

**Charter Township of Comstock
Parks & Recreation Commission**
Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Judy Joling, Linda Law, Sharon Spears, John Weir, Teresa Young
Staff Present: Vanessa Street, Parks Director, and Rachel Hopkins, Parks Coordinator
Citizens in attendance: 3

Call to Order by Chairperson, Linda Law

1. Review of the Minutes from May 14, 2018:

Motion by Spears/support from Joling to accept Minutes as presented.

Motion to approve Minutes: 5 Yes/ 0 No

2. Bills Payable:

Motion by Weir/support from Spears to approve Bills payable as presented.

Motion to approve Bills Payable: 5 Yes/0 No

3. Correspondence: Correspondence was received by Commissioner Spears from Helen Hayes of the Fleetwood Park neighborhood indicating support for a Fleetwood Park drinking fountain as well as the notion of installing other amenities. It is noted that a Fleetwood neighborhood picnic is planned for August.

4. Citizen's Comments: Pat Haring (555 Moline St., Kalamazoo) shared information that pond weeds, such as those present in Cooper Pond, can be trimmed using a "Weedgator". She will provide a website link to Parks Director Street showing its operation for consideration.

5. Request for Agenda Adjustments: None

6. Reports:

a. Parks Director: Provided to Commissioners in Board packets.

A special Thank You! was extended to parks Coordinator Hopkins for the nice job hosting/organizing the recent "Build and Bird House Workshop" at Robert Morris Park.

b. Treasurer: Report provided in packets.

Commissioner Weir noted he is still waiting for budget numbers on spreadsheets, delayed due to an apparent software programmer backlog, and requested that we use last year's numbers as approximations. Parks Director Street will work on preparing these approximations.

c. Commission Chair: Commissioner Law shared the following:

- A Day of Remembrance for Fire Chief Edward Switalski is being held June 14 at 4:30 P.M.
- Questions regarding how to ratify/approve budget items after the fact were addressed by the township attorney but still need clarification. Commissioner Law will check the proper wording needed in such cases. Commissioners may establish that expenditures under a certain amount can be approved by the Parks Director, and require that specific expenditures be listed in the Director's Report each month.
- Midlink/Rob Britigan is still interested in Green Meadow Park. Commissioner Law and Parks Director Street along with others met with Mr. Britigan to discuss proposals, including use of a small elementary school property. Proposals thus far are not considered suitable.

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Motion by Joling/support from Weir stating that the Comstock Parks & Recreation Commission is not interested in proceeding further unless a concrete offer to relocate Green Meadow Park (retaining its area location, size and all of its several amenities and without incurring cost to taxpayers) is received for consideration.

Motion to approve statement: 5 Yes/ 0 No.

7. Business:

a. RMP Fishing Pier – DEQ Application Comments & Discussion

Commissioner Law reported that letters from lake owners were received by the DEQ regarding the RMP Fishing Pier/Deck permit application. Objections regarding the Deck consistently concerned its long length, and that a shorter pier (by 15-20') would be more acceptable. The DEQ has indicated to Parks Director Street that the DEQ would pass the permit as submitted, including a shorter length of ~55 feet if desired (revising the current permit application without any additional application cost).

Commissioner Young suggested that since the next meeting will be held at Robert Morris Park, a notice for citizens be posted so as to provide an opportunity to see the final proposal/revision, as requested at last year's meeting. Commissioner Weir suggested that buoys be placed in the water at distances proposed for the pier/deck to provide visual perspective of the plans. Commissioner Law will facilitate putting the notice on the website and arranging for buoys/markers for the next meeting.

b. Wenke Playground Cover Discussion

Parks Commissioners Law and Joling, Parks Director Street, Trustee Dave Camburn, Supervisor Randy Thompson, Superintendent Scott Hess, Kalamazoo County Parks Director David Rachowicz and Insurance Representative Patricia Kelly met at the Wenke Softball Complex recently to discuss the request for a protective cover for the play area and to discuss liability issues. The constraint for any cover remedy is that it must be approved/meet regulatory requirements in terms of its design and installation by a certified playground installer.

Parks Director Street shared information with Commissioners about cover system options from a certified installer. Commissioner Law also advised that another approach is to remove and/or relocate the play area, although a better location in the park was not determined.

Commissioners Law and Young will assist Parks Director Street in widening the search for certified playground vendors and obtain play area cover proposals/quotes.

c. Park Visits – Green Meadow, Fleetwood, Wenke Softball Complex

Commissioners reported good conditions at Green Meadow Park (although one downed soccer net was noted), and Wenke Softball Complex. Play structure platforms need repainting at Fleetwood Park. A low level of playground sand was also noticed. Walkway cracks were noted. Questions about the confusing parking signs arose. Commissioner Spears suggested a handicap-swing would be a good addition.

8. Announcements: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. The next meeting will take place on July 9 at 6:30 P.M. at Robert Morris Park, with meeting to follow at 7:00 P.M. at the Robert Morris Park Pavilion. Commissioners are requested to visit McLinden Nature Trails on their own before the July 9 meeting. Respectfully submitted, Teresa Young, Secretary