



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

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

A/B. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

C. CITIZEN COMMENT

John Knowlton, resident of the Township and President of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, expressed his appreciation for the committee's service and thanked the Township for use of Texas Drive Park for their Monday night rides. Mr. Knowlton shared information about the KBC mission, educational campaigns, and upcoming events and volunteered to be a point of contact for the KBC.

D. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

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

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 22, 2022 MEETING.

Motion by Ms. Beutel, seconded by Mr. Loeks, motion carried, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting, as written.

F. SPLASH PAD DESIGN/LAYOUT

Superintendent Hovenkamp provided an analysis of the survey design and layout. The survey had 5 main features. The committee discussed the results of the survey and the various feature options. They requested to move forward with: Feature #1- Kite, Feature #2- Luna N*1, Feature #3- Loop N*1, Feature #4-Pine Tree, and Feature #5- Aqua Dome – with the addition of a similar dome concept for larger children.

Ms. Beutel and Mr. Loeks discussed seating options for adults. Options for a long bench and tables were discussed.

Ms. Beutel discussed parent requests for a fence for the safety of children to be contained in the area.

Ms. Kerr explained a need for permanent tables and a need for shade. Mr. Loeks discussed the idea of sun sails, while Ms. Beutel added that the sails could have business logos printed on them.

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp will take these recommendations to VIRIDIS and present them to the board.

G. MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application



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

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp asked for letters of support for a play structure and pavilion at the 6th Street Park to submit with the grant application.

Ms. Keala explained she attended an annual conference on how to score better on grant applications. She explained that proving a community need and creating something unique provides a better chance at receiving these grants. It is Ms. Keala's recommendation to move to a new recreational area aimed at providing physical activity for the whole family. This is similar to an obstacle course. Ms. Keala stressed the narrative for application for generational play needs to be stressed.

The Committee discussed the components of the intergenerational play structure shared; there were some concerns over safety and liability.

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp voiced concerns over the timeline, as the grant application is due on April 1. She offered to speak with Tim Britain at VIRIDIS about the proposed amendment to the application.

Ms. Beutel explained the need for a play structure for toddlers and young children.

Ms. Hector recommended a natural park, like at the Kalamazoo Nature Center with boulders, trees, sticks, etc.

H. 6th STREET RESTROOM BID

Superintendent Hovenkamp explained that bidding for the 6th Street Restroom project closed on March 10. Only one bid was received at a substantially higher price than expected. The Township Board will be reviewing the bid at their meeting on March 28th; it is recommended to reject the current bid and restructure and go back out to bid later this year.

I. OPEN ISSUES

Ms. Keala asked if we should reach out to local elementary students for more feedback on the Splash Pad. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that this is welcome, but added time for engagement would delay the work to move the project forward. Ms. Beutel stated that the survey and engagement activity provided enough feedback to move forward. The committee was supportive of moving forward with the project.

Mr. Loeks recommended that a dog park be included as an amenity in the new Township Hall project.

Ms. Keala recommended a restroom trailer rental for summer in lieu of traditional porta potties. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp will research costs and report back.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loeks, seconded by Keala, motion carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:53 p.m.

Next meeting date: April 26, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted

Approved:

Jennifer A. Bussies, Secretary