

Meeting Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Parks Committee Special Meeting
Tuesday, May 31, 2022
7:30 AM
5920 Tahoe Dr

ARTICLE 1. Chair Wanty called the meeting to order at 7:34 am.
Members Present: Chair Ginny Wanty, Joe Engel, Mike Reese, Windy Korstange, and Supervisor Grace Lesperance
Members Absent: Matt Douglas (excused)

Others Present: Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Building and Grounds Supervisor Jim MacDonald, Rachel Walsh with Troyer Group, and those listed on the sign in sheet.

ARTICLE 2. Approve the Current Agenda

Motion was made by Member Engel to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.

There was no one who wished to speak.

ARTICLE 4. Review Draft Goals and Objectives Section for Parks Master Plan Update

The committee reviewed the goals for the Parks Master Plan Update. This included eight goals with actionable items. These goals will be a collaborative effort between Township staff, the Board, and the Parks Committee.

Goal 1. Chair Wanty and Member Engel recommended changing 'Ensure' in subpoint A to 'Provide'.

Goal 7. Part of achieving this will be creating content to show residents how their money is being spent and why more money is needed to improve the parks. Chair Wanty recommended adding grant applications to that section. Member Reese suggested securing funding and exploring funding options be part of goal seven as well. The millage would be one of the objectives of this goal.

Goal 5. Member Engel explained that the 'Recreation' portion of the goal is in its infancy and can't begin to grow until there is a Parks Director and those that can staff these programs. Member Reese said that there is a desire to have 'Recreation' programming in the township so it should be included in the goal, even if the township isn't ready to enact it yet. An action item of integrating communication with the township board and its committees through reporting on a quarterly or bi-annual basis will be added to this goal.

Goal 2. Member Engel recommended changing the action items listed in goal two to be more related to objectives such as scheduling review of the park maps on a yearly basis.

Goal 3. Member Reese shared that subpoint B in goal four should be part of goal three so that goal three is focused on pathways and goal four is focused on parks, preservation areas, and open space. Member Engel suggested goal three subpoint B should be to 'Identify and complete' or 'identify and prioritize pathway routes to connect to surrounding communities,' as this may not ever be fully completed. Members Engel and Korstange also recommended removing 'work with Pathways Committee to' from goal three.

Goal 4. There was discussion as to which properties should be acquired, how that is determined, and what the community wants/needs. They will use the template they are currently working on to help alleviate this problem and provide transparency to the public.

Goal 6. This will include working with the DDA and community outreach to determine what the public really wants in a 'village' and meeting space area. It is a long-term undertaking that requires its own goal.

Supervisor Lesperance encouraged the committee to find a way to coordinate volunteers and solicit their time and money. This will reflect positively on the township not only in the eyes of the public but also to outside organizations such as the DNR. Finding a way to include increasing volunteer publicity and capacity at the township level will be added to this goal. This may require more staff at the township or a volunteer coordinator. This could also go through a 'Friends of' organization that works with, rather than through, the township.

Goal 5. Member Engel recommended changing 'Friends of Cascade Parks and Trails' to just 'Friends of Cascade Parks'.

Goal 8. Member Engel also noticed that, in goal eight, subpoint C, it says to 'Hire a programming Director if the need is justified,' and that requires a higher level of reporting so it should be changed to a programming facilitator, coordinator, or uncapitalize the 'd' in 'director' so that 'programming director' is a description rather than a job title.

There will be an update to this plan at the next meeting to take place in June.

ARTICLE 5. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Korstange to adjourn. Supported by Member Engel. Motion carried 5 to 0. The Meeting adjourned at 9:13 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Engel, Secretary