

Minutes

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

ARTICLE 1. Chair Wanty called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.
Members Present: Chair Ginny Wanty, Mike Reese, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Joe Engel, Matt Douglas
Members Absent: Eileen Boekestein
Others Present: Planning Director Hilbrands, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Jim MacDonald and others listed on the sign-in sheet.

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda
Motion was made by Member Engel to approve the current agenda. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ARTICLE 3. Approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023, Regular Meeting.
Member Engel noticed an error in the last paragraph of Article 5 where there should be a period after “grants” and to take out the word “an”.
Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the March 21 meeting minutes with the proposed change. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.
John Giddens, neighbor to the Wycliffe property, attended to hear of any development updates to the property.

ARTICLE 5. Library Outdoor Gathering Space
Library Manager Lulu Brown was not yet present, so this item was moved down the agenda until her arrival.

ARTICLE 6. Update on Millage Campaign
Member Reese presented an update and said they had concluded the amount and formulated the language to input onto the ballot. After the Parks Director has started the subcommittee will meet with her to review the language and budget numbers.

ARTICLE 5. Library Outdoor Gathering Space
Library Manager Lulu Brown gave an update on the outdoor gathering space details. Phase 1 has been approved by the Township Board and will be funded by the Friends group.
The landscaper with Native Edge has discovered invasive plant species at the site. Chair Wanty mentioned that Cascade Township has a contract with Kent Conservation District

Strike team for invasive treatments. Chair Wanty will connect Native Edge with KCD to create a plan to eradicate invasive plant species at the site of the Outdoor Gathering space.

Library Manager Brown advised that due to rising construction costs she is going to the DDA meeting to discuss additional funding options as well as the possibility of DDA funding the remaining phases. Library Manager Brown looks forward to having a continued partnership with the Parks Committee. Perhaps partnering to create educational programs and a volunteer program as well.

Member Engel asked if these plans will help keep water away from the building. Library Manager Brown responded by saying the rain and wildflower garden will help some, but the issue must be addressed further.

Member Reese suggested adding a drainpipe that takes excess water into a retention area.

Library Manager Brown said the project will hopefully begin in the fall of this year with an undetermined completion date because the individual phases are dependent on funding.

B&G Supervisor MacDonald indicated there would be a lot more maintenance needed to keep up with snow removal and he recommended looking into Snowmelt.

ARTICLE 7. Cascade Rec Park Improvements and Moving Forward

Chair Wanty compiled a list of potential improvements brought up by staff and committee members and included it in the packet.

Member Engel suggested members should figure out their priorities and bring them to the next meeting.

ARTICLE 8. Property Acquisition Template

Chair Wanty felt that after using the template, it may need some slight adjustments, particularly with respect to some of the category descriptions.

Supervisor Lesperance recommended directing staff to gather more details on the Forest Hills Admin building property and endorsed obtaining a more formal agreement (right of first refusal) for its acquisition.

Member Douglas left the meeting at 9:11 A.M.

Planning Director Hilbrands mentioned that the template seemed to work better for natural parks as opposed to recreational parks.

Supervisor Lesperance said the template is great, but suggested adding a footnote disclaimer acknowledging that the scoring is objective to the extent possible.

ARTICLE 9. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

ARTICLE 10. Any Other Business

Chair Wanty would like an update on a property off Spaulding since there has been no construction started yet.

Supervisor Lesperance said there is a developer looking to add an apartment building in Centennial Park off Charlevoix.

Chair Wanty asked if Phil Skaggs had reached back out, and Supervisor Lesperance said he seemed optimistic on finding money for the Burton Street pathway bridge.

ARTICLE 11. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Engel to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 4 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Engel, Secretary