

Parks Committee Minutes

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

8:00 am

5920 Tahoe Dr. SE

ARTICLE 1. Call to Order

Members in attendance: Chair Mike Reese, Vice Chair Eileen Boekestein, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Bill Otten

Absent: Ryan Bruneau (excused), Ken Kaiser (excused), Matt Douglas (excused)

Others Present: Township Manager Jade Smith, Township Engineer Aric Thorne, Planning Administrative Assistant Nick Govan and others listed on the sign-in sheet.

Chair Reese called the meeting to order at 8:00am

ARTICLE 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by member Otten to approve, seconded by Supervisor Lesperance.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 3. Public Comment (5 minutes/individual)

Todd Blosser (6801 Burton Street), inquired about an update for signs at Burton Park to show it is closed after dark. He also voiced that the Burton Cascade entrance's main sign needs to be updated as it is looking old. He mentioned that weeds were growing in drive that needs to be sprayed as well as the drive needs to be repaved to the park.

Molly Webb (6799 Burton Street), voiced the same concerns as Todd. She made mention of a positive note that people are keeping their dogs on leashes more consistently due to signage.

ARTICLE 4. Approval of July 16, 2024 Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Lesperance to approve with the edits to include Matt Douglas under Members Absent, seconded by Vice Chair Boekestein.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 5. Update from Township Manager Smith

Township Manager Jade Smith provided an update on recent staffing changes and park-related issues. He reported that former Parks Director Melanie Manion had left her position, and he would be overseeing the department temporarily until a replacement is found. Addressing Mr. Blosser's earlier concerns, Smith assured that park signage and updates would be addressed to resolve existing issues. He also explained that before ordering new signage, the park ordinance and Township branding needs to be updated to ensure uniformity across all parks. Smith noted that this process requires board approval, which may take some time to complete.

ARTICLE 6. Old Business

a) Burton Parking Lot Plans

Manager Smith reported on the bidding process for the Burton Parking lot project, noting that it's currently under review by the finance committee. He also mentioned that road access is a factor being considered in the repaving plans. Township Engineer Aric Thorne provided additional details, stating that six bids had been received, all coming in below the initial engineering estimates. He indicated that a contractor would be selected soon. When Chair Reese inquired about the project timeline, Aric explained that substantial completion is

expected by winter, with final repairs and remediation work scheduled for May of the following year to address any winter-related issues.

b) Memorial Park Landscape

Manager Smith gave an overview of the project and that he will be working with Kent Garden Club and Harder and Warner about plans and specifics. He mentioned also that he has follow up meetings to straighten out details and timelines.

c) Cascade Rec Park Plan

Chair Reese talked about extending the public input window so that information could be relayed in the Township newsletter to gather more public input.

Member Otten inquired as to when the public input would be closed. Chair Reese mentioned the plan is currently for November, following that a preliminary plan and a public workshop would be held in the fall.

ARTICLE 7. Other Business

Planning Administrative Assistant Nick Govan provided updates on recent events and parks usage. He reported on a successful collaboration with the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomy Association, which hosted a viewing event for both the Perseid Meteor Shower and the Aurora Borealis, attracting approximately 150 attendees. Govan also noted that fall leagues have commenced their activities at Cascade Rec Park.

ARTICLE 8. Adjournment

Member Otten motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30AM, seconded by Supervisor Lesperance.

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30AM