

Minutes
Cascade Charter Township
Parks Committee
Tuesday, June 20, 2023
8:00 A.M.
5920 Tahoe Dr

- 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, Eileen Boekestein, Bill Otten
Members Absent: Matt Douglas
Others Present: Parks Director Melanie Manion, Communications Specialist Rich Lakeberg, 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 6 to 0.
- ARTICLE 3. Approve the Minutes of the May 16, 2023 Regular Meeting**
Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the May 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as written. Supported by Member Engel. Motion carried 6 to 0.
- ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak**
There was no one that wished to speak.
- ARTICLE 5. Welcome new Parks Committee member, Bill Otten**
Bill Otten is President of the Rogue River Watershed Partners.
- ARTICLE 6. Welcome new Cascade Township Communications Specialist, Rich Lakeberg**
Rich Lakeberg previously worked for Ottawa County and expressed excitement for his new role at Cascade Township.
- ARTICLE 7. Thornapple River Watershed Council (TRWC) Presentation – Renee Vanhoughton**
Renee Vanhoughton, a dedicated volunteer for the Thornapple River Watershed Council, delivered a concise yet informative presentation outlining the organization's goals and objectives. These non-profit aims to educate the public, clean up the river, and connect with various municipalities to align goals. Renee is hopeful Cascade Township can participate in the Thornapple River Clean-up and Jamboree on Saturday, September 16.
- ARTICLE 8. Outdoor Gathering Space at the Library update**
Lulu Brown, Kent District Library’s Manager, updated the committee on the Outdoor Gathering Space. During a recent library event with over 600 attendees, there were no problems with providing parking for visitors.

Brown expressed her desire to transform the area into a park, rather than a gathering space, and inquired about the steps required to make it a reality. Parks Director Manion was enthusiastic about the idea and hoped to be involved.

Motion was made by Member Engel to recommend to the Township Board that the gathering space be converted into an official park named “Friendship Park”. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 6 to 0.

ARTICLE 9. Parks Director Report

Parks Director Manion has created a project list for the year, a weekly plan list, a daily report sheet, and a capital improvement plan for the Buildings and Grounds crew. She also mentioned that Tassel and Westdale Memorial Park have been receiving extra attention from the B and G crew lately because these two parks have not been well maintained in the past. Peace Park will also have water bars installed by the B&G crew at the trail markers previously identified as eroded.

ARTICLE 10. Cascade Recreation Park Improvements

Parks Director Manion, with the help of the Parks Committee, created a priority list for park improvements. The next step will involve putting together and sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP).

ARTICLE 11. Old Business

There is an interim Township Manager starting this week. There were over 30 applicants for the full-time Manager position.

ARTICLE 12. New Business

There will be a discussion on the concept plan for Wycliffe Trailhead Park next meeting.

ARTICLE 13. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Engel to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 6 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Engel, Secretary