

Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Parks Committee
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
8:00am
5920 Tahoe Dr.

ARTICLE 1. Director Manion called the meeting to order at 8:11 am.
Members Present: Mike Reese, Eileen Boekestein, Matt Douglas, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Ken Kaiser, Ryan Bruneau, Bill Otten
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Parks Director Manion, Manager Jade Smith, Communications Specialist Rich Lakeberg, Volunteer Coordinator Janine Heibel, and others listed on the sign-in sheet.

ARTICLE 2. Approval of the Agenda
Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the current agenda. Supported by Member Boekestein. Motion carried 6 to 0.

ARTICLE 3. Approval of the November 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Motion was made by Member Boekestein to table Article 3 until the February meeting. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Director Manion introduced the new Parks Committee members Ken Kaiser and Ryan Bruneau.

Supervisor Lesperance arrived at 8:17 am.

ARTICLE 4. Public Comment
There was no one wishing to speak.

ARTICLE 5. Director’s Report
Director Manion noted some highlights from the past month. Kent Conservation District received a SOGL (Sustain Our Great Lakes) grant to remove invasive species. As part of our partnership through the West Michigan Conservation Network, they will be working at McGraw Park. Plans for a joint meeting with Ada Township’s Parks and Pathways Committee will be on hold until their new Parks Director settles in.

Director Manion acknowledged Volunteer Coordinator Heibel for the excellent work she is doing. Heibel expressed her enjoyment with all of the community engagement.

Some other notable happenings include the implementation of a maintenance software this year, Kent Conservation District will be assisting the township with a foliar treatment of Asiatic bittersweet, and the completion of Friendship Park will be in June of 2024. Director Manion also mentioned that there were overages regarding the pavilion at Friendship Park and the playground for Wycliffe Trailhead Park has been

ordered. Additionally, the water bars at Peace Park will be reassessed due to indications that they are not functioning properly and may require maintenance.

ARTICLE 6. Old Business

- a) **Master Plan Goals** – Director Manion explained there is a 5-year Parks Master Plan that was created by the Troyer Group. A task list was made that includes various goals such as budgeting, acquisition, public engagement, programs, and training.

ARTICLE 7. New Business

a) **Election of Officers**

Members provided a brief introduction about their professional backgrounds.

Motion was made by Member Kaiser to elect Member Boekestein as Vice Chair and Secretary of the Parks Committee. Supported by Member Douglas. Motion carried 7 to 0.

Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to elect Member Reese as Chair of the Parks Committee. Supported by Member Kaiser. Motion carried 7 to 0.

ARTICLE 8. Other Business

Supervisor Lesperance said the DDA will be reviewing a proposal from a company entailing a development strategy for the lower village area.

ARTICLE 9. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Otten to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Kaiser. Motion carried 7 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 9:39 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Boekestein, Secretary