



MINUTES OF THE TEXAS TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE

Held on January 24, 2023

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Parks & Trails Committee was held on January 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

ITEM 1 & 2. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

James Whittaker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the following committee members were in attendance: Linda Kerr, Jennifer Bussies, James Whittaker, Emily Beutel, Ellen Hector, and one community member. Also present was Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp. Larry Loeks, and Tricia Keala were absent.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Burton, Texas Township Resident for 15 years, explained that he manages two wetlands in Texas Township, including Paw Paw Lake. This area is the most biodiverse region in Texas Township. He provided a proposal for a pocket park and to protect the wetlands. He stated that this current land is zoned agricultural, and this could provide access to the lake. Current price is \$125,000 for the land, sold last year for \$68,000. Emily Beutel stated that she would reach out to DNR for a partnership. Mr. Burton also explained that it is law to clean and dry your boat before leaving to avoid transfer of invasive species from lake to lake. He stated that a larger sign and tools are needed to facilitate this. Ms. Hector stated that this land is very steep and Ms. Beutel will research the topography of the land.

ITEM 4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Whittaker offered a motion, supported by Ms. Bussies, to adopt the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Ms. Beutel, motion carried, to approve the minutes of the December 14 meeting.

ITEM 6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Officers

Ms. Beutel made a motion to nominate James Whittaker as Chair and Jennifer Bussies as Secretary. The motion was supported by Ms. Kerr. Motion carried.

b. Maple Hill Splash Pad Amenities

Deputy Hovenkamp stated that there is a \$50,000 allocated in the FY23 budget for seating, signage, and shade. Current estimate for signage is \$10,000. Ms. Hovenkamp presented a variety of amenities and price points. There was discussion on selecting an ADA compliant table. There were three



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options presented to the committee, with a variety of options of chairs, tables, benches, and trees. Mr. Whittaker presented a different type of chair that he is familiar with. The consensus is to move forward with 10 Adirondack chairs, 6 tables & umbrellas, and 4 trees. The Committee was supportive of selecting tables with no seat backs and no swivel functionality.

c. Project Updates

Texas Drive Park Swing Set

The Township Board did approve the cost of replacement of the swing set – with the same options as discussed previously, including the extension of the sidewalk and the addition of a bench. The township is working on a timeline for installation.

Texas Drive Park Pavilion Mural

Township Board approved a mural installation on the side of the Pavilion at the Texas Drive Park. The committee will discuss design at a future meeting. The signage at the pavilion will also be upgraded and the entire pavilion will be painted.

Texas Drive Park Lighting and Security Upgrades

Township board approved lighting and security upgrades. The lights on poles and lights in bathrooms and pavilions will be enhanced and upgraded. Security upgrades will include video surveillance.

SPARK Grant Application

The SPARK Grant application was submitted and recipients will be announced the week of January 30. The upcoming MDNR grant application deadline is April 1. Mr. Whittaker expressed an interest in waiting until the Round 1 SPARK Grants are awarded to discuss the MDNR grant process.

ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Whittaker, seconded by Ms. Beutel, motion carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:51 p.m.

Next meeting date: February 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted
Jennifer A. Bussies, Secretary

Approved: January 28, 2023