



**MINUTES OF THE TEXAS TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE HELD ON
April 26, 2022**

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Parks & Trails Committee was held on April 26, 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, Larry Loeks, Jennifer Bussies, Tricia Keala, Emily Beutel and Ellen Hector (arrival at 5:28). Also present was Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp and one interested person. Michelle Seelye Drucker and James Whittaker were absent.

C. CITIZEN COMMENT

Larry Loeks would like to recommend a dog park at the new township hall.

D. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

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

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

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

F. BMX Pump Track Presentation

Nathan Fons, resident of Prairie Ronde township. There is a need for skill based biking trails. Built a pump track in Colorado on donated government land. Concerned about the process for getting a donation. All work is through funding and donations through the community. Maintenance is much needed over time through volunteer efforts. Provided multiple benefits of this activity for the community. This type of track is open to all skill levels. Proposal included is a dirt track at either Texas Drive or 6th Street Park, roughly 2000 square feet in area.

Ms. Kerr recommended that this would be a better placement at 6th Street Park.

Ms. Beutel had questions about liability and insurance for a track. Nathan said that from his experience insurance covers the pump track like a soccer field with inherent risk.

Ms. Keala inquired about the type of bikes that most commonly use this type of track. Mr. Fons said all bikes are welcome.

Mr. Fons would like to recommend the location to fit into the proposed mountain bike area of 6th street park.

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that the next steps would be to discuss as a committee and if recommended an amendment would be needed in the master plan.

Mr. Loeks thanked Mr. Fons for attending meeting and presentation.

G. MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application & Splash Pad Update

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp informed the committee that the MDNR grant application was submitted and due to limited timeline for concept revision did not include the multi-generational proposal. The grant application included a pavilion and play structure for the 6th Street Park.



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Splash pad is in the process of getting bid specs. The bid window will be a five-week process. Dialogue deadline for project completion of June 2023.

Mr. Loeks commented about the drawings and the lacking quality of the work.

Ms. Keala indicated that she had previous issues with VIRIDIS in the details needed for a bid process and recommended using OCBA.

H. CONCERT IN THE CORNERS

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp is working with the Kalamazoo Experiential Learning Center to organize a concert in the park as part of the pilot program. The marketing will be celebrating the future splash pad. Three local bands will be performing throughout the event.

Ms. Beutel recommended a marking out of the size and location of the splash pad so visitors can envision.

Ms. Keala recommended a map of splash pad amenities.

Ms. Hector stated that her team is working on thematic events.

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp is working on small prizes and incorporation of sponsors of the splash pad.

I. OPEN ISSUES

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that Michelle Seelye Drucker has resigned her position with the Parks Committee. There is an open position for an alternate for the committee.

Mrs. Keala recommended that we put on the next meeting to discuss the pump track.

Mr. Loeks inquired about wifi in the parks. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that this project is still on hold.

Mr. Loeks inquired about electric bikes being allowed on the trails. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that the current park rules state no motor vehicles are allowed; she recommended the committee **review** the park rules.

Ms. Keala requested that the park rules be added to a future agenda for review.

Ms. Keala inquired about the portable restrooms at the 6th Street Park. Deputy Hovenkamp stated that Best Way will not rent portable restroom trailers for the summer and at \$500-\$600 per weekend, the cost far exceeds what was budgeted.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Loeks, seconded by Beutel, motion carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:46 p.m.

Next meeting date: May 24, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted

Approved: May 24, 2022

Jennifer A. Bussies, Secretary