

**MINUTES**  
**BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022 --- 7:00 p.m.**

**Big Rapids Township Hall, 14212 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Amanda Wethington called the regular meeting of the Big Rapids Charter Township Planning Commission to order at the township hall on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 7:03 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Zach Cook, Mary Davis, Gordon Oliver, Jeff Oosterhouse, Mark Sweppenheiser and Amanda Wethington. Carman Bean was absent. The record shows there is a quorum. Also present: William Stanek, Supervisor; Timothy Kleinheksel, Zoning Administrator and Recording Secretary; Penny Currie, Treasurer.

**III. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

Mrs. Wethington asked if any of the Commission members had known conflicts of interest with any of the items on the agenda for this meeting. No one indicated that a conflict of interest existed.

**IV. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2022 MINUTES:**

Mrs. Wethington asked the Commission members to review the minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting. Mrs. Davis made a motion to approve the October 11, 2022 minutes as submitted. Mr. Oliver supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING – STORAGE CONTAINER ORDINANCE:**

A public hearing to allow the Planning Commission to receive public input on the proposed Storage Container Ordinance 153.040 was called to order by Mrs. Wethington at 7:04 pm. With no public comment Mrs. Wethington closed the public hearing.

**VI. ACTION ON STORAGE CONTAINER ORDINANCE:**

Mr. Oliver made a motion to accept the Storage Container Ordinance and forward it to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Sweppenheiser supported the motion. The motion passed with six ayes.

**VII. RECREATION PLAN KICKOFF WITH PROGRESSIVE AE:**

Mr. Chris Markham, Landscape Architect with Progressive AE presented the Commission with an overview of the Highbanks Park Site Development Plan. A map depicting the existing layout and proposed improvements to Highbanks Park

was reviewed by the Commission members. Proposed improvements included a sidewalk connection to restroom, barrier free parking spaces, pavilion with grills and picnic tables, barrier free playground, barrier free sidewalk, barrier free kayak launch, observation deck and overlook, and a new ball field. Discussion followed. The timeline for this endeavor is as follows: Kickoff Meeting November 2022, Site Inventory Complete December 2022, Progress Meeting January 2023, Online Survey March 2023, Public Input Meeting April 2023, Progress Meeting May 2023, Public Review June 2023, Public Hearing July 2023, Plan Completion and DNR Submittal August 2023.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

Hearing no further business for the Planning Commission, Mrs. Wethington adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.