

MEMBERS PRESENT: PETRICK, IRLAND, MONTGOMERY, NEESE

MEMBERS ABSENT: KEEFE

ALSO PRESENT: DAMIAN POLACK, TOM FRANCIS

Motion by ___Montgomery___, seconded by ___Ireland___, to approve the Minutes of the REGULAR PARKS COMMISSION of 6/17/2024, (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.

Tom Francis - Brought a nice article about Keewahdin Beach to our attention (familydestinationsguide.com/tiny-picturesque-beach-michigan).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by ___Petrick___, seconded by ___Neese___, to approve the Agenda, (as printed and posted / ~~with corrections~~). Vote, ___4/0___.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Signs for Park Entrances (Pete Ireland): The sign near Meijer has been installed. There are 3 more to do immediately, the rest need posts.

Trail Signs (Rob Montgomery): Ongoing work in progress.

Dog Park Lights (Michael Petrick): A few items are still needed for installation.

Play Equipment (Tanya Keefe): Residents have asked about having a playground near a parking lot that is open all year round. Possibly near the dog park.

Market Area (Michael Petrick): No progress.

Bike Racks (Connie Neese & Pete Ireland): They are being built.

Kayak & Game Kiosks (Rob Montgomery): In the fall Montgomery will ask Port Huron how their experience was with the kayak rental this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- **Public requests for portable toilet at Keewahdin Beach.** Space is too limited.
- **Progress on Parks Master Plan Goals and Objectives**
 1. Update playground equipment to be user-friendly for people of all ages and abilities. **In progress**
 2. Add basic amenities to parks i/e water fountains, seating, and trash receptacles. **In progress**
 3. Improve the North River Road Park shoreline by improving fishing amenities and constructing a seawall. **Not working on yet.**

4. Implement Phase II of the Pet Safe Canine Commons, including the addition of water features. **Complete**
5. Develop the Gardendale Marketplace with a farmers' market and park adjacent to the Fort Gratiot Municipal Center. **Researching**
6. Investigate the concept plans for each park. **Ongoing**
7. Work with agencies and local groups to pursue improvements at parks. **Ongoing**
8. Continue to work with the City of Port Huron Recreation Department in providing recreation programming and the Port Huron Area School District in providing recreation facilities. **Ongoing**
9. Establish a working relationship with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) for the purpose of obtaining assistance in the acquisition and development of recreational facilities within the Township. **Ongoing**
10. Coordinate the development of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that serve as a community focal point. **In progress**
11. Install necessary infrastructures, such as sewer, and power along Parker Road for Township parks. **In progress**
12. Acquire additional parkland. **Board of Trustees is responsible for land acquisition, recently acquired property on Parker Rd from Drain Commission.**
13. Explore the potential of future trail connections from the Township trails to neighboring trails. **Township is working with Bridge to Bay on this**
14. Extend the bike path in front of Birchwood Mall and complete the connection to Township recreational facilities, as well as Burtchville Township to the north. **Township is working with MDOT on path from Black River Canal north to The Pointe, and working with Bridge to Bay on connecting with Burtchville.**
15. Improve water access to Lake Huron. **In progress**
16. Maintain the current relationship with Port Huron Area School District regarding the uses of their facilities. With the intention that the facilities will meet neighborhood and community recreation needs. **Ongoing**

Motion by _____Montgomery_____, seconded by _____Neese_____, to adjourn. Time, 7:53 o'clock p.m.
Vote, _____4/0_____. **MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**