

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Session – Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded

Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2413>

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

Chairman Noonan led the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

Roll Call:

John Arens, *absent/prior notice*

Dave Barrons, *Vice-Chairman*

Steve Christensen, *absent/prior notice*

Don Frerichs

Charles Godbout

Melinda Lautner, *absent/prior notice*

Casey Noonan, *Chairman*

John Popa

Rick Robbins

F. Jon Walter

Staff Present:

Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant

W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker

Public Comment:

None.

Agenda Additions/Deletions:

Frerichs requested “Myles Kimmerly Park – Parkland Sale” to be added to the agenda.

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

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 7 (Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout, Noonan, Popa, Robbins, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 3 (Arens, Christensen, Lautner)

Motion Passes.

Action Items –

Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2022, Regular Session:

Motion by Robbins to approve the October 5, 2022, Regular Session Minutes, as presented.

Seconded by Frerichs.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 7 (Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout, Noonan, Popa, Robbins, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 3 (Arens, Christensen, Lautner)

Motion Passes.

Approval of Financials:

- Transaction History Listing Report – October 1-31, 2022
- Revenue & Expense Reports – Period Ending October 31, 2022

Motion by Walter to approve the financials, as presented. Seconded by Barrons.

Discussion – Bradley reported expenditures are currently at 95% of budget, with cleanup at Old Settlers Park and fall cleanups still outstanding. Frerichs inquired if the \$800.00 under Contractual Services could go towards consultations. Evans replied that it could.

Ayes – 7 (Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout, Noonan, Popa, Robbins, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 3 (Arens, Christensen, Lautner)

Motion Passes.

FY 2022 Commission Appointment Recommendation:

Evans prefaced this action by informing the group that Walter is up for reappointment and has indicated he would like to continue his service on the Parks and Recreation Commission. She added that Walter is eligible because he has not reached the three-term limit.

Motion by Barrons that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the County Board of Commissioners the reappointment of F. Jon Walter to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2025. Seconded by Frerichs.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 7 (Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout, Noonan, Popa, Robbins, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 3 (Arens, Christensen, Lautner)

Motion Passes.

Committee Reports and Recommendations –

Myles Kimmerly Park Committee:

Frerichs inquired about the November 9, 2022, Executive Board meeting where the sale of parkland from Myles Kimmerly Park is on the agenda. Evans responded that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) has the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission (not in support of selling parkland); however, the BOC did not like the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission, so Evans said it is up to the BOC what they do from here. Robbins added that the BOC does not support selling the parkland. He said the item was tabled not because of the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation, but because of time constraints. Evans said she will ask County Board Chairman Ty Wessell how he plans to address this topic at that Executive Board meeting. Frerichs inquired who from the Parks and Recreation Commission will be attending the meeting. Evans responded that Barrons will be attending on behalf of the 2% allocation request and added that she will send to the group a copy of the agenda once it has been published in case others are interested in attending.

Chairman Noonan inquired if the BOC made a final decision on funding for paving the walking trail at Myles Kimmerly Park. Robbins responded that the BOC has mixed feelings and that a fourth vote was uncertain because a commissioner wanted broadband in her area before paving the walking trail. Evans encouraged members to speak to this item at the budget work session on November 9, which will immediately follow the Executive Board meeting. Frerichs said he will plan to attend.

Regarding the paving bid from Elmer's for the walking trail at Myles Kimmerly Park, Robbins commented that the black dirt from digging the trail is valuable and estimated it could be worth \$40,000, which could defray the paving cost from Elmer's. Robbins said he would talk with Elmer's about this proposal.

Frerichs discussed the bid for the five-year plan for Myles Kimmerly Park. He said the Committee was torn about spending \$4,700.00 to "tell us what we already know." He said perhaps the \$800.00 left in the budget could be used to defray the cost. Frerichs invited the group's thoughts. Chairman Noonan suggested conducting a committee meeting first to determine what the committee wants to pursue. Barrons added that from a committee level, it is nice to hear from the full Parks group. Godbout inquired when the last master plan for the parks was created. Frerichs responded, 2020 to 2024. In that case, Godbout said they would be looking at a revision or review in 2024. Robbins suggested engaging a college intern from Parks and Recreation to come up with park plan. Godbout stated that he assumed that the existing plan contains action items. He said each action item needs prioritization and a cost analysis in preparation for submission to the budget. He encouraged the use of the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) process to get projects considered in the budget. Frerichs said he did not feel an intern would have the experience that the Gosling Czubak firm offers. Barrons added he felt the Committee was capable of outlining a plan and added that he "was not sure if an outside voice was worth \$4,700.00." Frerichs said he will address the issue with the committee then come back and update the full Commission.

Old Settlers Park Committee:

Lanham Donation – Chairman Noonan said that Lautner was spearheading this item and thought it should be tabled in her absence. He said he would will follow up with Lautner.

Proposed Celebration of Life (Schilling), July 23, 2023.

Ms. Moore (under William Harris and son via Zoom) – Evans advised that the family changed the date of the celebration of life for Barbara Whiteside Schilling to July 9, 2023. After a brief discussion, concurrence by the Parks Commission to allow the temporary installation of two, 10' x 10' pop-up canopies. Evans reminded Ms. Moore that the park does not close to the public so it is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Chairman Noonan said the family "has our blessing" to go ahead with the memorial celebration.

Budget Request Update (Dock Sections).

Evans advised the group that Christensen requested this topic to be added to the agenda; however, he was not present for the discussion. Evans said the need for new/repair of dock sections was questioned at the County Board's Executive Board meeting and the response from someone (Evans did not remember who) was that they were not sure why it was in the budget. She thought Lautner would know more about the discussion. Bradley said he was "baffled" by the request because the dock sections were in good shape; however, he said the dock stairs and approach could use some attention. Chairman Noonan said he mentioned the dock as a potential budget item and that the request could be revised. He said he will add the item in the

budget and will ask Christensen if it is okay to revise the request to reflect repair of the stairs/approach to the dock rather than the dock sections.

Veronica Valley Park Committee –
Beaver Update.

Barrons reported that there has been no success in trapping the beavers at the park, though “Trapper Ron” Baker is not ready to give up. He added that the \$800.00 permit was for five beavers, with the expectation of trapping at least two. He said the endeavor will continue, and removal of the dams is necessary to keep the park trails from flooding.

Barrons also reported that he submitted to the County Board a Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippawa Indians two percent allocation application to fund invasive species eradication. He said Tribal members witnessed activity last year and felt it was a positive experience. For this reason, Barrons felt their support might help get the grant approved.

Barrons inquired of Bradley if the erosion issue at the entrance of the park had been resolved. Bradley said he moved some rock around, but with all the rain, it takes a while to drain.

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner Comments:

None.

Chairperson Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned to the call of Chairman Noonan at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori D. Eubanks, Recording Secretary