

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission
Myles Kimmerly Park Committee
Tuesday, April 27, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan
Amended Minutes – Meeting Recorded
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2510>

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee was called to order by Committee Chairman Don Frerichs at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Committee Chairman Frerichs led recitation of the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

Roll Call:

John Arens
Steve Christensen
Don Frerichs, *Chairman*
Kama Ross

Staff Present:

Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

Motion by Christensen to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Frerichs.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 4 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross, Arens)

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:

Steve Stier, President, Leelanau County Historic Preservation Society (LCHPS) reported that he has been notified by the Building Safety Department that restrooms are required on site in order to have people in the Poor Farm Barn; therefore, Stier said restrooms will be added on the north side of the road. He added that they will not be portable toilets because he was advised they are not permitted.

Action Items –

Approval of Minutes – February 28, 2023, Committee Meeting:

Motion by Ross to approve the Committee Meeting minutes of February 28, 2023. Seconded by Christensen.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 4 (Arens, Christensen, Frerichs, Ross)

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Review of Park Priorities/Conceptual Plan Discussion:

Committee Chairman Frerichs referenced a park map (refer to the packet – https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/04272023_mkpcomm_packet.pdf) from 2016. He said the 2016 map was carried over to the 2024 park plan; however, Frerichs noted that the pit

toilets near the park entrance on the south side of Burdickville Road are missing from the 2024 plan and wondered if it was an oversight. Frerichs stated that today's objective was to prioritize the projects that the group wanted to keep and to determine where to add projects on the map. Referencing the three-column document entitled, "Myles Kimmerly Park Priorities" restructured by Evans, Frerichs noted that projects in column one of the document were easy to address, with the first project, the Master Plan, already in progress. He said column two projects (tennis courts, pickleball, baseball, basketball, soccer) were more difficult to execute and that he needed more input from County Maintenance Worker Scott Bradley and Christensen who "have been around longer." Regarding column three, which lists items within the approved County Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Frerichs said he was unsure where to go with that.

Before embarking into further discussion, Evans brought the group's attention to three documents submitted by Bradley (not in attendance) that would be integral to the discussion; 1) A Scoring App stats for UDisc from the 2022 season; 2) a picture of a tennis court with overlaid pickleball striping; 3) Bradley's notes and comments on the Myles Kimmerly Park Priorities document.

In response to Arens' question about park priorities over the last few years, Christensen said the committee has been preparing to interface with Gosling Czubak, the firm that has been retained to redo the park's master plan (a prerequisite for grant applications). He said currently the committee is deciding what projects are wanted, or not wanted, so the projects deemed a priority can be emphasized when Gosling walks the committee through the redo.

The discussion momentarily digressed to the topic of a dog park. Committee Chairman Frerichs suggested siting a dog walk in the northwest corner of the park rather than adding a dog park.

Christensen continued on the topic of priorities being decided. He explained to Arens that the **paved** walking trail was a high priority, with \$190,000.00 requested in the 2023 budget that was not approved. He said that federal funds (might be) forthcoming from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which is their next hope for funding. Christensen added that the proposed walking trail cuts into the driving range and the committee needs to decide whether to keep or eliminate it.

Evans reminded the group to consider the Maple Valley Nursing Home's lease of park land (for its drainfield) as usable space when designing the park's master plan, since the County recently gave the owner 90 days to have a plan in place to remove the drain field. Christensen explained that the County sold the nursing home to the Kasben family and a 15-year lease was signed on April 29, 2008, so they have had "that many years to figure it out, which they haven't." (The lease expires on April 29, 2023.)

Committee Chairman Frerichs stated that the paved trail and the pickleball courts were his priorities and asked the group for their thoughts. Christensen discussed the \$35,000.00 (estimated) kiosk that included a concrete pad for three regular, portable toilets plus a Universal Access (UA) toilet, as well as a bottle-filling station. He said that should definitely be a

priority; Frerichs concurred. In addition, Christensen proposed the pickleball courts and the paved trail as priorities, with the dog park as a lower priority, though he said the dog park location as proposed was a good plan. However, he added that also in contention with the dog park area, was the driving range – a decision Christensen thought could be made on the field trip.

In reviewing Bradley’s comments to the park’s list of priorities, Bradley noted that use of the basketball area was “rare.” Christensen pointed out that the basketball area did not survive the new plan. Ross added that it was the same for the volleyball area; however, she said it does not cost anything to keep the volleyball pit; although if it interfered with the pickleball courts, it probably would have to go. Regarding the tennis courts, Ross did not support removing them and suggested as a compromise, keeping the tennis courts and adding pickleball striping to them, then building stand-alone pickleball courts as well.

Arens inquired if Gosling would be making suggestions as to the use of the current footprint (utilization of the driveway, the entrances, which activities should be closest to parking). Christensen responded that traffic flow and parking are key elements to the park plan and the former plan proposed a loop which was later nixed. Christensen added that Gosling would be assisting in addressing all these issues. Discussion ensued on potential walking trail configurations; traffic flow, and parking. Christensen said the kiosk is a bit underrepresented on the actual design and explained the proposed kiosk and portable toilet configuration.

Committee Chairman Frerichs inquired about playground equipment on the CIP list. Christensen thought it a good idea to keep it on the list. Ross concurred. Christensen discussed potential alternate uses for the driving range area if it was removed or relocated. From the perspective of a family who has used the park over the years, Arens said he appreciated the previous plan with two, functional park entrances and centrally located restrooms. Christensen thanked Arens for his insightful perspective as someone who recreated and used the park over the years.

Ross commented that “we keep talking about the same things over and over again.” She felt it was time to move ahead and inquired if the onsite meeting with Gosling had been scheduled. Christensen said he would add the meeting request with Gosling to his “to do” list. Christensen confirmed with the group that the meeting with Gosling would include Myles Kimmerly Park committee members only. Evans inquired about the number of meetings covered in Gosling’s proposal. Christensen confirmed one site visit and one meeting was cited in the proposal.

The offsite meeting with Gosling was set for Wednesday, May 17, 2023

- 1:00 p.m. – Convene at Government Center Conference Room
- 1:15 p.m. – Recess
- 1:45 p.m. – Reconvene at Myles Kimmerly Park to meet Gosling
- 4:30 p.m. (approximate) – Reconvene at Government Center Conference Room

An alternate date was set for Thursday, May 18, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and following the same schedule. Evans said she would reserve the conference room and confirm the meeting date with Gosling.

Ross said she would send SPARKS grant information to Committee Chairman Frerichs for grants opening May 1, 2023, and closing the end of June. Ross stressed the need for the County to employ a grant writer and thought the group should reach out to the community to find one. She added that it would show that they are not relying on the Board of Commissioners for capital outlay. There was discussion about previous, unsuccessful grant applications, qualifications for a grant, and the work involved in pursuing it.

Christensen inquired if they should set the meeting date for the final meeting with Gosling at this time. It was decided to wait until after the on-site meeting.

Public Comment:

Steve Stier noted that with public assembly in the Poor Farm Barn imminent, LCHPS is looking at restrooms and parking. He added that any cooperation that could be made on these projects would be great.

Board Member Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Ross.

Ayes – 4 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross, Arens)

No – 0

Motion Passes.

The meeting adjourned to the call of Chairman Frerichs at 10:06 a.m.

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary