

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Session - Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan
Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded
[\[Insert Link Here\]](#)

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting of the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 3:20 pm. by Gail Myer, Interim Planning Director. Myer led the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

Roll Call:	John Arens <i>(Absent)</i>	Melinda Lautner
	Keith Beduhn	Casey Noonan
	Steve Christensen	John Popa
	Don Frerichs	Kama Ross
	Charles Godbout	F. Jon Walter

Staff Present: Gail Myer, Interim Planning Director
W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Christensen. Seconded by Noonan. Motion passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest

None.

Annual Organization Items

1. Election of Officers

- Commission Chair
Motion by Noonan to nominate Charles Godbout as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Seconded by Christensen. Motion passed unanimously.
- Vice-Chair
Motion by Lautner to nominate Casey Noonan as Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Seconded by Christensen. Motion passed unanimously.
- Secretary
Motion by Godbout to nominate Steve Christensen as Secretary. Seconded by Ross. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule

Motion by Chair Godbout to change the convene time for future regular sessions of the Parks and Recreation Commission from 3:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Seconded by Noonan. Motion passed unanimously.

3. 2024 Parks Commissioner Standing Committee Appointments

- Myles Kimmerly Park
John Arans, Don Frerichs, Steve Christensen, Kama Ross

- Old Settlers Park
Steve Christensen, Melinda Lautner, Charlie Godbout, Casey Noonan
- Veronica Valley Park
Keith Beduhn (formerly Dave Barrons), Steve Christensen, John Popa, John Walter

Motion by Noonan to approve the 2024 Parks Commissioner Standing Committee appointments by maintaining previous 2023 appointments with the exception of adding Keith Beduhn to fill the vacancy on the Veronica Valley Park Committee (resulting from Dave Barrons resignation effective December 6, 2023). Seconded by Popa. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Updates to 2024 Parks Commission Contact List

- Change Lautner’s phone number to reflect her cell number.
- Remove Dave Barrons, add Keith Beduhn’s to contact list.
- Change Walter’s address to 917 Elm, Suttons Bay, MI 49682.
- Update Frerich’s phone number.

5. Parks Bylaws Review/Discussion

Myer noted the addition of the “Conflict of Interest” clause (Section 3.7.B).

Motion by Lautner to approve the Parks Bylaws, as amended. Seconded by Noonan. Motion passed unanimously.

6. 2024 Goals

Myer said she added the topic of “2024 Goals” for consideration by the Parks and Recreation Commission to be consistent with other boards and commissions. The consensus of the group was to table the topic and add it to the February agenda.

Public Comment

Steve Stier, President, Leelanau County Historic Preservation Society (LCHPS) read from the following document. (Copy provided by Stier.)

“Our organization holds a 25-year lease on the Poor Farm Barn and surround 2 acres.

The lease states that:

“Lessee shall rehabilitate and maintain historical structures on the premises and shall collaborate with the Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure the same are incorporated into the Leelanau County park system.” Underline and Italics added.

Further:

The original 2020-24 Gosling-Czubeck Master Plan States:

goal #3 on page 66 “utilize active recreational facilities and amenities on the North parcel”

Bullet point 4 “Improve partnership with LCHPS for the historic Poor Farm restoration.”

Proposed Action item f. Page 64

“Work closely with LCHPS to develop site master and facility plans”.

We have been trying to heartily for the last several years to actually “*collaborate with the Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure the same are incorporated into the Leelanau County park system.*” As required in our lease.

We hope the Parks and Recreation Commission will spend some serious effort to see that the Poor Farm Barn and site becomes more integrated into the Park system and a recognized asset in the future.”

Staff Comments

None.

Consideration of December 14, 2023 Myles Kimmerly Park Committee Meeting Minutes

The December 14, 2023 Myles Kimmerly Park Committee meeting minutes will be added to a future Myles Kimmerly Park Committee meeting agenda for approval.

(The outstanding December 6, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes will be added for approval to the February (2024) Parks and Recreation Commission’s regular session.)

Unfinished Business

1. County and Regional Parks (excerpt) Act 261 of 1965
(Discussion item.) This document was included as a response to the question raised at the December 6, 2023 Parks and Recreation session regarding whether it is necessary to have representation from the Drain and Road Commissions on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Section 46.351 (2)(a) and (2)(b) confirms that the Parks and Recreation Commission shall consist of “the chairperson of the county road commission or another road commissioner designated by the board of county road commissioners,” and “the county drain commissioner or an employee of the drain commissioner’s office designated in writing by the drain commission.” For the record, Godbout noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission is currently in compliance with this requirement.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Update – Community Parks and Recreation Plan
Godbout organized a subcommittee comprised of Beduhn, Frerichs, Godbout, and Ross who will meet with the Planning Director to lay out a timeline and identify the resource that will be used to create the Parks Plan.

Reports and Recommendations

1. Myles Kimmerly Park Committee – Frerichs reported that his committee is working on refining the conceptual plan and will be gathering public input at the March 6, 2024 committee meeting.
2. Old Settlers Park Committee – Godbout reported that a Request for Proposal (RFP) has been posted for the refurbishment of the gazebo. He added that he plans to call a committee meeting in February.

3. Veronica Valley Park Committee – Popa reported that the pad for the portable toilets has been poured. He added that the committee members will be setting a date for a committee meeting in the near future. Bradley commented that a citizen tore all the beaver dams out of the ponds and now there is no trace of the beavers.

Public Comment

Steve Stier spoke in favor of moving the Parks and Recreation Commission under the Planning Department and reported that the Barn Use Committee is finally organized and “it’s working.”

Staff Comments

None.

Commissioner and Chairperson Comments

Frerichs and Noonan commended Godbout for taking on the Chair responsibility for the Parks and Recreation Committee. Godbout thanked Noonan for his time as Chair and welcomed Beduhn as the new member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Commission, Godbout called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by Noonan. Seconded by Frerichs. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary