



# MINUTES OF THE TEXAS TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE

## Held on June 27, 2023

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Parks & Trails Committee was held on June 27, 2023, at 5:02 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, Ellen Hector, Jennifer Bussies, James Whittaker, Emily Beutel, and Tricia Keala. Also present was Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp and Superintendent Erik Wilson.

### ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

### ITEM 4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

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

### ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Keala, seconded by Ms. Beutel, motion carried, to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2023, meeting as presented.

### ITEM 6. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Capital Projects Discussions (2023-2028)

Mr. Whittaker recommended trail development as a priority over the next five years. Ms. Keala agreed with trails being a priority, which tend to be more favorable for grant funding. Mr. Loeks stated that the trails are heavily used in the township. The ultimate goal would be connecting 6th street park to the DDA.

Mr. Loeks stated a maintenance concern over general park usage and trailway pavement improvements. Ms. Hector inquired about a maintenance person for staff, which will start next week. Mr. Whittaker expressed the need for the Phase I trailway along Texas Drive to be repaved.

Ms. Keala stated that another priority should be a pavilion and play structure at 6th Street Park. Mr. Whittaker stated that this should be one of the top priorities, especially if there is funding available.

Ms. Beutel recommended upgrades for exercise stations at Texas Drive Park along with the replacement of signage.

Ms. Hector inquired about a dog park as another priority. The committee discussed location options and recommended a survey to residents.



7110 West Q Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
269.375.1591  
www.texastownship.org

### **B. Designate Capital Improvement Policy Committee Representative**

Ms. Hovenkamp explained the new Capital Improvement Plan process, which includes a Policy Group Representative who will help review and rank proposed projects before they go to the Planning Commission. Meetings will be during the day in July/August. Both Ms. Hector and Ms. Keala expressed interest in the position – based on availability and timeline, the representative will be the individual whose schedule aligns with the remaining group members.

### **C. Maple Hill Splash Pad Grand Opening**

Ms. Hovenkamp explained that there is not a date set for Grand Opening. There is a small punch list of items left to do. Mr. Wilson expressed the need for sponsors to be notified and invited. Ms. Keala recommended having a soft opening for all sponsors and then a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the community. Food trucks, ice cream trucks, and a DJ were also recommended.

## **ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Project Updates**

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

Ms. Hovenkamp stated that we are in a holding pattern in the repainting of the pavilion by the Eagle Scout.

#### **6th Street Restroom Design**

Ms. Hovenkamp stated that we are finalizing the restroom project with the board approving bid specs soon.

## **ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Next meeting date: July 25, 2023, at 5:00 pm

Submitted  
Jennifer A. Bussies, Secretary

Approved: