



Charter Township of Orion
Parks and Path Advisory Committee
July 15, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes
Orion Center
1335 Joslyn Rd. Lake Orion, MI 48360

LEADERSHIP:

CHAIRPERSON: (vacant)
VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Jenn Miller
SECRETARY: Kevin Gorman

1. CALL TO ORDER **START TIME** 6:04 pm
 DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (minimum 4 members) Members Present: 9
MOTION Aaron Whatley (Acting Chairman) **SECOND BY** Julia Dalrymple
BY

2. ROLL CALL
MEMBERS

Fisher, Tom	Present	Berwick, Jay	Present
Miller, Jenn	Present	Richards, Jerry	Absent
Cotter, BC	Present	Dalrymple, Julia (Board Rep)	Present
Gorman, Kevin	Present	Birney, Brian (Altn. Board Rep)	Absent
Steele, Donni (Board Rep)	Present	Whatley, Aaron (P&R Director)	Present
Landis, Mark (OHM – Twp. Engr.)	Present	Pike, Elizabeth	Present

GUESTS:

3. APPROVAL OF Minutes **Motion:** Jay Berwick (with corrections) **Second:** Julie Dalrymple

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA
MOTION BY Tom Fisher **SECOND BY** Jay Berwick

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS (3 minute limit per person)

DISCUSSION: (No comment)
MOTION BY (n/a) **SECOND BY** (n/a)

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Election of new Chairperson:** Board accepts Tom Fisher
Motion: Donni Steele **SECOND-BY:** Jenn Miller
- b. **Township Parks and Recreation Department has an employee proposal:**
 - Aaron is proposing to hire a full-time employee to be hired solely to work on maintenance of Safety Paths. To help support his thinking the following background information was shared:
 - Currently the process is to hire 3 temporary seasonal employees from April through August
 - This year, they have been unable to hire those workers, this proposal is to essentially replace them in favor of a single full time, year around worker.
 - In order to help to do this the current budget still has unspent funds of \$34,000. Aaron would like to transfer the funds from development account to a maintenance account which should be able to fund the work year around.

- Another appealing aspect of this is that growth can be cut back more effectively in the off season when traffic, grown and insect activity lower.
- Aaron wanted to review this with the committee in order see what the committee thinks of the proposal. Committee agreed, and nominated that Aaron make the proposal to the township board.
- Motion: Moved that OTPAP supports the Parks & Rec Director's proposal to create a full-time path maintenance position.

Motion; Julia Dalrymple, **SECOND-BY:** Eliabeth Pike

7. Pending Business

a. Path Projects (Update by Mark Landis)

i. Waldon Rd. retaining wall #3.

Completed 2-4 weeks prior to meeting. Only item left is to replace a tree which is targeted to be completed in the fall/September.

ii. Safe Routes to School.

- Project as a whole was on track until major rain storms last month
- Joslyn has some drainage issues
- Round Tree: Path installed, driveway & approaches are being completed.

iii. General Maintenance:

- Seal coating by Waldon and Presence
- Previously discussed pathway discussed last meeting by OHM Advisors on Clarkston Road have changed their minds and are installing a safety path in front of their business instead of just making a donation to the township.

8. Director's Report by Aaron Whatley. Topics included:

- a. Updates on installation of sound system at Wildwood
- b. RFP for pickleball & tennis court on the northern end of Friendship Park
 - i. Initial plan is 1 tennis court, 2 pickleball, options to double and have electrical incase of future installation of possible lighting (suggestion is to make the lighting coin operated)
 - ii. If courts prove popular, an additional tennis and 2 additional pickleball courts could be added.
- c. Orion Center trail head parking to be paved & exercise equipment upgrades are planned.
- d. Development of Cricket courts at Jessie Decker Park will be postponed, but a bath room is planned
- e. Dragon-On-The-Lake is August 26-29th. (see web site)

9. Organization Reports:

- a. **Planning Commission:** (Mark Landis)
 - "Pearl of Orion" frontage on Brown & Joslyn
 - Natrabis Marijuana Facility by Giddings on north side of Liberty will need additional safety paths
- b. **Paint Creek:** (Donni Steele) Labor day walk was discussed (5k Run/Walk)
- c. **Polly Ann Trail** (Donni Steele)
 - Vault toilets to be installed by Clarkston Rd & Lake George
 - Discussion on land owner who wants to build storage units within 5' of trail (instead of normal easement distance). Owner is asking for a variance to be able to use that space, this will be up for discussion by Township Board
- d. **Safety Paths** (Tom Fisher)
 - Slow rolls on Saturday
 - Play it safe camp for bikes was discussed
 - September 23rd will be a Class for Bike Safety (Jennifer Venzin of Parks & Recreation Department will be organizing the event.)

- August 14th will be “Dragon Trails” (although COVID cancelled last year, may still impact this year)

e. **Upcoming Events** (None discussed)

10. Committee Comments:

a. **Additional Cycling Items** (Tom Fisher):

- Tom is interesting in additional parking for cycling around some of the parks
- Also would like to continue to develop safety paths around Lake Orion

b. **“Funky Friday”** (Jay Berwick) are an even to support Camp Agawam, and is currently targeted for August 21st 2021.

11. Next Steps (none)

12. Adjournment (approximately 7:35 pm)

Motion Make: Donni Steele

Second By: Jennifer Miller