

Minutes

Cascade Charter Township

Parks Committee

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

8:00 am

Skutt Room, Wisner Center

ARTICLE 1. Chair Reese called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.
Members Present: Mike Reese, Eileen Boekestein, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Bill Otten, Matt Douglas, Ken Kaiser
Members Absent: Ryan Bruneau (attended via Zoom)
Others Present: Parks Director Melanie Manion, Building and Grounds Supervisor, and others listed on the sign-in sheet.

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

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

ARTICLE 3. Approval of the February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Member Otten to approve the February 20, 2024 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Member Boekestein arrived at 8:05 am.

ARTICLE 4. Public Comments

Unknown: Attended the meeting to express hesitation regarding the proposed parking lot for Burton Park. He said cutting down trees used as a privacy barrier was concerning.

Janine Heibel (6750 Burton Street) moved onto the street due to the sanctuary feel it gives. She has spent much effort protecting trees and is concerned about preserving high-quality trees.

Molly Webb stated she wants the turnaround to be safe for families that live there, and users of the park have been parking all over, even in her front yard. Webb suggested proper signage would help mitigate reckless individuals.

Robert (6847 Burton) wanted more communication between the township and residents, especially those directly impacted. He felt that adding a second entrance could confuse people.

Ann Marie lived directly across from where the parking lot is proposed. She was concerned with cutting trees down.

Todd lives within the park and wanted to clarify that the road he lives off of is a joint easement between the township and residents who live on the road. He wanted more communication and complained that township employees utilize the maintenance shed during all hours of the night.

Dave Koistra has 6 acres off Burton and agreed with all the points made but was confused as to why the main entrance wasn't put off of Windcrest, especially because Burton Street is a dirt road and has potholes.

Ryan Bruneau stated he was on the original committee positioning to make Burton Park what it is today. He stated the paved drive from Windcrest to the maintenance building was supposed to be torn out, according to the minutes.

ARTICLE 5. Director's Report

Director Manion apologized for the lack of communication. The parking lot has been a topic of discussion since she came to Cascade and noted most constituents utilize the Burton Street parking lot. There have been no decisions made, but research is being completed to assess the best fix for the parking lot.

Director Manion updated the Committee on multiple topics including the Kent Garden Club will be working on Memorial Park to create a historical perennial garden, The Board of Trustees approved three new maintenance vehicles along with transitioning from white to gray vehicles, leash laws are being heavily enforced due to many dogs running around off leash, and AYSO, a soccer team that utilizes Cascade Rec, noticed how horrible the fields are and came up with a new field design.

ARTICLE 6. Old Business

a. Friends of the Cascade Park update

At the last meeting, there was a discussion about starting Friends of Cascade Park to help with education and outreach. There is still an ongoing search for a chairperson.

b. Reservation Policies and fees discussion

Members agreed to review and discuss reservation policies and fees at the next meeting. The current fee schedule poses some issues along with properly noticing when people have reservations.

ARTICLE 7. New Business

c. Review of Rules

Director Manion stated that the parks have varying rules or no rules, and she would like to create one set of cohesive rules that can apply to all parks. The township recently purchased new signage for the parks that will be installed in the upcoming week. Figuring out a specific closing time for all the parks will need to be discussed.

d. Master Plan Review

The public comment period is open for the Master Plan, which has a big emphasis on parks, open space, and trails. Director Manion encouraged everyone to read through this and ask questions.

Supervisor Lesperance said that the sections of the plan about the parks were the easiest since parks already had a newer Master Plan from 2019. The utility line was also adjusted to incorporate roughly 400 homes with water and sewer.

Todd commented that the majority of cars that pass through Burton Park are township maintenance vehicles and stated it was a poor decision to move Buildings and Grounds operations into the middle of a residential park.

ARTICLE 8. Adjournment

Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Boekestein. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Boekestein, Secretary

DRAFT