

MEMBERS PRESENT: IRLAND, MONTGOMERY, NEESE, KEEFE

MEMBERS ABSENT: PETRICK

ALSO PRESENT: DAMIAN POLACK

Motion by _____Keefe_____, seconded by _____Montgomery_____, to approve the Minutes of the REGULAR PARKS COMMISSION of 3/18/2024, (as printed and posted / with corrections). Vote, _____4/0_____.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: * Attendees may speak for three minutes until everyone has had a chance to be heard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by _____Montgomery_____, seconded by _____Ireland_____, to approve the Agenda, (as printed and posted / with corrections). Vote, _____4/0_____.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Email dated 4/2/24 from Rob Crawford: Last week we used the Drain Commission's skid steer with a brush cutting attachment to cut back and reopen the trails on the east side of Parker in the wetland area. The trail had been overgrown to where the north trail was pretty much lost. The Drain Commission has another attachment for the skid steer that will finish grinding up the debris. Currently the grinder is not available because it's on another job. Once we can get the grinder, we will have about another mile of trail to walk.

We also cut down the phragmites we sprayed on the westside of Kettlewell Pond last fall. This opens it up and you can see the water.

Ground Department came back to work yesterday and I opened both gates of Fort Gratiot Pond.

Email dated 4/9/24 from Melissa Kivel: Congratulations, Fort Gratiot Township! You have been chosen as a winner of one of four 2024 Green Guardian Awards by the Blue Water Earth Fair planning committee. Your nominations were carefully reviewed, and the tremendous work you are doing to help protect, restore, and enhance our natural treasures has impressed us all.

You will be formally recognized on stage at Blue Water Earth Fair at noon on either Friday, April 26 or Saturday, April 27 during a special ceremony that honors our local environmental heroes. We have a special plaque to present to you, along with a \$500 financial gift. Think of it as a token of appreciation for all you have done to improve and protect natural areas, such as the Keewahdin Road [sic] shoreline. We also invite you to share a few words at that time, should you agree to do so. No pressure! Please let us know that you received this email and if/when you plan on attending Earth Fair. If you or a representative are unable to attend any of the festival days, we will make other arrangements to deliver your award and gift. All of our 2024 Green Guardians will also be announced to local media partners.

On behalf of the Blue Water Earth Fair committee and all the creatures that call our area home, thank you for all that you have done to make the Earth a greener, healthier place!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Signs for Park Entrances (Pete Ireland): They look great!

Motion by Ireland, seconded by Keefe to purchase installation materials for the new signs at a cost not to exceed \$1500 for the 4-foot signs.

The Charter Township of Fort Gratiot complies with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and if auxiliary aids or services are required at the meeting for individuals with disabilities, please contact Clerk, Robert Buechler, 3720 Keewahdin Road, Fort Gratiot MI 48059, (810)385.4489, three days prior to said meeting.

Roll Call Vote:
Petrick: Absent
Irland: Yes
Montgomery: Yes
Neese: Yes
Keefe: Yes

Motion **PASSES**

Trail Signs (Rob Montgomery): Nothing new. Last quote in the fall for 50 signs was around \$2000.

Dog Park Lights (Michael Petrick): Absent.

Manoomin (Tanya Keefe): Nothing new.

Play Equipment (Tanya Keefe): Brought a handout of playground elements. Looking at a nature theme.

Hedgerow (Connie Neese): Planting trees from seed.

Native Plant Education Center (Connie Neese): Waiting on grants.

Market Area (Michael Petrick): Absent

NEW BUSINESS:

Bench Donation: Jane Angels would like to sponsor a bench and possibly a tree near the old fire department in memory of her son, Jimmy Angels, who was active with Little League.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Bike racks

Standardize bench/tree donations

Green Guardian Award

Motion by _____Montgomery_____, seconded by _____Irland_____, to adjourn. Time, 7:47 o'clock p.m.
Vote, _____4/0_____. **MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**