

Minutes
Cascade Charter Township
Parks Committee
Tuesday, July 18, 2023
8:00 A.M.
5920 Tahoe Dr SE

ARTICLE 1. Chair Wanty called the meeting to order at 8:04 A.M.
Members Present: Chair Ginny Wanty, Mike Reese, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Joe Engel, Matt Douglas, Bill Otten
Members Absent: Eileen Boekestein
Others Present: Parks Director Melanie Manion, Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Interim Township Manager Ted Andrzejewski, and others listed on the sign-in sheet.

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

Parks Director Manion wanted the agenda amended to include a closed session at the end of the meeting.

Motion was made by Member Engel to approve the agenda with amendments including a closed session and to change “special meeting” to “regular meeting”. Supported by Member Douglas. Motion carried 6 to 0.

ARTICLE 3. Approval of the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting and June 13, 2023 Special Committee Meeting

Member Otten made a correction to Article 5 changing “Rogue River Water Council” to “Rogue River Watershed Partners”.

Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to approve the June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes with the proposed change. Supported by Member Engel. Motion carried 6 to 0.

Motion was made by Member Engel to approve the June 13, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes as written. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 6 to 0.

There was a correction to the May 16, 2023 meeting minutes in Article 4 to replace the third sentence with “Heibel observed inconsistencies between the Township's rules and ordinances regarding bikers being permitted exclusively on paved surfaces. She recommended installing signs at the park and clarifying on the Township website to indicate this restriction.”

ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items

There was no one that wished to speak.

ARTICLE 5. Introduction of new Interim Township Manager, Ted Andrzejewski

Interim Manager Andrzejewski was not in attendance for this portion of the meeting.

ARTICLE 6. Wycliffe Trailhead Park updates & next steps-Mike Reese, Committee Member

Member Reese presented the committee with the final concept of Wycliffe Trailhead Park which consisted of trails, natural play areas, wooded areas, a small restroom building, and shared parking with the church. For safety, a perimeter fence will also be between the trail and Cascade Road.

Interim Manager Andrzejewski arrived at 8:14 A.M.

The Township Engineer has been evaluating the park to figure out a solution for draining issues. Further coordination will need to take place to ensure the concept plans don't interfere with drainage plans.

Parks Director Manion suggested having B&G staff build the fence. She also wanted to have an official park sign to help people locate the park.

Chair Wanty expressed a desire to collaborate with the Historical Society in order to produce a sign that would detail the property's history.

There was debate on whether a bathroom was necessary and some alternatives discussed included a portable restroom, pit toilet or not incorporating a restroom.

ARTICLE 7. Millage Update, Mike Reese and Melanie Manion

Formerly Article 8.

Member Reese said they had a recent meeting with Sabo PR to discuss millage details. Establishing a clear message and figuring out what specifically will be funded through this millage is crucial prior to elections. There is still a need to solidify an election date prior to campaigning and educating residents.

Interim Manager Andrzejewski suggested delaying the proposal of the mileage until the parks are all well-maintained. This would ensure that residents see visible changes and are more likely to support the millage.

Cascade Township's Communications Specialist will be working with Sabo PR to create a scope of services regarding the development of educational materials for the millage. Supervisor Lesperance would like to wait until September before approving any contract with Sabo PR, as the township will have a new manager then.

ARTICLE 8. Park Director Report, Melanie Manion, Parks and Recreation Director

Formerly Article 7.

Parks Director Manion informed the committee that Supervisor Jim McDonald is no longer working for the township and there is a new job posted for his former position.

She also attended Ada Township's Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Committee meeting. They are working on a wayfinding signage project and thought Cascade should consider completing a similar project.

Some park updates included a small remnant prairie field found at Burton Park, Cascade Park had undergone some septic work and the park pavilion getting reroofed, and the DTE tree grant trees had been ordered. Tassell Park underwent some maintenance by painting park benches, power washing, gardening, and adding new signs.

Member Douglas left the meeting at 9:30 A.M.

Peace Park has a workday scheduled on August 10 and the B&G crew is going to begin the evaluation and construction of the water bars to help with erosion.

ARTICLE 9. Thornapple River Clean-up

Chair Wanty said the Thornapple River Clean up is on September 16.

ARTICLE 10. Park Chair Announcements – Ginny Wanty, Parks Committee Chair

Chair Wanty announced that there will be discussions about the budget during the August meeting. She also expressed the need for more defined donation policies, especially for park benches.

ARTICLE 11. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

ARTICLE 12. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

ARTICLE 13. Closed Session

Motion was made by Member Engel to begin the closed session. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to end the closed session. Supported by Member Engel. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ARTICLE 14. Adjournment

Formerly Article 13.

Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Engel, Secretary