

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
VIRTUAL PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2021**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: William Scott (Garfield Township, MI); Denise Schmuckal (Garfield Township, MI); Fern Spence (Garfield Township, MI); Andy Hoort (Garfield Township, MI); Chris DeGood (Garfield Township, MI); Chris Remy (Garfield Township, MI); and Art Bukowski (Garfield Township, MI).

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

Call to Order: Chair DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Introduction of Andy Hoort – New Commission Member

Andy introduced himself to the others. Uses parks and playgrounds and is excited to be a part of the commission.

Election of Officers

Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to retain current positions of DeGood as Chair, Spence as Vice Chair and Remy as Secretary.

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

Nays: None

1. Public Comment (6:05)

None

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

Schmuckal moved and Scott seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2020 (6:07)

Bukowski moved and Schmuckal seconded to approve the minutes of December 7, 2020.

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

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:08)

An email was received from the State of Michigan with an update on the Commons 100 property.

5. Reports (6:08)**a. Commissioner Reports**

None

b. Staff Report/Updates**i. Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Design Plan - Update**

Deputy Planner Hannon updated Commissioners on the Commons Design Plan and suggested that any action wait until the state signs off on the property which could be another 4-6 weeks. Morton added that the winter has been light for snowplowing. He has been to all the parks and has performed light maintenance for winter. Silver Lake Recreation Area's Master Plan states that some basketball courts will be transformed to pickleball courts. Commissioners discussed the proposed transformation and the court rules. Morton will gather some bids for the proposed project and bring back to the Commissioners for further discussion. Commissioners discussed disc golf course and whether or not to improve it. It will be brought back for further discussion at the next meeting as an agenda item. River East signage was discussed.

c. Grand Traverse Conservation District Report

Tom Vitale reported that he is prioritizing 2021 projects with Park Steward Derek Morton and working on maps and trail maintenance.

6. Old Business (6:36)**a. River East Recreation Area – 2021 Conceptual Plan – Discussion Only**

When the snow clears, Morton and Engineer Jennifer Hodges will do a drone flyover of River East Recreation Area and plan possible pavilions, parking lots and dog parks. Signage will be a priority.

7. New Business**a. PD 2021-14 – Kids Creek Park Oleson Pond – Discussion (6:39)**

Oleson Pond at Kids Creek Park provides fishing opportunities for kids in the area. The pond is stocked with fish each year, but the pond is weedy and filled with silt. The Parks CIP included a solar aeration system for the pond in 2021. Commissioners discussed the pond and its use and decided to gather a cost estimate for dredging and aeration. Commissioners also asked for a qualified opinion on what it would take to keep the pond up and running each year and whether it was a good fish habitat. Information will be gathered and brought back to the next meeting.

b. PD-2021-13 –Parks and Recreation Commission 2020 Annual Report (6:55)

Deputy Planner Hannon said that this report covers the activities of Parks and Recreation Commission in 2020.

Scott moved and Remy seconded THAT Planning Department Report 2021-13 BE RECEIVED and FILED and FORWARDED to the Township Board.

*Yeas: Scott, Remy, Bukowski, Spence, Hoort, Schmuckal, DeGood
Nays: None*

c. SLRA Long-Term Rental Agreement – Discussion (7:00)

Deputy Planner Hannon said that commissioners can discuss this draft for long term rentals at Silver Lake Recreation Area. Commissioners discussed the draft agreement and asked that all infectious viruses be included and chose to define long term rental as more than four recurring rentals by one person or organization. Commissioners also asked to add a clause regarding trash takeaway and language which stated exactly which premises was being rented. The amount of liability insurance was also pondered and staff will check with the township attorney.

8. Public Comment

Schmuckal said that the Township Board approved a per meeting rate of \$125.00.

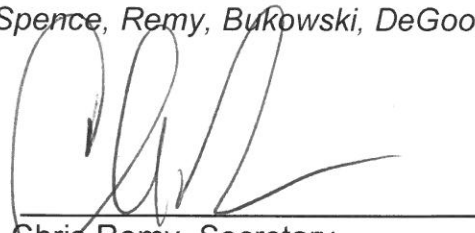
9. Items for Next Agenda – April 5, 2021

**Disc Golf at Silver Lake
Oleson Pond
Commons Natural Area
Long Term Rental Agreement
Demand for Park Amenities**

10. Adjournment

Hoort moved Schmuckal to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm.

*Yeas: Hoort, Schmuckal, Scott, Spence, Remy, Bukowski, DeGood
Nays: None*



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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