



MINUTES OF THE TEXAS TOWNSHIP PARKS & TRAILS COMMITTEE HELD ON May 24, 2022

A meeting of the Charter Township of Texas Parks & Trails Committee was held on May 24, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

A/B. 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: Linda Kerr, Larry Loeks, Jennifer Bussies, Tricia Keala, Emily Beutel. Also present was Deputy Superintendent Brooke Hovenkamp. Ellen Hector was absent.

C. CITIZEN COMMENT

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

D. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

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

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 26, 2022 MEETING.

Motion by Ms. Keala, seconded by Ms. Kerr, motion carried, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 meeting, with one grammatical change under open issues.

F. BMX Pump Track Presentation

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp explained liability insurance for a pump track was a minimal increase. Information was also presented about the creation and use.

Ms. Beutel was surprised with the minimal cost of liability insurance for the pump track. She voiced concerns about having a hard time envisioning a pump track and how it fits into the park; she felt it would be better suited for a park with more bike amenities.

Ms. Kerr recommended not to move forward with the pump track.

Ms. Keala agreed that the community survey does not support a pump track. An addition to the community survey in the future could reflect if a pump track is wanted. Texas Township also does not have the infrastructure to maintain, etc. We also do not have a bike connection to 6th Street Park.

Mr. Whittaker inquired about reaching out to Mr. Fons. Deputy Hovenkamp will reach out and share the Park Committees recommendation to not move forward.

G. Splash Pad Update

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp explained that the splash pad is out for bid. Bids are due by 4pm on June 9. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the site plan at their meeting on May 24 (tonight).

Mr. Whittaker inquired about construction start and completion date.

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp explained that the bid specifies a construction completion of June 2023, which was intended to help cultivate a competitive bid process.

Mr. Loeks explained that the underground water system is a 40-week delivery.

Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that future decisions once bids come back will focus on seating, signage, etc.

H. OPEN ISSUES

Mr. Loeks stated that electric bikes are not considered motor vehicles, according to the government. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp read Article II, Section 24-32 of the ordinance which prohibits motor



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vehicles in parks, trails, etc. If we were to allow class 1 or class 2 ebikes on trailways, the township should amend the ordinance to avoid future confusion.

Ms. Keala inquired about sidewalk use ordinance. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp read Article VII – Section 1-0174 of the ordinance related to sidewalks and rules for pedestrians. This ordinance would also need to be amended to allow electric bikes.

Mr. Loeks recommended use of ebikes only on wider trails and not sidewalks. He also recommended including verbiage related to advanced signaling for safety/etiquette of cyclists and pedestrians. Ms. Keala supported allowing class 1 and 2 ebikes and recommend a revision to the ordinance. She also suggested partnering with the Kalamazoo Bike Club to provide education to the community.

Motion by Mr. Whittaker to recommend text amendments to Article II, Section 24-32 and Article VII – Section 1-0174 to allow class 1 and 2 ebikes on 8' (or wider) trails, prohibiting use on sidewalks, unpaved trails, or pathways less than 8' in width. Supported by Ms. Keala and motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Keala inquired about the easement project for the park connection. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that there was no movement.

Ms. Kerr inquired about the County park being added to the township (boy scout). Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp stated that they are still fundraising. Ms. Beutel stated that overnight camp is a go and they are working through the deed restrictions.

Mr. Loeks inquired about the width of sidewalks on 9th street. He recommended a plan be created to display all locations of sidewalks, trailways, etc.

Ms. Kerr inquired about the recommendation of a dog park to the township at the township hall. Deputy Superintendent Hovenkamp asked if that property is the best location for the dog park. Mr. Whittaker inquired about parking and infrastructure of the township hall to facilitate a dog park. Ms. Keala stated that she thought the site would be beneficial. Ms. Beutel questioned the location as it does reside next to residential properties. Mr. Whittaker stated that there would need to be fencing, water source, and receptacles needed. Ms. Kerr stated that the need for a dog park was on the community survey. The committee discussed size requirements for a dog park.

Motion by Mr. Whittaker to recommend a 1.5/2 acre dog park in the construction of the new township hall. Supported by Ms. Kerr and motion passed unanimously.

I. ADJOURNMENT

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

Next meeting date: June 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted

Approved:

Jennifer A. Bussies, Secretary