

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission
Myles Kimmerly Park Committee
Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan
Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2523>

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee was called to order by Committee Chairman, Don Frerichs at 1:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present:

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

Guests Present:

Greg Argyle - Aloft Disc Golf

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

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

Discussion – None.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:

None.

Action Items –

Approval of Minutes – April 27, 2023, Committee Meeting:

Motion by Christensen to approve the Committee Meeting minutes of April 27, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Arens.

Discussion – Frerichs requested that the word “paved” be added to the second sentence, paragraph 5, page 2.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Committee Chairman Frerichs recessed the meeting at 1:05 p.m. while the group traveled to Myles Kimmerly Park.

Tour of Myles Kimmerly Park:

The Myles Kimmerly Park Committee reconvened at Myles Kimmerly Park at 1:35 p.m. In attendance were committee members John Arens; Steve Christensen; Don Frerichs; and Kama Ross, as well as Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant; Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker; Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary; and Greg Argyle of Aloft Disc Golf. Kevin Krogulecki, P.L.A. of Gosling Czubak Engineering, was already on site to meet the group. Krogulecki explained that today's objective was to gather ideas and input for updating the park's master plan. He added that a current master plan is helpful when applying for grant funding.

While considering the use of the northwest area of the park to install pickleball courts, the group inspected the jungle gym (climbing structure) that resides north of the pavilion and discussed whether to relocate it or remove it completely due to its degraded condition and its location in proximity of the area being considered for pickleball courts. Also discussed was whether to keep or remove the basketball hoop and volleyball pit, which are also imposing on the proposed pickleball area. Whether to restripe the tennis courts to give them dual use as tennis and pickleball courts was also discussed, as well replacing the tennis courts in favor of pickleball courts. Since the public seemed to be gravitating to the newly-installed tennis courts at Glen Lake Community Schools a few miles down the road, use of the park's tennis courts had diminished. As a cost-saving measure, Krogulecki proposed four to six pickleball courts could first be created in the current space where the tennis courts reside. The area to the west where the basketball hoop and volleyball pit resides could be an expansion area to add more pickleball courts in the future. How to keep parking in the proximity of the courts as well how to create a separate path to the courts was discussed. There was a question about the noise from the pickleball courts creating a nuisance to those picnicking in the pavilion area, though considering the noise created by the traffic on CR616 (Burdickville Road), it was thought that the noise may not be an issue.

A question about the frequency of use on the recreational ballfield was raised, and Bradley advised it did not get frequent use. This news caused the attention to turn to the recreational ballfield for consideration of pickleball courts. This location resolved the potential noise issue and contained pickleball activity to the east of the busy park entrance, alleviating the need to cross the driveway to get to the courts. This location also afforded ample parking near the courts and angle parking or parking pockets created between the courts for approximately 50 spaces was discussed. Placing a kiosk near the entrance, relocating the park sign for better visibility, and making portable toilets, with at least one Universal Access (UA) toilet, more accessible by placing them at both the east and west sides of the park was discussed.

Bradley opened the maintenance garage for a brief tour. Christensen inquired about the recent cost of maintenance and the age of the Kubota tractor parked in the garage and thought it should be considered for replacement in the next few years.

The group walked the mowed path of the proposed paved loop trail. Along the way, improvements to the disc golf course were suggested by Mr. Argyle. Removing the unsightly and dangerous hanging wire and posts that reside along the driveway and upper parking lot and replacing them by continuing the split rail fencing was discussed. At the beginning of the disc golf course, Argyle suggested creating a practice area. The pros and cons of the driving range in the meadow on the east side of the park were weighed and there was support for moving it to the north side of CR616. The idea of a dog park was also pushed to the north side of CR616. Ross thought the east meadow should be considered for native plantings. Creating curves in the trail among the ornamental trees in the portion of the paved trail that runs parallel to CR616 was suggested versus removing the trees to enable a straight path, though Krogulecki warned that curves in the path might create a visual hazard by making it difficult to see path users such as bikers.

At 3:45 p.m., the meeting at the park recessed and the group headed back to the Government Center to reconvene.

Reconvene Meeting at Government Center:

At 4:15 p.m. the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee meeting reconvened at the Government Center. Arens was not in attendance for this portion of the meeting.

Review of Discussion with Gosling Czubak/Conceptual Plan:

Christensen commented that it was a productive endeavor to meet on-site, adding that he thought it was interesting where the pickleball courts ended up versus where they were initially proposed. Frerichs concurred, saying he was pleased with the new location. Frerichs liked the idea of a kiosk at the entrance of the park, but thought they still needed something on the east side of the park – something like a satellite kiosk along with a stand of portable toilets. Visiting the Palmer Woods Conservancy as a reference for restroom design was suggested and Bradley said he would visit the Conservancy and take pictures. Evans reminded the group that costs will increase with the addition of more portable toilets. Bradley added that the cost is double for UA portable toilets. Evans suggested talking with the Leelanau County Road Commission about reducing the speed along CR616, just as they have done at Old Settlers' Park.

Christensen proposed refining the park plan via email, adding that once Krogulecki submits an updated park plan, a committee meeting would be scheduled. Frerichs expressed concern about the driving range and moving it to the other side of the road. Ross thought more input was needed about its value to the golfers. Ross added that she wants to be sure to do something at the park with wild plants. Christensen concurred and thought planting trees would be a nice addition.

Public Comment:

Greg Argyle thanked the group for letting him tag along at today's park walk. Christensen and Frerichs both thanked Argyle for his input on the disc golf course.

Board Member Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Ross.

Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross)

No – 0 Absent – 1 (Arens)

Motion Passes.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned to the call of Chairman Frerichs at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary