



# MINUTES OF THE TEXAS TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE

## Held on May 23, 2023

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Parks & Trails Committee was held on May 23, 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: Larry Loeks, Jennifer Bussies, Tricia Keala, James Whittaker, Ellen Hector, Emily Beutel, and one community member. Also present were Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp and Superintendent Erik Wilson.

### ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcia Smell inquired about park maintenance and voiced concerns over lack of maintenance on the trails. She suggested creating a volunteer-based "Friends of Parks" group to assist with regular maintenance. Ms. Smell also expressed concern over the trails not being plowed during the winter and requested additional trash containers be installed throughout the parks and trails. Ms. Beutel explained that the township is in the process of hiring a full-time grounds and maintenance person.

### ITEM 4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Whittaker offered a motion, supported by Mr. Loeks, to adopt the meeting agenda with the deletion of Item 6B. Motion carried.

### ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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

### ITEM 6. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park Restroom Preliminary Design

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp provided a preliminary floor plan of the 6th street restroom facility. The committee had no official comment on the layout and felt that the preliminary design was adequate. Ms. Keala inquired about adding a dog fountain.

#### B. 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park Bench Placement – Moved to June Meeting

#### C. Capital Projects Discussion

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that the township is launching an overhaul of the capital improvement program. The Township Board has approved a new framework and Administration has begun work on a six-year plan. Projects now qualify as part of the CIP if they are over \$20,000.



7110 West Q Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
269.375.1591  
www.texas-township.org

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp provided a list of park and trail capital projects that were included in the Recreation Plan (2020) as well as projects that have been discussed at previous meetings. The 6th street pavilion and play structure, as well as the parking lot expansion near the planned restroom facility, are marked as a high priority. Another item of value would be resealing the trail in stages. Mr. Whittaker explained the ideas surrounding the sensory garden and stated that he lost his major donor. He stated that he will attempt one more time before advising to sideline this project.

Superintendent Wilson addressed the issues of maintenance moving into the future, reiterating the need to set money aside for the upkeep of these facilities and amenities. Mr. Loeks stated that there are parts of the trails in high demand of upkeep and/or replacement. Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Looks agreed that upkeep is much needed. Superintendent Wilson stated that employing a full-time maintenance person will be an investment in ensuring full longevity of these facilities. Ms. Keala stated that she worked on the capital projects for Kalamazoo County parks and will reach out to see if she is able to share with Texas Township.

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp requested the committee provide feedback on five top priorities at our next meeting to outline CIP projects for the next six years.

## **ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Project Updates**

#### ***SPARK Grant***

Scoring for the township's SPARK grant application for Phase II development at 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park came back at 56/100; the Township was in the bottom tier of funding. Due to our scoring, the Township Board was not interested in resubmitting for this grant. Ms. Keala explained that there is a grant through GameTime (a playground equipment provider) that could be an option but the application period for this year is closing very soon. This is not a scoring system grant and relied more on a design concept application.

#### ***Maple Hill Splash Pad***

Work is continuing at the splash pad. A mockup design of the signage was provided to the committee. Maple Hill will be contacted for feedback and approval of the signage. Conceptually, the committee approved the signage design. The initial cost estimate of the signage is \$18,000. The test results from the well are still pending. The iron levels will determine whether a sealant is warranted.

#### ***Texas Drive Park Swing Set***

The swing set has been installed; the bench installation should occur by the end of the month.

#### ***Texas Drive Park Pavilion Painting***

The Eagle Scout project will include repainting the exterior of the pavilion and the restroom floors. Timeline was late June/early July. He is raising funds by collecting pop cans.

## **ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT**



7110 West Q Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
269.375.1591  
[www.texastownship.org](http://www.texastownship.org)

Motion by Mr. Whittaker, seconded by Ms. Beutel, motion carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Next meeting date: June 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm

Submitted  
Jennifer A. Bussies, Secretary

Approved: