

**Charter Township of Comstock
Parks & Recreation Commission**
Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Judy Joling, Linda Law, Sharon Spears, Teresa Young
Commissioner Absent: John Weir
Staff Present: Vanessa Street, Parks Director and Rachel Hopkins, Parks Coordinator
Citizens in attendance: 7

Call to Order by Chairperson, Linda Law

1. Review of the Minutes from June 11, 2018

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

Motion to approve Minutes: 4 Yes/ 0 No

2. Bills Payable

Motion by Joling/support from Spears to approve Bills Payable as presented.

Motion to approve Bills Payable: 4 Yes/0 No

3. Correspondence: None

4. Citizen's Comments:

- Julie Vanderweele (8199 East H Ave.) voiced support for a RMP fishing pier as a positive addition to the park
- Bert Greg (3853 N. 33rd St.) voiced support for a RMP fishing pier especially for handicapped groups
- Michelle Mohney (2895 Casper), Township Clerk, voiced support for a RMP fishing pier and shared an email from her disabled spouse expressing support and noted its benefit for grandchildren. She also noted it was supported on a survey and noted such a pier at Fort Custer was fine with boat traffic.
- Travis Law (8225 East H. Ave.) noted that the fishing pier would be a nice feature, especially off to the side of the swimming area.
- Brian Young (8116 Waterwood Dr.) voiced concern about the inaccuracy of the DEQ/and Prein & Newhoff's site map distance numbers related to the stated location placement of the pier and its length. He voiced concern with folks diving off the pier if in deeper water, and suggested that having a 3-4' water depth at platform edges would be best.

5. Request for Agenda Adjustments: None

6. Reports:

- a. Parks Director:** Provided to Commissioners in Board packets. Parks Director Street noted the June 19, 2018 sample spike in e.coli levels at RMP, followed by passing daily test results thereafter.
- b. Treasurer:** Report provided in packets . Commissioner Law noted that the Commission Treasurer Weir was not present however reported that the 2018 budget numbers are coming soon from the Township Treasurer.
- c. Commission Chair:** Commissioner Law noted that the Commission must resubmit some Capital Improvement Project applications, including those for repaving the park road and parking lot.

7. Business:

a. RMP Fishing Pier

Commissioner Law reported that the DEQ received citizen's input. Regarding negative concerns, the DEQ gave Parks Director Street the option to discuss further or issue the permit. A 30 day extension was requested. A major concern was the distance of the pier/its protrusion into deep water.

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Parks Director Street placed stake markers into the water at RMP marking the pier location/start, length and platform extended length. Distances were also marked along the grass to aid perspective. During discussion it was noted by a citizen that the provided map/drawing (Prein & Newhof (March 2018)) showed a different start location/start point than that marked/staked. The map shows it is located/starts farther away to the east of the marked/staked location approximately 17 paces (which corresponds to approximately 51 feet), which would result in the pier extending into deeper water due to the shoreline contour difference. Another citizen wondered about water/lake height changes. It was noted that the west-most swimming buoy is 110 feet from the shore.

The intended location of the pier is as physically marked/staked for today's meeting at RMP.

Motion by Joling/support from Spears to proceed with securing the DEQ permit pending revision of the Prein & Newhoff map/drawing so that the pier is placed as intended at today's meeting (July 9, 2018), approximately 17 paces west of the Prein & Newhof (March 2018) drawing location.

Motion to approve proceeding securing permit pending revision of location specification (map/drawing): 4 Yes/ 0 No

b. Cooper Pond Lily Pads

Commissioners discussed the 'weedgator' and chemical treatment options to control lily pad growth and the associated costs. It was not clear to what extent shoreline residents or the parks are responsible for the aesthetic lily /clearance upkeep of the pond, nor effects of chemical treatments downstream. It was decided to table any action at this time.

Motion by Joling/support from Young to table any action at this time.
Motion to approve no action at this time: 4 Yes/0 No

c. Wenke Softball Complex Playground Covering

Commissioners discussed leaving the structure as is, the cost of making changes that may stop foul balls from entering the play area, and eliminating the risk altogether by removing the play structure. Commissioners were divided on which approach to take. Several citizens in attendance noted ball field goers seem to enjoy having the play structure at the ball fields. Discussion will continue with no action taken at this time.

d. Park Visits – McLinden Nature Trails & Robert Morris Park

McLinden Nature Trails looked good, but some graffiti was noted east of the parking area. Parks Coordinator Hopkins noted that there are daily hikers who are quick to notify the Parks & Rec Commission group of any problems.

Commissioners noticed how nice and clean Robert Morris Park looked, and offered a Good Job-Thank You! to the park staff.

8. Announcements: Commissioner Spears announced that Fleetwood park Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 14, at 1-3 P.M. There will be games, snacks, and crafts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. (Commissioners please visit Celery Street Park, Cooper Park, Peer Park, Neal Street Ball Diamonds, and North & South Wenke Parks before the meeting on your own). No visit to Merrill due to construction.
Respectfully submitted, Teresa Young, Secretary