

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 10, 2020**

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair Spence called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call of Commission Members:**

Present: Denise Schmuckal, Chris Remy, James Guilmet, Fern Spence and Art Bukowski

Absent and Excused: Chris DeGood, William Scott

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

1. **Public Comment:** Trustee Steve Duell noted that he was present and requested to speak on item 7.a. Silver Lake Recreation Area Frontage Landscaping – Discussion.
2. **Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest**  
*Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the agenda as presented.*  
  
*Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Spence, Remy, Guilmet*  
*Nays: None*
3. **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2020**  
*Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to approve the minutes of June 1, 2020.*  
  
*Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Spence, Remy, Guilmet*  
*Nays: None*
4. **Correspondence:** Correspondence from Bruce Allen regarding pickleball courts.
5. **Reports**
  - a. **Commissioner Reports:** None
  - b. **Staff Report/Updates:** Morton reported on activities including clean-up of Silver Lake dog park, playground inspections, upgrade of heating system at Silver Lake restrooms, Silver Lake berm, demolition of the Kids Creek mill, clean-up of the Commons area due to rains, graffiti and rogue trails, evaluation of River East for improvements, tennis court clean-up at the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, capital improvement project planning, and cameras for Commons Natural Area. The Commission was interested in discussing the issue of cameras for the Commons Natural Area.

*Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to add Cameras for the Commons Natural Area to the agenda as item 7.b under New Business.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Spence, Remy, Guilmet  
Nays: None*

**c. Grand Traverse Conservation District Report:** Tom Vitale reviewed the ongoing maintenance activities they have been performing, including addressing safety hazards on trails and boardwalk improvements.

**6. Old Business**

**a. PD 2020-116 – Parks Capital Improvements Program – Proposed 2021 Projects (6:18 p.m.)**

Hannon provided an update on current Park projects with several photos and reviewed the 2021-2026 CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). Commissioners reviewed current 2020 projects and the proposed projects for the CIP. The tennis court resurfacing project planned for 2020 at Silver Lake Recreation Area was not expected to be completed this year so the Commission decided to move the project to 2021.

*Bukowski moved and Remy seconded to RECOMMEND to the Township Board the list of priority Parks and Recreation projects for 2021 including removing the old tennis courts and site cleanup at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, the Master Park Design Plan at Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area, the site improvements and gravel parking lot at River East Recreation Area, and the tennis court resurfacing at Silver Lake Recreation Area for a total of \$150,000.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Spence, Remy, Guilmet  
Nays: None*

**b. PD 2020-117 – Revised Fee Schedule for Silver Lake Recreation Area (6:33 p.m.)**

The Commission reviewed and discussed the revised fee schedule.

*Bukowski moved and Remy seconded to recommend APPROVAL of the revised Fee Schedule for Silver Lake Recreation Area to the Township Board as provided in PD Report in 2020-117.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Spence, Remy, Guilmet  
Nays: None*

**7. New Business**

**a. Silver Lake Recreation Area Frontage Landscaping – Discussion (6:36 p.m.)**

Morton reviewed the current situation at Silver Lake Recreation Area. There is an opportunity to utilize trees donated from DTE Energy to improve the berm. Trustee Duell would like to improve appearance of the park. Vitale noted that the Grand Traverse Conservation District is focused on maintaining native vegetation. The Commission generally agreed to having native trees and plantings and the removal of invasive species, but not particularly mowed or manicured.

*Bukowski moved and Remy seconded to recommend that the Board direct the Township staff and Grand Traverse Conservation District staff work together to remove invasive species and plant native trees and plantings at the berm at the Silver Lake Recreation Area.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Spence, Remy, Guilmet*

*Nays: None*

**b. Cameras for Commons Natural Area (7:02 p.m.)**

Morton discussed the issues related to rogue trails and other disruptions at the Commons Natural Area. The use of cameras would help to investigate and deter these disruptions.

*Bukowski moved and Guilmet seconded to recommend the purchase of six cameras for surveillance at the Commons Natural Area.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Spence, Remy, Guilmet*

*Nays: None*

**8. Public Comment:** None

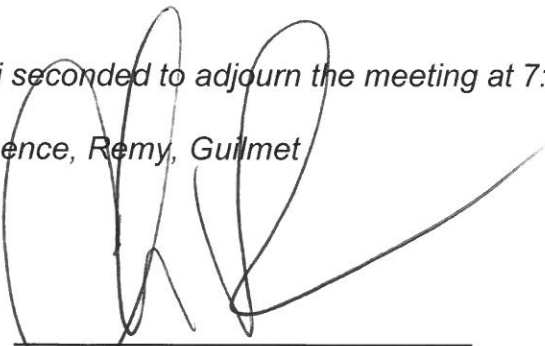
**9. Item for Next Agenda – October 5, 2020**

**10. Adjournment**

*Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Spence, Remy, Guilmet*

*Nays: None*



Chris Remy, Secretary  
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation  
Commission  
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