

**Charter Township of Comstock
Parks & Recreation Commission**
Meeting Minutes of May 14, 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: 4

Call to Order by Chairperson, Linda Law

1. Review of the Minutes from April 9, 2018

Motion by Spears/support from Weir to approve Minutes with minor corrections to comments in section 6.a. bullet points, and spelling correction on 6.c.

Motion to approve Minutes: 5 Yes/ 0 No

2. Bills Payable:

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

Motion to approve Bills Payable: 5 Yes/0 No

3. Correspondence: An email from Dave Camburn to Parks Comstock (Vanessa Street) was received regarding a "dangerous situation at Wenke Softball Complex"; specifically, foul balls nearly striking children in the play area between the ball fields. Mr. Camburn spoke to the Commissioners about the hazard, having witnessed a close-call at the Wenke Complex, and recently learning of a serious injury to a child hit at another ball park. He suggested the Commission consider a play area net-cover remedy that he had researched.

Commissioner Weir also shared a close-call experience. Mr. Camburn requested that the Parks Department do something to remedy this risk situation.

Parks Director Street shared a Risk Improvement assessment email regarding a previous risk assessment of the area which concluded that if people are in the park, then they have accepted the risk of being struck by a ball.

Commissioner Young noted that citizens expect that safety is given due consideration at children's play areas, and given the two (and maybe other) incidents, the Commission needs to respond with a remedy. Commissioner Weir noted that any response should be timely, as the softball season is in full-swing now. He suggested a dollar limit should be set and approved so that action can be taken soon.

Motion by Spears/support from Young for Parks Director Vanessa Street to pursue and install a cover (at a cost up to \$2000) to improve safety at the play area at Wenke Softball Complex.

Motion to approve remedy as determined by the Parks Director (up to \$2000); 5 Yes/0 No.

4. Citizen's Comments: None

5. Request for Agenda Adjustments: None

6. Reports:

a. Parks Director: Provided to Commissioners in Board packets

b. Treasurer: Report provided in packets. Commissioner Weir noted he is still awaiting budget numbers to be provided by the Township/Treasurer.

c. Commission Chair: Commissioner Law shared that Midlink has inquired about Green Meadow Park options.

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7. Business:

a. Merrill Park Improvement Plans

Parks Director Street shared a schematic of park improvement plans with Commissioners (see Director's report). Note that the new bathroom building will be located across from the current structure on the park green grounds.

b. Merrill Park Bathroom Demo

Parks Director Street indicated that the demolition cost of the existing bathroom could be up to \$5500 plus \$500 for asbestos testing. Commissioner Weir would like to request that the Township Board match the demolition cost with the Parks Commission.

Motion by Weir/support from Spears to request that the Comstock Township Board match the Merrill Park bathroom demolition cost (up to \$3000).

Motion to approve request: 5 Yes/ 0 No

c. Fleetwood Park Drinking Fountain

Consideration of the purchase of a new drinking fountain for Fleetwood Park was discussed by Commissioners, but questions arose as to its need. The question will be raised with neighborhood citizens during their next Park Day.

Motion by Weir/support from Joling to table consideration of a drinking fountain purchase for Fleetwood Park pending input from neighborhood citizens at Fleetwood Park Day.

Motion to approve tabling purchase consideration: 5 Yes/ 0 No

d. Park Visits (Jan Schau Wildflower Walk, River Villa Preserve, and the community garden)

Commissioners reported that path mowing was needed and some trees were down along the walk and preserve, and that only two garden plots were started as of today's meeting (though planting season is just starting).

e. Lillies at Cooper Pond

Options for reducing the amount of lilies growing in Cooper Pond were described in an email from Sara Thoma of the Michigan DEQ to Parks Director Street, including chemical treatment. Commissioner Weir would like to obtain information from a licensed chemical application company about what they recommend and the cost of treatment.

Motion by Weir/support from Spears to obtain a recommendation and cost estimate for chemical treatment at Cooper Pond from a licensed applicator, for consideration by the Commission.

Motion to pursue recommendation/bid: 5 Yes/0 No

8. Announcements: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M. Commissioners should gather on Monday June 11 at 6:30 P.M. at the Wenke Softball Complex, with the meeting to follow at 7:00 P.M. at the Wenke Softball Complex Pavilion. Commissioners should visit Fleetwood Park and Green Meadow Park on their own time before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Teresa Young, Secretary