

Parks and Pathway Committee Minutes

17 June 2025

8:00am

2870 Jacksmith Ave

Article 1. Call to Order

Members in attendance: Chair Mike Reese, Rik Brown, John Driscoll
Sydney Aubert, Dan Zwick, Aric Thorne, Supervisor Grace Lesperance

Members absent:

William Otten, Matthew Douglas, Ken Kaiser, Ryan Bruneau, John Driscoll, Jeff Coffey

Article 2. Approve Current Agenda

The approval of Agenda was motioned by Driscoll and seconded by Chair Reese

Article 3. Public Comment (5-minute limit per individual)

Rissi Mentioned to approve the last pathway meeting minutes in the next meeting. A Cascade resident pressed concern for the cross roads of Buttrick and old 28th she is requesting a new path because it is not safe in its current state, Driscoll states that he agrees with the issue but informs the resident we don't have funding currently but stated that area is biggest growth area in the

Township. Thorne states we will continue maintaining the current paths we have and comments on the Townships 5-year plan for the path ways.

Article 4. Approve the Minutes from the 2/18/2025 Meeting

Supervisor Lesperance motions to approve the minutes from the February 18 2025, Chair Reese seconded the approval.

Article 5. Update from Director Zwick

Zwick states that the department currently has 14 staff members, he says the department is being a lot more efficient in what they do in the parks. His staff is working hard to get the athletic fields back in shape. Zwick also said the department is sweeping the paths and mow three feet along paths, and prune trees.

Article 6. Update from Coordinator Aubert

Coordinator Aubert talked about the success the Township had in their first concert in the parks event, she also talked about additional programming that will be hosted in the parks this upcoming summer such as: Sports clinics, dog training courses, and possible fitness classes.

Article 7. Discuss updating the bylaws and new responsibilities of members

a. Discuss term limits

Chair Reese states the pathway committee has better attendance than parks, Zwick states that combining brings more members together in hopes to make more decisions as a group

Brown states we should ask for interest to all members so that the members know who wishes to still be on the committee. Reese encourages committee members to make it to the meetings if possible

Article 8. Heibel's update on volunteer work throughout the park systems

Chair Reese shared some statistics on the volunteer group out in the Township parks and what they have accomplished so far this summer. (Attachment of the statistics are available in the additional documents section.)

Article 9. Update on the pathway's maintenance replacement plan

Thorne states that the Townships first priority is Laraway Lake and then Burton bike paths according to the draft he received.

Article 10. Trail maintenance

a. Laraway Lake bike path priorities

Thorne stresses that the maintenance for bike paths cost a lot of money, so the Township does its best to keep up but are planning on spending more money to build the bike paths stronger and make the longevity of the paths longer predicts he predicts a 25 year life for the paths.

Supervisor Lesperance states the bike path are the biggest stressor in the Township for complaints and agrees they need to keep up on maintaining the trails as best as possible.

Article 11. Old Business

a. Bridge update on Cascade Road

Thorne states the pedestrian portion of the bridge is done, and now the road commission is out there doing their required work and street lights will also be going up on the bridge at some point.

b. Tassell Park RFQ concept plan

Chair Reese states the concept plan is on the Township website and a request for qualifications is being offered.

Article 12. New Business

- a. New split rail fencing along Burton St.

Zwick states there was a petition for a new split rail fencing along Burton St. and that the residents would be paying for the fence themselves. It was discussed and all present members were in favor of the project

Article 13. Any Other Business

- a. Funding for parks and pathways

Lesperance stated this was discussed previously with the mileage and was discussed in the public comments. The funding for parks and pathways will start over in 2027. The committee discussed the dollar amount and if it will go up or remain the same but no conclusion was received.

Article 14. Adjournment

At 9:22am the meeting was adjourned by Chair Reese; Driscoll seconded the adjournment.