

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD  
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION  
August 5, 2019**

**Roll Call of Commission Members:**

Present: James Guilmet, William Scott, Denise Schmuckal, Chris DeGood, Fern Spence (6:07) and Valarie Handy

Absent and Excused: Chris Remy

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

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Handy called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
2. **Public Comment**  
None
3. **Review and Approval of the Agenda – Conflicts of Interest**  
Sych asked to add item 6c - Conservation District Report.  
*Schmuckal moved and Scott seconded to approve the agenda as amended.*  
  
*Yeas: Schmuckal, Scott, DeGood, Guilmet, Handy*  
*Nays: None*
4. **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes April 15, 2019**  
*Schmuckal moved and DeGood seconded to adopt the minutes of April 15, 2019 as presented.*  
  
*Yeas: Schmuckal, DeGood, Scott, Guilmet, Handy*  
*Nays: None*
5. **Correspondence**  
County Newsletter Parks and Recreation Newsletter
6. **Reports**
  - a. **Commissioner Reports**  
None
  - b. **Staff Report/Updates**
    - i. **Parks and Recreation Master Plan**  
Hannon reported that the amendment to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is on file with the DNR.
    - ii. **Commons 100**  
Sych reported that meetings were held to discuss the process of removing the deed restrictions from the 100 acres of Commons property. Language is currently being drafted at the state level.

**iii. BVNP (Pickleball Courts, YMCA Lease)**

Sych said that the pickleball courts were opened in early July at the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve and the courts are always full. A new kiosk is up which holds information on reservations and the parks in general. He added that the YMCA is requesting a new 5 year lease because they are investing in some capital improvements.

**iv. Silver Lake Park Project**

Hannon said that the parking lot project is being bid out right now. The priority is the parking lot and the other projects are part of the whole, but may be completed in 2020.

**c. Conservation District Report**

Tom Vitale discussed signage and said that railings have been installed at the Commons and at Miller Creek. There has been some vegetation removal at Kids Creek, and he is looking at an aeration system at Kids Creek. The BVNP is looking good and a trail will connect to the pickleball courts. Commissioners discussed a waste receptacle near pickleball courts.

**7. New Business****a. Conceptual Plan for Expansion of Pickleball Courts**

Hannon showed pictures of the pickleball courts as they stand now. A drawing was drafted for the placement of six more courts. The Traverse Area Pickleball Association proposes to convert the tennis courts to the west to six more pickleball courts and possibly some bleachers. Gary Ford, Board President for TAPA, said that the organization would like to fundraise for the other courts. TAPA will draft something a bit more concrete regarding proposed plans are for the courts.

**b. Proposal for Winter Trail Grooming**

Pete Zirnhelt has trail grooming proposal for the upcoming season. Which would continue grooming trails at Silver Lake recreation Area and also add grooming at the Buffalo Ridge trails and the Kids Creek Trails. Commissioners pointed out that if the cost exceeded \$5,000, the grooming must be bid out. Commissioners also discussed the cost vs. benefit for the trail grooming and how many people used the groomed trail. Trail counters and the importance of their placement was discussed.

*DeGood moved and Schmuckal seconded to table the trail grooming proposal until a budget can be discussed.*

*Yeas: DeGood, Schmuckal, Scott, Guilmet, Spence, Handy*

*Nays: None*

**c. Request for Rental of Athletic Fields at SLRA**

The township recently received requests to rent out the soccer and baseball fields at Silver Lake Recreation area. There is no agreement in place for the rental of athletic fields. The commission could consider one-time reservations, recurring reservations or no reservations. Staff said that the township board is considering reservations for other things and this request may be better considered in conjunction with other rentals and potential fees. Commissioners discussed the reservation process. Staff will draft a document and bring it back for review.

**d. Project Prioritization for 2020 Budget**

Hannon reviewed what projects were funded in 2019 and commissioners talked about the difference between maintenance in a park and a new project as it relates to budget items. Commissioners discussed the water mill at Kids Creek Park and determined that the Township Supervisor should approach the owner of the property which would allow the township to access the water mill. Other items on the list for the 2020 parks budget include capital improvements at the Silver Lake Recreation Area, the River East Recreation Area, trail development and park Amenities.

*After discussion of the lengthy agenda, Schmuckal moved and Guilmet seconded to hold Park Commission meeting every other month.*

*Yeas: Schmuckal, Guilmet, Scott, Spence, DeGood, Handy  
Nays: None*

**8. Public Comment**

Vitale brought up the renewal of the service agreement with the conservation district.

**9. Items for Next Agenda**

**10. Adjournment**

*Handy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm.*



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Chris Remy, Secretary  
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation  
Commission  
3848 Veterans Drive  
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