



MINUTES OF THE TEXAS TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE

Held on October 24, 2023

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

ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Losure spoke to support Jake Stommen another coach with youth baseball B-45. Other teams are willing to help maintain the baseball/softball field on Texas Drive. Looking for a tradeoff of maintaining the field for first priority to use the field with focus on Tuesday night booking through the season. The goal is to maintain a safe space for the players and to plan for the season in exchange for maintaining the field. They would like to work on the fencing along the first base line to help protect the houses.

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 Mr. Whittaker, motion carried, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2023, meeting.

ITEM 6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss request from Jake Stommen at B-45: Texas Drive Baseball Field

The Deputy Superintendent is looking for feedback from the committee for the field maintenance exchange for rental priority. There is no precedent in providing priority. B-45 had the most consistent reservation for 2023. Ms. Keala inquired about the reservation policy, which opens January 2. Mr. Whittaker said this could be a beneficial relationship between the township and B-45.

Mr. Whittaker made a motion to recommend allowing B-45 exchange of maintenance of the fields for priority rental. Ms. Keala seconded; motion carried.

A new conversation could be needed for changing the rentals opening January 2 for the calendar year. Most sports teams need as much planning. Mr. Stommen, a private citizen, explained that Portage rents their sports fields a year in advance with bookings opening every month.

Mr. Loeks made a motion to recommend changing the reservation protocols for sports fields being opened a year in advance. Ms. Keala seconded; motion carried.

B. Discuss request from Kalamazoo Pickleball Outreach: Windscreens



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The Deputy Superintendent stated that there was more research done on getting more transparent material. His organization is asking for the back side (south) and one side of the drop in court (west) to have the covering hung. Ms. Keala discussed security and visibility issues. Mr. Loeks stated that he would be in support to help them play a longer season by providing more of a wind/temperature break.

Mr. Whittaker made a motion to support the Pickleball Outreach of both sides and split the cost with the township. Motion carried with one opposed (Ms. Keala) due to visibility and security issues on the west side.

ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS

A. 6th Street Restroom Design

The Deputy Superintendent explained the Bosch Architecture and the County is going through the draining issues. Final bid package will be forthcoming. Mr. Loeks requested the committee see the bid package for approval prior to being released.

B. Maple Hill Splash Pad

The Deputy Superintendent stated that the township is working on the drainage issues. Mr. Whittaker inquired about planting the donated trees. He would recommend it prior to mid-November if the drainage issues can be addressed. The township is looking at a French drain around the pad to help with drainage.

ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Whittaker, seconded by Ms. Beutel, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:36 p.m.

Next meeting date: November 28, 2023, at 5:00 pm

Submitted
Jennifer A. Bussies, Secretary

Approved: