

## Minutes

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

**ARTICLE 1.** Chair Reese called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.  
Members Present: Mike Reese, Eileen Boekestein, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Matt Douglas, Ken Kaiser, Ryan Bruneau

Members Absent: Bill Otten

Others Present: Parks Director Melanie Manion, Manager Jade Smith, Planning Director Andrea Hendrick, Communications Specialist Rich Lakeberg, and others listed on the sign-in sheet.

**ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**

**Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to approve the current agenda. Supported by Member Boekestein. Motion carried 6 to 0.**

**ARTICLE 3. Public Comments**

Molly Webb (6799 Burton St) was curious about the rules for parks and the enforcement of those rules.

Jeff Hughs (7250 Red Bud Ln) attended the meeting to seek information on parking at Burton Park. He is a member of Thornapple Covenant Church and suggested contacting them for additional parking needs. He also wanted some type of deer management in the park since they promote the spread of invasive species, among other things. Hughs continued to say the township has a responsibility to take care of its investments.

**ARTICLE 4. Manager's Report**

Manager Smith updated the committee on the village area, which was deemed a high priority to renew. The township engaged an outside firm to create a new concept plan for the entire DDA. Staff and the Township Board have also been working to implement a hotel ordinance to ensure all 16 hotels in Cascade are licensed. Additionally, the park millage has been a continued discussion between Staff members.

**ARTICLE 5. Director's Report**

Director Manion went to the West Michigan Trails Annual Summit and discovered that stretches of pathways in Cascade are noted as a high priority for the Grand River Greenway. Cascade Rec Park will be having updates to the playground and Wycliffe's playground has begun construction.

**ARTICLE 6. New Business**

**a. Cascade Recreation Park Renovation Proposal Discussion**

Chair Reese excused himself due to conflict of interest as one of the companies that submitted a proposal.

Member Boekestein stated they received three bids from companies regarding the renovations at Cascade Rec Park. The proposals came from Troyer Group/Native Edge, McKenna, and MCSA. Based on the scoring and review, the majority were leaning toward Troyer Group/Native Edge.

Member Bruneau felt that MCSA was more experienced with recreation and sports.

Supervisor Lesperance said that Troyer Group was extremely thorough with their proposals. Member Boekestein agreed and appreciated Troyer Group's budget explanation.

**Motion was made by Member Kaiser to select Troyer Group/Native Edge as the contractors for Cascade Rec Park Renovations. Supported by Member Douglas. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

Chair Reese reentered the meeting.

**ARTICLE 7. Old Business**

**a) Cascade Township Master Plan**

Planning Director Hendrick explained that the Master Plan and Future Land Use Map are documents being used as guidance. The dark and light green areas on the map are parks and open space areas. She wanted to ensure the committee was informed about the future use of specific areas in Cascade Township.

Chair Reese commented that the bike and pathway objective should include information on the connection to neighboring municipalities.

Planning Director Hendrick also noted that the Planning Commission is working to update the zoning ordinance and create more lighting to promote safety, among other things.

**b) Rules discussion**

Director Manion said there was a different set of rules for each park, and she wanted one set of rules for parks and open spaces. She has created a draft of rules for the committee to review. Open spaces will have a subset of rules since the usage is different compared to recreational parks. There will be consideration of adjusting park hours to avoid confusion with the current closing time at dusk.

Member Bruneau questioned why certain activities were not permitted at open space parks with trails. Director Manion clarified that this is not a new rule and, for example, Peace Park is passive recreation whereas Cascade Park is active recreation.

**ARTICLE 8. Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**ARTICLE 9. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Member Kaiser. Supported by Member Bruneau. Motion carried 6 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.**

DRAFT