

**GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
Committee meeting: March 1, 2023**

**Call to order:** Due to the number of committee members absent, the meeting was an informational, discussion session

**Roll Call:**

Present: Belter, Frifeldt, Thoroughman

Absent: Hesselsweet, Redick, Moulter-Gray

Staff present: Chappell, Thibault, Walsh

**Approval of the January 4, 2023 meeting minutes:** the minutes were not approved.

**Brief Public Comments & Questions – Agenda Items Only:** no public, no comments

**Items of Business:**

**Update: Groesbeck Demo:** Schmidt Bros were awarded the demo contract. Demo will start in April.

**Update: Unleashed dogs in the park:** reviewed the proposed signage

**Update: Hofma Preserve and Schmidt Heritage Park Plaque:** reviewed plaques, on order Belter suggested we consider similar signage for the Hofma Park entrance off of Ferris Street. There is a plaque on a large boulder at that entrance and when the parking lot was re-configured that was moved and is possibly not as visible.

For SHP – the plaque will be on a boulder (per Jim Schmidt's request) and the Hofma preserve will be at the trailhead of the Preserve on 168<sup>th</sup>.

**Update: Schmidt Heritage Park:** construction is proceeding, there have been some issues with Consumer's Power putting in service. The necessary equipment and transformers are on site. Staff and the engineers walked the JoJo Jogging trail. There is one area that could be a concern with the border of the North Ottawa Rod and Gun Club. The possibility of building a berm on the SHP side of the trail was discussed. It could create about 6 to 8 feet in barrier height. Chappell said the estimated cost would be about \$10,000 to do that. Regarding the fencing around the property line and the signage Chappell said the discussion was to have the NORGC handle the fencing and the signage. Belter said that the club was working on language for the signage and reposting the club property was a spring project.

**Addendum to the discussion:** In an email received from Chappell on March 2: Before submitting the suggestion I discussed with the Parks & Rec's committee to Curt Walburg, President of the North Ottawa Rod and Gun Club, I will first be seeking direction from our Township Board. With that said, I will not send an email to the North Ottawa Rod and Gun Club until I receive feedback by the Township Board. The item will be on the consent agenda for the April 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Tentative opening date is in June. The discussion was, since the fields would not be usable – does the township do a soft opening. Everything will be ready to go other than the fields. Consideration was given to the last week of June. Suggestions included perhaps have the Lakeshore Pickleball group do an organized activity, demonstration the day of the opening. Belter suggested something focused on the JoJo Jogging Trail. Given the time of the year there could be a variety of flora for people to see.

A storywalk was mentioned by Frifeldt. Walsh will contact Allison Boyer, LDL youth librarian. Discussed aspects of the opening, invites, activities, food.

Chappell will contact Jim Schmidt regarding the format for the dedication.

### **Other Topics of Interest**

**Wolf property/Hofma Preserve:** There will be a low key ceremony to showcase the opening and the acknowledgement of the receipt of grant money.

### **Park hours and operations:**

Walsh reported that park hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sometimes parks are being closed at 6.

To allow for the time change and be consistent with signage, it was suggested that the hours be 8 a.m. to dusk.

Exceptions would be made for rentals.

This is an ordinance so it would need a committee recommendation that would go to the township board to amend the ordinance.

**Extended Public Comments & Questions – Non-Agenda items Only:** no public, no comments

### **Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Alando Chappell*