

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 21, 2023  
5:15 PM**

Members present: Paul Trumble, Sheryl Guy, George Schneller, Dean Crandall and Christina Kretschmer.

Absent none.

Also, present Deana Jerdee.

The Chair Guy called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE:**

Trumble reported that Corey Arsnoe has reported that all site are ready for the 2023 season and irrigation is up and running at the FHT Cottage Drive Park. Closed at 5:24 p.m.

**AGENDA:**

Moved by Trumble and seconded by Crandall that the commission approve the June 21, 2023 agenda as corrected. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

**MINUTES:**

Moved by Trumble, and seconded by Schneller, that the commission approve the meeting minutes of May 17, 2023 as presented. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

**Deana Jerdee, Director Chain O'Lakes Water Trail – Update.**

2022 Recap of the water trails providing over 100 miles for paddlers to explore.

- Held 29 on water events and classes. Which connected 340 paddlers to the water trail.
- 1,500 Water Trail maps distributed (digital and waterproof).
- 7,682 people visited the website.
- 385 new individuals subscribed to newsletter (23%) increase.
- 462 new followers on Facebook (15% increase).
- 137 new followers on Instagram (10% increase).
- 41 volunteers, devoted 230 hours monitoring and maintaining access sites and 84 signs.
- Projection goals looks to be the same in 2023 as was in 2022 or better.

Discussion followed.

Elk Rapids Rotary Park – Improvement Project for 2024.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2023-2027 FHT Parks & Recreation Plan:** Survey Update: George Schneller

That he had worked on the second draft of the survey with Williams and Works.

Sent draft revised to all members, seeking input or suggestions.

All members are in the agreement that the survey needs no changes or revisions.

Schneller noted the survey titled: Improving Parks and Recreation in Forest Home Township, and the plan is to mail postcards with the July Township Tax bills. The postcard will direct our taxpayers to the [surveymonkey.com/r/Forest Home Recreation Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Forest-Home-Recreation-Survey). Discussion followed.

**Gorham Beach Project – Crandall**

Crandall met with the representatives from the DNR and explained commissions draft for Phase 1 and the DNR suggested that he seek input from local and surrounding property owners to obtain their thoughts and opinions on proposed plans for improvements. Crandall to report responses and input from property owners at the next regular meeting.

Discussion followed.

**Arrowhead Park – Guy**

Reported new mulch on pathway and public is using park.

**FHT Cottage Drive Pak – Trumble & Crandall**

Reporting that the Polarmo Family has moved the pine trees to the inside of their fence. The park is very busy and no problems reported.

**FHT-Torch Lake Family Park/Carry-In Boat Launch – All**

Guy reported that the park is busy, no problems reported and site is inviting with fresh mulch along walkways, and picnic tables etc.

**Pinnel Road Ending- All**

Very busy site and no problems reported.

**Loon Preserve – All**

Very busy site and no problems reported.

**The Meadows – All**

- Crandall reported that he continues to move dead pine trees to a burn pile and sprays invasive species plants.
- Paving entrance/road to soccer park fields and township property parking lot.
- Possible Village paving swap.
  - The township paving a village road and the village to maintain entrance to the Meadows/Soccer Fields.

Discussion followed.

- Members continue to consider commission’s first steps for the Meadows.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business

**OTHER:**

Next regular meeting date July 19, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.

No various matters.

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Guy  
Chairperson

