

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
5:15 PM**

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

Absent none.

Also, present. FHT Supervisor, Terry Smith, Tanya DeOliveira and Maleah Rakestraw.

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE:

Trumble provided a verbal report for Corey Arsnoe on the maintenance status of the township parks and road endings. Corey replaced rotten steps, pulled back rocks to the water's edge at Green Street and shut down the irrigation at FHT Cottage Drive Park.

Public Comment closed at 5:22 p.m.

AGENDA:

Moved by Trumble, and seconded by Crandall, that the commission approve the September 20, 2023 agenda as presented. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

MINUTES:

Moved by Crandall, and seconded by Kretschmer, that the commission approve the meeting minutes of August 16, 2023 as presented. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

FOREST HOME TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION PLAN 2023-2027

Tanya DeOliveira and Maleah Rakestraw from Williams and Works addressed the commission with a draft of the FHT Park & Recreation Plan five-year plan and the Community Survey and report of survey:

FHT Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan 2023-2027: MALEAH RAKESTRAW:

THE MEADOWS project draft:

Commission review:

Phase 0 Ongoing Management: Mixed forest and Wetlands

Phase 1 Natural Area & Trails

Phase 2 Play: Playground/Picnic Pavilion& Restroom, Pickle ball, Tennis Court (if future needs exist) and Parking.

Phase 3 Gathering: Community Center, Twp. Hall (if future need exists), Pavilion and Picnic Area, Greenspace for Gathering, Paved Walking Path, and Parking.

Review and Discussion: Samples provided for the members to get an idea of park vision and sample cost attached to each item.

- Sample layout of trails
- Sample of constructed pavilions
- Sample playground equipment
- Sample of developed park layout
- Sample restroom facilities

Discussion on member thoughts and opinions for the beginning steps:

- Gravel parking lot with 20 spaces
- Pavilion
- Porta potty
- Play system
- Signage
- Cost for utility extension to site

Village of Bellaire Richardi Park Plan – Commission to review:

- Prevent duplications of attractions
- Collaboration so that the plans do not compete with each other

Cost for utility extension to site

FHT Parks & Recreation Plan: GOALS/OBJECTIVES: Tanya DeOliveira:

Forest Home Parks & Recreation Plan Goals and Objectives Worksheet:

Goals/Policies/Strategies: Draft

Review and Discussion: Action Plan

Goals A., B., C., D., and E. Members addressed each goal. To keep/to combine or to remove, and change verbiage as needed.

Goal A. #2 change ~~needs and abilities~~ to needs of community and at the end of sentence add encourage, volunteers and assistance; and combine #2 and #3.

Goal D. Add Walking and Running. #3. Explore opportunities for trails along ridgelines or other scenic areas or overlooks. Does not apply.

Goal D. #6 Traverse Area Recreational Trails (TART) has changed the trails name.

PROJECTS:

- FHT Family Park: add Annual Maintenance as needed
- Gorham Beach Park: add Phase 1
- General Projects ongoing: add The Meadows parking lot
add Annual announcement that parks and Road ending are open for the season.
- Trails: add Maintenance to promote EMS access to two track trails.

SURVEY: Community Engagement Report for the Parks & Recreation Plan: Tanya DeOliveira:

- 112 Participants
- Review public input and suggestions.

Next Steps:

- Continue to work with George, as he has been very helpful for the history of all sites and parks.
- Revise draft: Will send drafts to George and he will provide to members.
- Review Chapters as they become available
- October 18, 2023 meeting plan to have final draft proposal for the commission to review and if agreed on will act to recommend to the FHT Board for approval.
- Public Notice that the Plan is available for public for a period of 30 days. Public input by written comments on the Plan and commission members will review and consider as they determine appropriate.
- December 2023 the FHT Board to review and adopt plan

Discussion followed.

The Chair will call a special meeting if the timeframe becomes too tight due to the 30-day review period. To assure that the final draft Plan has no changes and that the commission makes a recommendation to the FHT Board take action on Plan prior to 2024 as the Township will not meet in the months of January or February 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

OTHER:

Next regular meeting date October 18, 2023 at 5:15 p.m.

No various matters.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Guy
Chairperson

DRAFT