

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2025**

Roll Call of Commission Members

Present: Art Bukowski (left 6:23), Chris Remy, Denise Schmuckal, William Scott, and Chris DeGood

Absent and Excused: Andy Hoort

Absent: Jessica Brutzman

Staff Present: Parks Steward Sean Kehoe and Deputy Planning Director Steve Hannon

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

Pledge of Allegiance – Recited by all in attendance.

Election of Officers (6:04) – Commissioners discussed who will serve as officers. *Schmuckal moved and Bukowski seconded to nominate DeGood as Chair, Scott as Vice Chair, and Remy as Secretary of the Parks and Recreation Commission for 2025.*

Yeas: Schmuckal, Bukowski, Remy, Scott, DeGood

Nays: None

1. Public Comment (6:06)

None

2. Review and Approval of the Amended Agenda – Conflicts of Interest (6:07)

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

Yeas: Schmuckal, Scott, Bukowski, Remy, DeGood

Nays: None

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2024 (6:08)

Schmuckal moved and Scott seconded to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2024 meeting as presented.

Yeas: Schmuckal, Scott, Bukowski, Remy, DeGood

Nays: None

4. Correspondence (6:08)

None

5. Reports (6:09)**a. Commissioner Reports**

Schmuckal reported that the new Township Manager, Chris Barsheff, is keeping the Township Board informed. DeGood stated that the Planning Commission has a new member after the previous Chair Joe McManus was elected as Township Supervisor.

b. Staff Report/Updates**i. Parks Steward Report (6:10)**

Kehoe submitted his report in writing and presented highlights from the report. The trail is in place at the new Copper Ridge trailhead at Commons Natural Area and paving will take place in the spring. The playground for River East Recreation Area meets the criteria for GameTime (playground supplier) as a National Demonstration Site based on the seven steps of play. GameTime will provide the Township with a sign and QR code for the playground to allow the Township to track its usage. The Boardman-Ottaway River froze over and some flooding was reported around the Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. DeGood asked if there was any damage to the park infrastructure and Kehoe indicated there was not. Replanting of trees along the Buffalo Ridge Trail was nearly completed before snowfall. Kehoe described a piece of equipment that would help Staff carry out trash and other materials from any difficult to reach areas in the parks. Schmuckal indicated any purchases which do not need to be bid should still be reported to the Township Board under the Manager's Report.

ii. Mountain Biking Subcommittee – Update (6:24)

The subcommittee had their meeting immediately before the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on February 3, 2025. Remy and Hannon provided a recap. The mountain bikers expressed an interest in seeing beginner and intermediate level trails in the park to complement the more advanced existing trails. Fundraising can be potentially coordinated with Hickory Hills and efforts to develop mountain bike trails at that park. One subcommittee member also offered to connect Staff to a contact at Munson who may help with efforts to facilitate a new trailhead on North Long Lake Road.

iii. PD 2025-9 – Commons Natural Area Accessible Trail Grant Project – Update (6:34)

Hannon stated that the Township Engineer, Gourdie-Fraser (GFA), is working on the final design for the trail and will prepare the plans, specifications, and bid documents to be reviewed by MDNR. Once reviewed by MDNR, the Township can advertise for bids and seek quotes for trail construction. Hannon indicated that this is a priority project for the Township, and it is anticipated it can be constructed this year.

CPR

6. **New Business**

a. **PD-2025-8 – 2024 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report (6:41)**

Hannon provided an overview of the 2024 annual report documenting the activities of Staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission. The report was received and filed and forwarded to the Township Board, after it was determined no motion was needed.

7. **Public Comment (6:45)**

None

8. **Items for Next Agenda – April 7, 2025 (6:45)**

Items for the next meeting include an update about the Commons Natural Area Accessible Trail grant project and consideration of future projects at the River East Recreation Area such as a potential second pavilion near the playground.

9. **Adjournment**

DeGood adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.



Chris Remy, Secretary
Garfield Township Parks & Recreation
Commission
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