

7:08 o'clock p.m. Chairperson Patrick called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order. (Zoom Meeting)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Irland , Petrick , Dunham , Wolff , Pirouz ,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Irland , Petrick , Dunham , Wolff , Pirouz ,

ALSO PRESENT: Sharon Wilton, Robert Crawford

VISITORS: None

Motion by Pirouz, supported by Irland, to approve the agenda as printed and posted. Vote, 4/0

Motion by Irland, supported by Wolff, to approve the minutes from 02-15-2021 as printed and posted. Vote, 4 / 0

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: None Present

- *When the Chairperson calls on you, stand and speak your name and address clearly for the record.*
- *Each person will be permitted to speak one time for 3 minutes until everyone has had a chance to speak.*
- *Any comments to be made regarding the public hearing will be heard during the continuation of the public hearing, below.*

Robert Crawford-Township Supervisor provided an update:

- **Dugouts are being completed for the ball fields on State Rd.**
- **Park gates are unlocked**
- **The vacant parcel on Keewahdin has been sold and closing will possibly be by the end of March. Working with Board of Trustees on approval to use proceeds to work on the pathway/ around the Pond**
- **May 13th is the day of service for Keller Williams. Volunteers are available from 9:30AM-noon. Need to determine service projects that they can help with; paint swing-set at North River park, or other beautification.**
- **May 28th we will be placing flags on approximately 600 graves of veterans. Need volunteers.**
- **Grounds crew will be back to work April 1st.**
- **The gate post at the dog park will be replaced. It was damaged a few weeks ago.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS: In order to insure that the comments are recorded as accurately as possible, please follow the format below:

- * *Address the planning commission only. Individual conversations should not be held during the meeting.*
- * *Please stand at the podium; speak your name and address clearly for the record.*
- * *Each person will be permitted to speak one time for 3 minutes until everyone has had a chance to speak.*
- * *The minutes will be transcribed from the recording. Please be respectful of the person speaking. Comments made inaudible on the recording by background sounds such as whispering, clapping or interrupting cannot be made part of the official minutes.*

BOARD DISCUSSION: *NO PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE HEARD AT THIS TIME*****

Correspondence: No correspondance

OLD BUSINESS

-Election of officers- Agreed to postpone to April 19th meeting.

-Budget and project discussion/Projects can be developed based on budget \$\$ or grant opportunities, 2021 project is to add an ADA compliant merry-go-round to the park at Kettlewell pond. **Mike got the quote from Snider. With installation, the total cost is around \$30,000. At this time the commission will look for new opportunities to fit within the budget for new equipment.**

Many ideas were discussed; playground equipment, etc.

A plan should be developed for proposal for the 2022 budget discussions. The commission will develop an overall plan for projects and look at future grant opportunities and sponsorship.

Member Wolff has received quotes for various options and will provide information to the commission members.

.-Reviewed Kids In Parks project. Commission will need to develop budget proposals for future park enhancements. Dunham to contacted Kids in Parks for a presentation to the commission.

Member Dunham-Puckett was not present however she is still working on a date for the Kids in Parks plan. More to follow.

-Further discussion needed on potential projects.

Robert Crawford mentioned the 100 acres on Parker Rd that is ready for future development. Some ideas are a campground, sports park. There should be further discussion on options.

-Follow up to review quote on ADA merry-go-round for Parker Rd. park. Also investigate other quotes/costs on this equipment.

Member Petrick will forward the quote to commission members..

-Others shared parks that have fitness equipment, etc. as options for future consideration.

-Other vendors for playground equipment-Terrabound Solutions, Snider Rec Inc.

-Sharon mentioned a program called Winter Cities that can provide some ideas for special events for the winter months.

This is an idea for future consideration in the winter months. Other activities such as cross country skiing was mentioned.

Crawford indicated that its important to have activities and events with consideration to all four seasons. The updates to the walkway and concrete at the Keewahdin Beach are being worked on and the Blue Ice in the winter can draw visitors to the beach.

-Members suggested ideas for a Spring Vendor event, perhaps in the Parker Rd Park.

Music in the Park or Kid Karaoke were discussed for future summer events.

Member Pirouz asked what would be the process to measure attendance for the township parks and trails.

Crawford stated that one way to measure is to look at the amount of trash collected by DPW. Also the townships Revenue Sharing (State sales tax) did not decrease in 2020. In fact it increased.

Member Wolf and Pirouz would like to see the commission prepare a survey to propose to residents to see what types of activities/projects they would like to see in the parks/trails. Facebook or township website.

It was decided to create a Dropbox or Google Doc depository for the commission members to add ideas and suggestions for the future planning of projects in the Parks/Trails.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Motion by _____ Irland , supported by _____ Wolff _____, to adjourn. Vote, ____ 4/0 _____. Time, _____ 8:25 ____ P.M.

The Charter Township of Fort Gratiot complies with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and if auxilliary aids or services are required at the meeting for individuals with disabilities, please contact Clerk Robert Buechler, 3720 Keewahdin Road, Fort Gratiot, Michigan 48059 (810) 385-4489, three days prior to said meeting.