

**Town of Union  
Park and Trails Committee Meeting  
Minutes of December 7, 2023**

In attendance: Derek Blume (chair), Ray Legris, Mitch Muchow, Pat Lentz. Absent: Larry Meier  
Also in attendance: Kendall Scheider (Town Board) Alvin Francis (Plan Commission)

Call to order: 6:32pm

Review of the agenda.

Introductions were made. Kendall proved a little history of the park commission and some of the purpose for having this commission. The ordinance for parks and trails was designed for guidance for cluster developments specifically to ensure proper recreation opportunities were available as well as to ensure conservation of some areas to prevent development. A quick review of the current official parks in the township was given by Kendall.

Next item was the discussion of trails at the parks, specifically Disch and Francis Parks.

The basic idea at Disch Park is to create a trail that is able to be used by someone in a wheelchair, so access to the pavilion is available. The first step will be to get an estimate on how much this could cost. Derek suggested Bartelt for an estimate on an asphalt path. Pat asked about crushed recycled asphalt as an option as well. Ray will contact Bartelt so get an estimate on the path so we have an idea of the cost. He will also ask about the recycled crushed option for that. If they do not do that sort of work, Pat will look into getting an estimate for that as well.

The discussion turned to Francis Park and a path there. Currently a path has been made in the winter by Pat with his snow blower. This has been sufficient to allow kids to access the school campus. The school has kept the area by the gate clear. The question was asked if the gate is opened during the winter. It is. Do signs need to be displayed? If a town employee is clearing a path, we do not need a sign, otherwise we need to put up a sign saying the path is closed for liability. Signs are ordered for other trails in the township.

Other things that should be considered:

Replacement of the removed ash trees at Disch Park.

We should consider discussion about future parks, especially with the potential of the large Shottliff development off of Territorial and M. Traditional parks are not as useful anymore.

Kendall mentioned the possibility of bridal trails. Derek mentions that having space for organized sports like baseball and soccer at parks is becoming increasingly important while things like playgrounds are not used as much anymore. Alvin asked how outlots in subdivisions fit in and if they can be considered park space.

Kendall gave a little more information on some of the other areas that are of interest as far as town owned open spaces. Kendall said the commission should be given documentation with descriptions of all the town's parks. Derek suggested a review of the Parks and Trails ordinance to make sure it still fits with developments today and to potentially make some corrections, stating that the requirement of 4 people for a quorum for this board should be changed to 3.

Derek reviewed the action items:

- Ray will reach out to Bartelt on an estimate for the Disch Park trail
- Pat will look to get an estimate on a crushed asphalt option if Bartelt is unable to provide one.
- Kendall will work with Regina to get the commission descriptions of the current parks in the town.
- Derek will review and come up with potential changes to be made to the Parks and Trails ordinance.

Discussion for a next meeting resulted in setting a date of January 18th at 6:30pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Ray Legris, seconded by Mitch Muchow. Meeting was adjourned by voice vote 4-0 at 7:28pm.