

Minutes of the  
Munson Township  
Park & Recreation Board Special Meeting  
Monday, October 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Dave Jirsa with Bert Diehl, Jim O'Neill, Rick Webb and Glenn Kinter present at Munson Town Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Minutes

Dave Jirsa moved and Glenn Kinter seconded to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023 as written. Motion carried, 5-0.

**Old Business**

Scenic River Retreat Dock, Floating Boardwalk

Trustee Andy Bushman talked to Jeff Atchley of Metalcraft and the price for the fishing dock is the same now as it was in the March quote (\$11,113). The park board intends to forward a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to construct the fishing dock at the next meeting. Mr. Bushman is awaiting a sample bid package for the boardwalk from a township near Salem Ohio. He will get an updated quote and dock drawing with elevations for the next meeting.

Disc Golf Course - Update

Road Superintendent Kirk Walker was in attendance. He was asked in an email if the Bobolink bird was an issue regarding cutting the field at Nero Nature Preserve like it is at Scenic River Retreat. Mr. Walker told the Board that typically the field is cut every two years at Nero Nature Preserve and does not house Bobolinks like at Scenic River. He also mentioned to the Board that it will take more than one cutting to get the field ready for a Disc Golf Course. Once the course is added, it will have to be maintained by adding it to the mowing contracts.

**New Business**

Eagle Scout Project

Colson Christie of Boy Scout Troop 91 is interested in doing his Eagle Scout project in one of Munson Township parks in spring 2024. He mentioned a few ideas; Gaga Pits (a new game kids play), painting picnic tables or benches, a trail bridge, invasive species mitigation, firepit with benches, etc. He is also open to other ideas as well. Once the Park Board decides what project is needed, Colson will then present it to his superiors for their approval. He will raise monies for the project through donations and will have help from approximately 10 people. The Park Board invited Mr. Christie to the next meeting and anticipates a final decision in January 2024.

Parks Landscape Re-Design

Many of the trees at the parks are at life span and should be removed. There are a couple of trees at Township Park that need to be removed with one of them being the vandalized bark stripped tree. Around the pavilion needs attention as well. Best to ask the landscapers who maintain the park for new plant ideas and a quote for

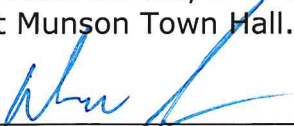
material and labor. Dave Jirsa told Mr. Walker that more trees came down at Nero Nature Preserve once again with a large one on the secondary trail. Jim O'Neill added that Township Park looks better than he has ever seen it. The mounds are raked out and grass was planted. The scoreboards are working good and they are set to run on cell phones now.

Resident Joe Otto was in attendance to let us know he and his wife Joan are interested in entertaining for a concert at Scenic River Retreat. They offer music from 1950-70's called "Jukebox Saturday Night" and will drop off information for 2024 consideration. He also asked about using a park on a regular basis to fly his tethered electric plane which goes maximum 70' high. He and his group are part of AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) and must follow strict guidelines. He is also hoping that this would promote this hobby and generate some new aviation interest among community members. He was referred to the Township office for the proper paperwork for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

Fiscal Officer Todd Ray asked Board members if they had any questions regarding the permit they are seeking from Geauga Soil & Water Conservation District to fill in a portion of wetlands where phragmites are taking over. Some members weren't sure why phragmites were an issue in that area and are curious to know how long the permit is good for. Mr. Ray shared that ecologically it is a good idea to keep this invasive species out so native plants and grasses can take over. Phragmites grow to about 12' tall where the native grass would be shorter and more attractive. Mr. Ray will email members additional permit information.

Rick Webb is researching "Take a book. Return a book." free-standing library boxes by the Chardon Friends of the Library and a mini food pantry. He feels Munson Township is a good place for them. More information to come.

Dave Jirsa moved and Glenn Kinter seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm. Motion carried, 5-0, The next meeting will be Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:15 at Munson Town Hall.

  
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Dave Jirsa, Chair

  
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Julie Johnston, Secretary

cc: Township Trustees  
Fiscal Officer  
Road Superintendent