah, a person who formerly experienced homelessness and who has helped with cleanups in the area.

Spence moved and Remy seconded to support a plaque for Noah.

Yeas: Spence, Remy, Bukowski, Hoort, Scott, DeGood

Nays: None

- *Miller Creek Nature Reserve* – Some basic cleanup has been performed but generally this park has been in good shape.
- *Kids Creek Park* – Posts for the United Way “Born Learning” stations are installed, signs were posted at the ends of the Buffalo Ridge Trail for keeping dogs on leashes, and Kohl’s has fixed an erosion issue near the trailhead on their site.

Hannon stated the proposed project for the Michigan State University Urban Planning Practicum course, an inventory and analysis of Township trails and sidewalks, was selected. Hannon said the first meeting at MSU is January 12 and he will update the Parks and Recreation Commission at the next meeting.

- i. **Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan – Update (6:29)**
Hannon provided an update on this process. Four companies responded to the RFP: Beckett & Raeder, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT), MCSA Group, Inc., and OHM Advisors. An ad hoc committee of Township Staff and Parks and Recreation Commissioners reviewed the proposals and conducted an interview with each firm. Staff is currently conducting reference checks. The committee will meet again this week and provide a recommendation to the Township Board for the meeting on December 14, 2021.

c. Grand Traverse Conservation District Report (6:31)

This report was included in Commissioner packets. Morton also provided an update on the current role of the Conservation District. Morton and Kehoe are handling day-to-day parks tasks, while the Conservation District offers support on major tasks and contributes their expertise as needed.

6. Old Business (6:33)

None

7. New Business (6:33)

a. 2022 Meeting Dates (6:33)

Commissioners reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2022.

Remy moved and Bukowski seconded to accept the proposed meeting dates.

Yeas: Remy, Bukowski, Hoort, Scott, Spence, DeGood

Nays: None

b. Certificate of Appreciation – William Scott (6:35)

DeGood presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Scott and thanked him for his contributions to the Commission, which were also affirmed by the other Commissioners. Commissioners also asked Staff to continue to include Scott in the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan process.

8. Public Comment (6:38)

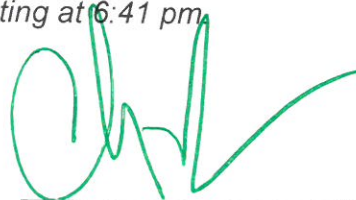
None

9. Items for Next Agenda (6:38)

Hannon gave an overview of items for the next agenda including the 2021 Annual Report, updates on the MSU Urban Planning Practicum course and the Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan process, and any other items that may come up.

10. Adjournment (6:41)

Spence moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 pm.



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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