

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission
Myles Kimmerly Park Committee
Thursday, May 26, 2022 – 11:00 a.m.
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan
Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2346>

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee was called to order by Committee Chairman Don Frerichs at 11:04 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman Frerichs led the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

Roll Call:

Steve Christensen
Don Frerichs, *Chairman*
Rick Robbins
Michael Smith (*Resigned prior to meeting.*)

Staff Present:

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

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

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

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Robbins)

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:

Steve Stier, President, Leelanau County Historic Preservation Society, read a letter on behalf of Colton Smith, owner of the property at the north end of Cold Spring Road. In his letter, Smith expressed opposition to the prospect of building “a commercial building” on the north end of Myles Kimmerly Park (the property adjacent to the Poor Farm Barn). Stier also expressed opposition to development of the parcel and said the potential for what could be done with the park property will be “gone forever” if it is sold. He said he discovered this morning that the north side of the park may not be parkland in perpetuity, and his group would like clarification and assurance that their investment in preservation of the Poor Farm Barn is secure as part of Myles Kimmerly Park. To clarify Stier’s stance, Robbins inquired if Stier would be in opposition to development on the south side of the park (across Burdickville Road/CR 616). Stier responded that he opposed the sale of any park property.

Relating to Item 5 (Signage) on the agenda, Stier requested signage be posted to discourage drivers from entering the Poor Farm Barn area via the pedestrian walkway. He suggested a sign directing drivers to enter from Cold Spring Road.

Haylee Fisher, owner of Cold Spring Farm, which is located next to the park property being considered for the fire station, was present. She implored the committee members to “find a different spot for the fire station.” She said it would ruin the aesthetic and habitat of the area and after all the work that has been put into the Poor Farm (Barn) and its surrounding area, she does not understand why development is even being considered. She said it would be detrimental to her business (equestrian facility) and psychologically damaging to her horses to have a fire station nearby. Robbins clarified that “they came to us” – the County was not actively seeking a buyer for the property. Fisher added that her understanding was that the property would be parkland into perpetuity. She said the proposition to build a fire station is frightening because her livelihood is dependent on the peace and beauty of the area that brings clients to her farm with a desire to board their horses and ride.

Christensen thought that Greg Julian’s (Kasson Township Supervisor) inquiry about purchasing the property was an action of due diligence in prospecting before moving on to other options.

Bradley stated that he wanted to go on record in opposition to the fire station on Myles Kimmerly Park property. He said he would rather have the fire station next to his farm than have it in Maple City.

Stier returned to speak about the money that was raised to refurbish the Poor Farm Barn with the assumption that the barn was on protected parkland. He asked the County to ensure that all Myles Kimmerly parkland remains parkland into perpetuity.

Action Items –

Approval of January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Christensen to approve the meeting minutes dated January 19, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Robbins.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Robbins)

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue Property Acquisition Request:

Regarding the proposal from Tim Stein, Supervisor, Cleveland Township and Greg Julian, Supervisor, Kasson Township to purchase approximately five acres from the north area of Myles Kimmerly Park for construction of a fire station, Chairman Frerichs explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission sent the proposal back to the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee for more discussion to determine why the Committee might approve or disapprove of the proposal. Christensen added that Glen Lake Community Schools is also interested in the property to build baseball fields. Christensen said he thought that with competing interest in the land, it was time to update the conceptual study for Myles Kimmerly Park to get a fresh focus on the Committee’s aspirations for the park.

Motion by Christensen to go for a study and a “redo” of the conceptual design for Myles Kimmerly including our wishes for the 10 acres. Seconded by Robbins.

Discussion – Chairman Frerichs said he thought the Committee could decide the direction of the park on its own without hiring a company to do it. Christensen responded he thought it would be helpful to document a plan because of so many things being “up in the air, including the perpetuity concept.” Frerichs voiced concern about the cost for the redesign, so Christensen suggested rewording the motion to “look at the cost for doing it.” Evans advised that no motion was necessary for researching cost.

Christensen withdrew the motion.

Bradley said he was involved in the process of the first conceptual design and that it was “pretty seamless.” He said there was public comment with many good ideas shared. He felt it was a productive endeavor and that it was “money well spent.” He estimated the design was completed seven or eight years ago and that the Committee’s vision had changed since then. He thought the public’s vision might have changed as well. Christensen said he would research options for conceptual design work.

Motion by Christensen to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission to put all activity on the 10 acres, other than what we want to do, on hold. Seconded by Robbins.

Discussion – Christensen added this means “no, to Cedar Fire and Rescue and no, to Glen Lake Schools.” Chairman Frerichs said he wanted a motion that simply stated the property was not for sale.

Motion amended by Christensen to recommend to Parks and Recreation Commission to put all proposed activity on hold for the 10 acres north of Burdickville Road at Myles Kimmerly County Park and that the property not be sold. Seconded by Robbins.

Discussion: Chairman Frerichs said he did not feel the “proposed activity” sentence should be included in the motion. He wanted to clearly state that the Committee did not support the sale of the property.

Christensen withdrew the motion.

Motion by Christensen to recommend to the County Parks and Recreation Commission to refuse the request from the Cedar Area Fire and Rescue to purchase property within Myles Kimmerly Park. Seconded by Frerichs.

Discussion: Frerichs said the motion negates the fact that someone else may come along and want to buy the property. He suggested simply stating that the Committee feels the property should never be sold. Robbins responded that the County Board most likely would not want to box themselves into a commitment to never sell the property.

Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Robbins)

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Motion by Frerichs to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission that the section of Myles Kimmerly Park north of Burdickville Road be put in perpetuity similar to Leelanau County “Resolution #2000-15.” Seconded by Christensen.

Discussion: None.

Ayes – 3 (Frerichs, Robbins, Christensen)

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Grub Shack Removal:

Bradley reported the grub shack removal was still two to three weeks out. Bradley added the water has been hooked up and will have to be redone once the grub shack is gone.

Kiosk/Porta-Potty Enclosure:

Chairman Frerichs updated members on the cost of the kiosk project, which has increased from an estimate of \$27,000.00 to \$30,000.00 - \$33,000.00, based on estimates from Northport Building Supply and a local builder. Christensen added that the walking trail could be presented to the County Board as a stand-alone project above and beyond the Commission's budget, with the kiosk project being the Committee's highest priority for Myles Kimmerly Park. Robbins said the estimate he had for paving the walking trail was between \$125,000.00 - \$150,000.00. Bradley said Elmer's would be contacting him to meet for an estimate for paving the trail. Christensen inquired if the Committee had voted for Option #2 of Walter's renderings for a kiosk. Frerich's thought was that the Committee had agreed on Option 2.

Motion by Christensen to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission that they include this kiosk/porta-potty enclosure for the Fiscal Year 2023 County Board Budget. Seconded by Frerichs.

Discussion: Evans reminded the group of the June 1, 2022, Executive Session at 3:30 p.m., directly following the Regular Session of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Robbins)

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Chairman Frerichs said he thought the public might think \$33,000.00 for portable toilets might be excessive and wondered if they should explore flush toilets. Christensen responded that flush toilets was a topic for future discussion; portable toilets would serve the purpose for now. Christensen discussed renovating/improving the current pit toilet to a universal access toilet. With discussion about more changes to the kiosk project, Bradley emphasized the need for an updated concept design to document a comprehensive vision for the park.

Motion by Christensen to strike the motion recommending that the kiosk/porta-potty enclosure be included in the Fiscal Year 2023 County Board Budget. Seconded by Robbins.

Discussion: None.

Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Robbins)

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Signage –

Trails: Chairman Frerichs reported that the new signage for Myles Kimmerly and Veronica Valley Parks will be installed sometime this summer.

Disc Golf Course: Aloft Disc Golf members requested that the signs be replaced on the disc golf course. Bradley said the existing signs are in poor shape; he has talked with Greg Argyle of Aloft and he estimated \$700.00 to print the signs and “a couple hundred bucks” for a map and “they” are willing to do it. Chairman Frerichs suggested that Argyle should attend the June Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to present his ideas.

Paved Loop Trail: Bradley shared some grant opportunities to raise funds for paving the loop, such as the Oleson Foundation; the Schmuckal Foundation; and the Les Biederman Foundation. Christensen reminded the group about past failures for state grant monies because of low scores on the grant applications due to the high median incomes within Leelanau County.

Dog Park: Chairman Frerichs reported he contacted the couple who sent a letter offering to support the construction of a dog park. Robbins said he felt the master plan and walking trail should be first priority before adding more projects. Frerichs mentioned the office for Bradley they had discussed by building an addition on the shop at Myles Kimmerly Park, but Bradley said he would rather focus on projects in the park that benefit the community.

Pickle Ball Courts – No discussion.

Public Comment:

None.

Committee Member Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned to the call of Chairman Frerichs at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary