

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
VIRTUAL PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2020**

Roll Call of Commission Members:

Present: William Scott, Denise Schmuckal, Chris DeGood, Chris Remy, Fern Spence, and Art Bukowski

Absent and Excused: James Guilmet

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

Call to Order: Chair DeGood called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

1. Public Comment:

None

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

DeGood asked to switch items 7a and 7b on the agenda since the discussion for item 7b may affect how the Commission wants to proceed with item 7a.

Schmuckal moved and Spence seconded to approve the agenda as amended switching items 7a and 7b under New Business.

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

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2020

Remy moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the minutes of February 3, 2020.

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

Nays: None

4. Correspondence

None

5. Reports

a. Commissioner Reports

b. Staff Report/Updates

Morton updated Commissioners on several park items. Park restrooms and playground equipment are advised to be closed until the statewide "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order is lifted, currently scheduled for May 15. The Traverse Area Pickleball Association (TAPA) has proposed posting the updated pickleball rules at the pickleball courts at Boardman Valley

Nature Preserve when the courts are opened for the season and has selected benches for donation to the Township. Morton also provided updates on the parks including cleanup and project statuses.

i. Commons 100 – Senate Bill 595

Hannon said that the Bill passed through the Senate but was now on hold in the House of Representatives.

ii. BVNP Improvements – Dedication/Opening Ceremony for DNR

Hannon said that the DNR is being flexible on this requirement and when some sort of opening ceremony is feasible, it can occur.

c. Grand Traverse Conservation District Report

Tom Vitale reported that the Commons area has been a challenge with some people picking wild leeks and other such activity. Steward events have all been cancelled and there is high water on the trails right now. Commissioners recommended looking at parks in Boyne City for design ideas and discussed bike accident numbers.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

a. PD 2020-49 - Rental Agreement – Haunted Traverse

This proposed rental agreement would allow for after hours tours in the Commons Area which have been called Haunted Traverse. Township Parks Steward Derek Morton said that tours would be held from May through September and have been done before. Commissioners discussed the tours, how many people would be allowed on a tour, the hours and the fact that it was an open ended agreement. Commissioners did not agree with a money making venture in the parks after hours.

Bukowski moved and Schmuckal seconded to deny the Haunted Traverse Tours Permit agreement citing hours of operation, trail conditions, liability, enforcement issues and after hours operations as major issues.

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

Nays: None

i. Verbal Updates – Traverse Bay Blues Rugby and Traverse City Futbol League

Deputy Planner Steve Hannon said that the Ruddy and Futbol leagues are on hold for now.

b. PD-2020-50 –Parkland Ordinance – Proposed Amendment

Deputy Planner Hannon gave an overview of the proposed changes which are needed. The changes update definitions and references. Changes would be made to update the name of the Boardman Valley Nature

Preserve, define parkland areas, define the hours of operation, update the parkland location map and would add the Templeton Parcel and the Goodwill parcel and amend the hunting policy. Commissioners discussed the various proposed changes.

Spence moved to recommend to the Township Board THAT Garfield Township Ordinance No. 50 BE AMENDED to include the revisions as described in Planning Department Report No. 2020-50. Remy seconded the motion.

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

c. Hunting Permit Application- Proposed Revision

There have been many changes to the parks since the hunting Permit Application was revised. This revision would allow for hunting by permit in the River East Recreation Area and on the added land at the Miller Creek Nature Preserve. Hours of operation would also updated to allow hunting activity from sunrise to sunset and maps would also be updated. All hunting regulation set forth by the State of Michigan would still be applicable. Staff wants to review for some clarifications regarding where hunting can take place legally in these areas.

Schmuckal moved and Scott seconded to postpone any action on this item so that Staff can review the proposed revisions.

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

d. PD-2020-54 – Commercial Kayaking on Boardman River – Discussion

Hannon said that several regional stakeholders have had conversations regarding commercial kayaking on the Boardman River. The DNR has a natural rivers program which talks about commercial activity on the river. Grand Traverse County is showing some interest in Jack's Landing as a launch area and that could potentially affect the Boardman Nature Valley Preserve. The Boardman River also has some areas where paddling through is impossible and kayakers would need to cross a busy road. Commissioners along with Steve Largent discussed the kayaking issue and the commercial uses. In any case, the county will work with the township. Staff will gather more information on the commercial kayaking issue so an informed decision can be made.

e. PD-2020-52 – Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area Planning - Discussion

Staff updated Park Commissioners on the Commons 100 property and said now is the time to "plan for a plan" for when the changes are approved. Uses need to be thought out and community input needs to be sought out. Stakeholders need to be identified and a timeline needs to be

put in place. Commissioners talked about who else to invite comments from. Staff will need to budget for this effort in the future.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Item for Next Agenda – June 1, 2020

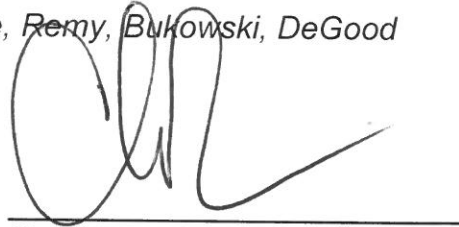
- a. **River East Recreation Area – Public Engagement**
- b. **Parks Capital Improvements Program**

10. Adjournment

Schmuckal moved and Scott seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm.

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

Nays: None



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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