

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Session – Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 3:15 p.m.

Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded

Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2566>

The Regular Session of the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Casey Noonan at 3:15 p.m.

Noonan led the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

Roll Call:

John Arens, *(Late arrival, 3:19 p.m.)*
Dave Barrons, *Vice-Chairman (absent-prior notice)*
Steve Christensen *(absent-prior notice)*
Don Frerichs
Charles Godbout
Melinda Lautner
Casey Noonan, *Chairman*
John Popa
Kama Ross
F. Jon Walter *(absent-prior notice)*

Staff Present:

Laurel S. Evans, Executive Assistant
W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker

Public Comment:

Steve Stier, Historic Barn Preservation Society. Stier requested that the sound quality of the commission meeting recordings be improved. He said when watching the meetings on television that it is difficult to hear what is being said. Stier also requested that the proposal for an ice-skating rink at Myles Kimmerly Park be reconsidered. With regard to language in the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Mission Statement, he suggested removing the term “cost-effective” and revising the language to expand on other recreational activities, such as education, social activities, and entertainment. His thought was that these changes would broaden the benefit of the parks in the eyes of the community.

Agenda Additions/Deletions:

Motion by Godbout to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Lautner.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 6 (Godbout, Lautner, Noonan, Popa, Ross, Frerichs)

No – 0 Absent – 4 (Arens, Barrons, Christensen, Walter)

Motion Passes.

(Arens arrival.)

Action Items –

Approval of Minutes – September 6, 2023, Regular Session:

Motion by Frerichs to approve the Regular Session minutes of September 6, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Ross.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 7 (Frerichs, Godbout, Lautner, Noonan, Popa, Ross, Arens)

No – 0 Absent – 3 (Barrons, Christensen, Walter)

Motion Passes.

Approval of Financials:

- Revenue & Expense Report (Period Ending September 30, 2023)
- Transaction History Listing Report (September 1, 2023 Thru September 30, 2023)

Bradley reported that about half of the Park’s budget has been expended (48.48%) at this time. Discussion ensued about unspent Capital Outlay and the reasons that projects were not completed. Some of the holdup on 2023 projects was attributed to an unmet deadline by Gosling Czubak Engineering (Gosling) who were hired to create the (Myles Kimmerly Park) conceptual plan, but has yet to deliver. Lautner proposed requesting approval from the County Board of Commissioners (BOC) to roll to 2024 the unspent balance of Capital Outlay. She said that in past years, the BOC had approved a similar request.

Motion by Lautner to recommended to the County Board of Commissioners that they allow the Parks and Recreation Commission to rollover the remainder of its capital outlay budget into 2024 to be able to accomplish the projects as slated. Seconded by Ross.

Discussion – Frerichs inquired if the monies in Capital Outlay Under \$5,000.00 was included in the motion. Noonan responded that the balance in that account would eventually be reduced by outstanding expenses. Lautner said that they would get “as much rolled over as they can.” Ross added, “Let’s make a promise to ourselves that we are going spend that money next year – let’s do it!” Ross reminded the group that the BOC is discussing hiring a facilities manager who would have some responsibility for the parks. Noonan said it would be extremely helpful to have someone tasked with following the daily progression of park projects.

Ayes – 7 (Lautner, Noonan, Popa, Ross, Arens, Frerichs, Godbout)

No – 0 Absent – 3 (Barrons, Christensen, Walter)

Motion Passes.

Motion by Frerichs to approve the financials, as presented. Seconded by Ross.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 7 (Frerichs, Godbout, Lautner, Noonan, Popa, Ross, Arens)

No – 0 Absent – 3 (Barrons, Christensen, Walter)

Motion Passes.

Committee Reports and Recommendations –

Myles Kimmerly Park Committee:

Frerichs stated he had no formal report because “they are in limbo” resulting from Gosling’s inaction in completing (that park’s) master plan. He said he plans to call Gosling to get an update on when they could expect to receive the final design and also to set a meeting date once the committee has reviewed the design. Frerichs also mentioned that he would like to hear more about the liability issue tied to the proposed ice rink. (He was absent from the September Parks Commission meeting where this discussion took place.) Noonan explained that Bradley had talked with Dan Mays (who proposed installing the rink) but the project was put on hold because there is no water source in proximity of the proposed site; however, for a minimal cost, a water line could be installed. But before proceeding with installation of a water line, the Parks Commission is waiting to hear from Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMMRA) regarding any potential liability tied to installing the ice rink. Lastly, referencing the September Parks regular meeting minutes regarding recognition of park volunteers, Frerichs said that, without a list, he is unable to recognize volunteers who have lent a hand at the park. Ross noted an October 3, 2023, email received from Ben Papes (sent to Frerichs, Christensen, and Ross) who supported upgrades to the restroom facilities and the ball fields at Myles Kimmerly Park and offered assistance to be involved in the process of developing partnerships, either financially or in-kind. Noonan said he received other previous requests for upgrades to the ball fields and encouraged the requesters to attend a meeting with a list outlining their requests along with ideas for how to pay for the improvements. Ross inquired about inviting Papes to a Parks meeting and Noonan encouraged an invitation for him to attend and discuss his ideas in more detail.

Old Settlers Park Committee:

Godbout reported that he plans to schedule a committee meeting prior to the November Parks regular meeting to review the scope of work for the gazebo improvements, as well as the MMMRA report and any other outstanding projects. Bradley reported that he received two quotes (out of four he had solicited) for wiring to the gazebo; one for \$2,470.00 and the other for \$2,425.00, the high bid being from an approved, recommended vendor. Discussion ensued. Bradley added that 45th (Property and Power, LLC) has done satisfactory work for the County in the past. Chairman Noonan concurred.

Motion by Godbout that the Parks and Recreation Commission accept the (estimate) dated September 25, 2023, from 45th (Property and Power, LLC), for restoration of electrical service to the Old Settlers Park gazebo in an amount not to exceed \$2,470.00. Seconded by Lautner.

Discussion – none.

Ayes – 7 (Godbout, Lautner, Noonan, Popa, Ross, Arens, Frerichs)

No – 0 Absent – 3 (Barrons, Christensen, Walter)

Motion Passes.

Godbout confirmed the date for the next Old Settlers Park Committee meeting for November 1, 2023 at 2:15 p.m.

Veronica Valley Park Committee:

In Chairman Barron's absence, there was no report for Veronica Valley Park. Popa noted the next meeting for the Committee is scheduled for October 11, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Stever Stier. Stier again spoke regarding the Park's Mission Statement, which he said was written over 23 years ago and for that reason he said he would like to see it revised to make it more relevant to serve the citizens of Leelanau County. Stier added that the park review with Gosling that was conducted on May 25 (2023) was for the revision of the existing Master Plan, so it should not take a year for the work to be completed. He added that the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee only walked park property on the south side of CR616 during the on-site review with Gosling. He said the north side of CR616 should also be included in the revision. With regard to recognizing the work of park volunteers, Stier said the Poor Farm Barn group has raised and spent over \$100,000.00 and has put in thousands of hours of volunteer service and he said he would like to see those people recognized for their contributions.

Commissioner Comments:

Lautner commented that she felt that there had been much recognition of the volunteers at the Poor Farm Barn, but she invited Stier to bring forward a report about people and activities at the Poor Farm Barn needing recognition. Lautner mentioned that an update was recently provided on Maple Valley Nursing Home's removal of their septic field from the east side of Myles Kimmerly Park. Bradley added that there have been a few glitches, but that progress is being made. Godbout commented that the Lanham family's memorial prayer bench was installed near the chapel at Myles Kimmerly Park. Godbout inquired if Bradley could relocate two picnic tables that were left at the front of the chapel. Ross noted that she and Christensen and Chris Skellenger (Row by Row) were meeting on Friday (October 6, 2023) at noon to go over the composting display which they hope to have installed before winter. Popa addressed Mr. Stier's public comments by saying that he appreciates all the work that he does, and suggested that for the purpose of detailed inclusion in the minutes, that he type up his future comments and hand them out prior to the meetings. Noonan echoed Popa's comment, adding that saving the Poor Farm Barn "is a major asset to our community."

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the Parks Commission, the meeting adjourned to the call of Chairman Noonan at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary