

Minutes
Cascade Charter Township
Parks Committee
Tuesday, November 21, 2023
8:00 a.m.
5920 Tahoe Drive

ARTICLE 1. Vice Chair Engel called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.
Members Present: Vice Chair Joe Engel, Ginny Wanty, Mike Reese, Matt Douglas, Bill Otten, Eileen Boekestein, Supervisor Grace Lesperance
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Parks Director Melanie Manion, Volunteer Coordinator Janine Heibel, and others listed on the sign-in sheet.

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

There was a Closed Session added to the Agenda after Article 7.

Motion was made by Member Otten to approve the current agenda with an amendment to include a closed session after Article 7. Supported by Member Wanty. Motion carried 6 to 0.

ARTICLE 3. Approve the Minutes of the October 17, 2023 Meeting

Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the October 17, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Otten. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Member Boekestein arrived at 8:06 a.m.

ARTICLE 4. Public Comment

Ken Vanderkolk Stated that the trails at Wycliffe Trailhead Park were covered in thick leaves, making it difficult to distinguish the path.

ARTICLE 5. Director's Report

Director Manion noted there is bittersweet at Burton Park carpeting the ground but nothing going up the trees, Cascade Rec Park will get a new roof for the pavilion and gazebo, and construction has begun at Friendship Park with the removal of black locust trees and other landscaping.

Director Manion expressed gratitude to Janine Heibel, the volunteer coordinator, for her significant contribution in managing volunteers at the parks.

The Kent Garden Club will potentially be designing, implementing, funding, and maintaining a project at Memorial Park.

A new maintenance software for the Buildings and Grounds crew will be implemented in January.

There will be a new policy for private property along paths mowed by the township.

The Parks milage is temporarily on hold, but the general fund will fund the department next year until 2025.

Tuffy ownership will be transferred back over to Cascade Township and will be torn down next year.

ARTICLE 6. Old Business

a) Wycliffe Trailhead Park Update

Director Manion suggested constructing a cost-effective and nice-looking vault toilet for the park. She presented options for different types of toilets ranging from \$20,000-\$120,000.

Joshua Erdman, a representative of Kompan, attended the meeting virtually to give a brief presentation on playground concepts for Wycliffe Trailhead Park. He presented two playground areas for different age groups totaling roughly \$100,000. Construction could begin within 12-14 weeks.

b) Master Plan Goals

Motion was made by Member Otten to table this discussion until the next meeting. Supported by Member Douglas. Motion carried 7 to 0.

ARTICLE 7. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Motion was made by Member Boekestein to move into closed session. Supported by Member Otten. Motion carried 7 to 0.

Motion was made by Member Reese to move out of the closed session. Supported by Member Boekestein. Motion carried 7 to 0.

ARTICLE 8. Other Business

Vice Chair Engel informed the committee that this would be Chair Wanty's last meeting. Members expressed their appreciation for the positive impact she has made within the community.

ARTICLE 9. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Reese to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Otten. Motion carried 7 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Engel, Secretary