



7110 West Q Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269/375-1591
www.texastownship.org

MINUTES OF THE TEXAS TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE HELD ON February 22, 2022

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Parks & Trails Committee was held on February 22, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

CITIZEN COMMENT: Dan Burton submitted an email about seating placed under the Burr Oak Tree at Texas Drive Park. The Committee discussed the request and recommended either fundraising, purchasing benches as part of a future Capital Improvement Project, or as an Eagle Scout project.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Beutel offered a motion, supported by Mr. Loeks, motion carried, to adopt the meeting agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 25, 2022 MEETING.

Motion by Mr. Whittaker, seconded by Ms. Beutel, motion carried, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2022 meeting, as written.

SPLASH PAD DESIGN/LAYOUT

A Community Engagement event will be held on March 15 at 6:00pm for the "First Fifty" donors on Giving Tuesday.

Linda Bruno with VIRIDIS Design Group presented the updated layout design, which included:

- 45 feet away from pavilion with sidewalk
- and 2 swing gates for entrance

The Committee discussed the revised design and budget estimates. There was discussion on whether the fence (~33k) should be considered as an alternate to the project, and if the additional concrete areas should be included in the initial bid scope.

Mr. Whitaker stated that the additional concrete is more important than the fencing.

Mr. Loeks asked about water and irrigation. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp explained that the additional cistern for collection was removed due to cost restraints, but the current system is designed for used water to recirculate through groundwater – not go to waste. Angie Monroe with VORTEX shared more details on the percolation system.

Ms. Kerr- suggested the fence be left off of the budget and considered as a later CIP project.



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Mr. Whitaker - suggested a flaired sidewalk to incorporate the existing sidewalk and the pavilion.

Spray Features

Angie Monroe, VORTEX, shared the initial design concept and preliminary features. The Committee requested a count of each feature in the proposed design. As the project will need to be bid, the features incorporated in the initial design may change.

Mr. Whitaker asked for clarification on the timeline. Bidding is slated to begin in April and construction will hopefully begin later this summer.

Mrs. Kerr reminded that Wedels had previously wanted to donate trees for the Splash Pad/Park area.

MDNR PARKS GRANT UPDATE

At the February 14th Township Board meeting, the Township Board authorized VIRIDIS Design Group to prepare an MDNR Trust Fund grant application for FY2023 funding (deadline to submit is April 1).

TEXAS DRIVE PARK SWING SET

Continued conversation was held on impacts to the current swing set. Deputy Superintendent presented two quotes for engineered wood fiber (~\$25,000) and poured in place surfacing (~\$66,000). The proposed design included 2 teen swings, 2 toddler swings, 2 infant swings.

Mrs. Kerr reminded our discussion of Spider Tower for older age groups

Mr. Loeks asked about size of border and Deputy Superintendent explained the risk/jump barrier of swings is needed

Mr. Whitaker stated he would perform the EWF for the risk of falling and to get the project done at a reasonable rate. There was general support for the EWF option.

OPEN ISSUES

Deputy Superintendent will work on getting options provided for the community event on different spray features

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Whittaker, seconded by Kerr, motion carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Next meeting date: March 22, 2022 at 5:00 pm

Submitted

Approved: March 22, 2022

Jennifer A. Bussies, Secretary