

## Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Session – Wednesday, August 3, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

### Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded

Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2376>

The meeting of the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Noonan at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Noonan led the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

#### Roll Call:

John Arens  
Dave Barrons, *Vice-Chairman*  
Steve Christensen, *Secretary – Absent/prior notice*  
Don Frerichs  
Charles Godbout  
Melinda Lautner  
Casey Noonan, *Chairman*  
John Popa, *Absent/prior notice*  
Rick Robbins, *Absent/prior notice*  
F. Jon Walter

#### Staff Present:

Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant  
W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker (3:18 p.m. arrival)

#### Public Comment:

None

#### Agenda Additions/Deletions:

Noonan requested to add “Memorial Donation” under “Old Settlers Park Committee.”

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

Discussion – None.

**Ayes – 7 (Lautner, Noonan, Walter, Arens, Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout)**

**No – 0 Absent – 3 (Christensen, Popa, Robbins)**

**Motion Passes.**

#### Action Items –

##### Approval of Minutes:

- May 4, 2022 – Regular Session
- June 1, 2022 – Regular Session
- June 1, 2022 - Executive Committee Meeting

**Motion by Lautner to approve the minutes from May 4, 2022 (Regular Session); June 1, 2022 (Regular Session); and June 1, 2022 (Executive Committee Meeting). Seconded by Barrons.**

Discussion – Frerichs requested amending the June 1, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes to include under “Commissioner Comments,” his verbatim reading from page 66 of the 2020 – 2024 Five-Year Plan under “Proposed Action: c. Consider preservation of field at the northwestern corner

of the property for passive recreation to blend in with the historical and agrarian nature of the Poor Farm vicinity.”

**Motion amended by Lautner to approve all minutes, including the June 1, 2022, Regular meeting minutes, as requested by Frerichs. Seconded by Barrons.**

Discussion – None.

**Ayes – 7 (Lautner, Noonan, Walter, Arens, Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout)**

**No – 0 Absent – 3 (Christensen, Popa, Robbins)**

**Motion Passes.**

Approval of Financials:

- Revenue & Expense Report – Period Ending June 30, 2022
- Transaction History Listing Report – June 1, 2022 Thru June 30, 2022
- Revenue & Expense Report – Period Ending July 31, 2022
- Transaction History Listing Report – July 1, 2022 Thru July 31, 2022

Due to Bradley’s absence, review and approval of the financials was tabled until the September meeting.

Committee Reports and Recommendations –

Myles Kimmerly Park Committee:

Evans reported that Tim Newman (Kasson Contracting) is unable to remove the Grub Shack, so Stanz Dozer Services will be taking over the project. Noonan explained that Stanz Dozer does not carry all the required licenses to perform the demo work, so Stanz Dozer will be subcontracting the project and the permit will be issued under the subcontractor’s name. The cost for Stanz Dozer to remove the grub shack will be \$1,500.00.

Leelanau County Resolutions – 1995-15 (MKP Use, Michigan State University Extension) –

Frerichs reported that the MSU lease on the 10-acre plot at Myles Kimmerly Park expires in 2025. He added that the lease was improperly drawn up, so it is unenforceable; however, the deed for the property reflects no restrictions regarding sale of the property.

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue – Frerichs had no update.

Glen Lake Community Schools – Frerichs reported that baseball fields proposed by Glen Lake Community Schools for the 10-acre plot at Myles Kimmerly Park would create a “private enterprise” through creation of a traveling league and, therefore, he does not support the proposal. His preference is that the property remain for passive use.

Trail Proposal from Team Elmer’s – Frerichs reported that the bid from Team Elmer’s to pave the loop trail at Myles Kimmerly Park was \$234,900.00 and he asked if assistance from the County in the amount of \$190,000.00 to \$200,000.00 had been submitted. Noonan said there is a special funding request in the budget and Evans confirmed the project was in the CIP (Item 2022-03 \$200,000.00). Frerichs said he sent an email to Justin Kelenske (Team Elmer’s) asking about a 10-foot-wide trail versus 8-feet. Lautner, Noonan, and Walter concurred an 8-foot-wide trail was sufficient. Lautner added that many comments on social media expressed interest in a

paved trail at the park. Walter said that, per Team Elmer's, there was more slope to accommodate than anticipated which would require deeper cuts for the trail. There was discussion as to whether or not Team Elmer's might buy the surplus soil cleared from the trail. Bradley proposed hauling it to Old Settlers Park.

Bradley arrived.

Evans reminded the group to keep the Maple Valley Nursing Home lease on its radar because of the impending lease expiration in April 2023. She added that she has asked County Administrator Chet Janik to talk with counsel about facilitating a seamless termination of the lease.

Frerichs inquired if new commission member John Arens would be replacing Michael Smith on the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee. Evans advised it was Frerichs decision. Frerichs welcomed Arens to the committee.

#### Old Settlers Park Committee:

Noonan reported that with the recent passing of Nancy Lamb, donations of \$3,000.00 were received with a request from the family to be used at Old Settlers Park for a memorial bench with a plaque and a small piece of playground equipment if there was money left after purchasing the bench, though, he said the family was open to other ideas for any surplus money. Bradley estimated \$2,500.00 for the bench. Godbout suggested using any remaining dollars to rent a "bouncy house" for the upcoming picnic. Lautner said they will explore options.

Noonan thanked Bradley for helping out with a minor emergency associated with moving the water hydrant due to a leak in the waterline. Noonan reminded the group that the Old Settlers Park picnic is this weekend (Sunday, August 7, 2022). Lautner reported that the playground equipment was installed in one day (July 15, 2022) by Playground Boss, the company the equipment was purchased from. The engineered wood chips for groundcover have yet to be installed.

#### Veronica Valley Park Committee:

Barrons reported that the wayfinding signs for the Veronica Valley and Myles Kimmerly Parks will be available in a few weeks. Bradley will coordinate the installation. Barrons said that Kids' Fishing Day was successful, with a huge turnout. He added that the fish walkway has two areas of potholes and that after inspection by Popa, Bradley, and himself, the decision was made to pack crushed stone in the potholes to mitigate further erosion. Regarding invasive weeds in the ponds, biologist Brian Price has said there is very little milfoil and small clusters of curly leaf which could simply be pulled out, so for this year, the weeds are under control but most likely, will need management next year. Lautner also commented on the success of Kid's Fishing Day, adding there were lots of people, lots of food, and great volunteers. Walter said he thought the families enjoyed the tank with the snapping turtle. He added that he had many partakers of family photos when he offered to do so. Walter commented that there seemed to be a lot of spotted knapweed growing in the park, which is also known as Russian Thistle. He said as a beekeeper he knows bees love it and added there is a beekeeper right next to the park. Evans

informed the group that the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians did not approve a 2% Allocation request to fund invasive species eradication this year.

CIP Review:

Lautner inquired about the line item for playground equipment and thought it could be removed with the recent playground equipment installation at Old Settlers Park; however, it was pointed out this line item was for playground equipment at Myles Kimmerly Park, so the group agreed to leave it in the CIP. Godbout commented that there was nothing in the CIP for Old Settlers Park. Lautner mentioned that at some point the gazebo will get a “facelift.” Godbout requested that some money be added to the CIP for the gazebo project.

2023 Budget Review:

There were no questions or discussion regarding the 2023 Budget.

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner Comments:

Frerichs inquired about calling a Myles Kimmerly Park Committee meeting for further discussion with Kasson Township Supervisor Greg Julian and Randy Weber, coach for Glen Lake Community Schools, about the sale or lease of the 10-acre plat at Myles Kimmerly Park. Noonan said he would contact Julian to see if he was interested in meeting again. Barrons said that Veronica Valley Park, and perhaps the other parks, needed volunteers, but he was not sure how to organize a group. He asked for input at the next meeting.

Chairperson Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned to the call of Chairman Noonan at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lori D. Eubanks, Recording Secretary