

**Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Myles Kimmerly Park Committee**  
Thursday, December 14, 2023  
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan  
*Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded*  
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2616>

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee was called to order by Committee Chairman, Don Frerichs at 9:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Roll Call:

John Arens (*Absent*)  
Steve Christensen  
Don Frerichs, *Chairman*  
Kama Ross

Staff Present:

Gail Myer, Interim Planning Director  
W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

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

Discussion – None.

**Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross)**

**No – 0 Absent – 1 (Arens)**

**Motion Passes.**

Public Comment:

Deb Allen, County Administrator, discussed the impending transition of the Parks and Recreation Commission (and its subcommittees) into the Planning Department and the potential for reorganization of these entities. Allen explained that Gail Myer, Interim Planning Director, was attending today’s meeting as a result of Laurel Evans’ imminent retirement. Allen said more information will follow.

Steve Steir, President, Leelanau County Historic Preservation Society (LCHPS) spoke about LCHPS’s 25-year lease of the Poor Farm Barn and the surrounding two acres located on the north side of Burdickville Road. The lease states that, “Lessee shall rehabilitate and maintain historical structures on the premises and shall collaborate with the Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure the same are incorporated in the Leelanau County park system.”

Further the original 2020-2024 Gosling-Czubeck Master Plan States, Goal #3 on page 66, “utilize recreational facilities and amenities on the North Parcel”; Bullet Point 4, “Improve partnership with LCHPS for the historic Poor Farm restoration”; and Proposed Action, Item F, “Work closely with LCHPS to develop site master and facility use plans.” Stier said that LCHPS was disappointed that the study and discussion and park tour for the (conceptual) or updated

Master Plan did not include anything regarding the Poor Farm Barn and property, nor any part of the park on the north side of Burdickville Road. He said LCHPS has been trying for the last couple of years to “collaborate with the Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure the same are incorporated into the Leelanau County park system,” as required in the lease. Stier strongly encouraged the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee (MKP) and the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure that the area of the park on the north side of Burdickville Road that encompasses the Poor Farm Barn becomes a recognized asset to the park system in the future.

Action Items –

**1. Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2023:**

Discussion – Frerichs requested a correction to page 2, second paragraph under “Tour of Myles Kimmerly Park” with his revision to read, “While considering the use of the northwest area of the park *on the south side of Burdickville Road* (added) to install pickleball courts, ...”

**Motion by Ross to approve the minutes of May 17, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Frerichs.**

**Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross)**

**No – 0 Absent – 1 (Arens)**

**Motion Passes.**

**Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2023:**

**Motion by Ross to approve the minutes of October 17, 2023, as submitted. Seconded by Frerichs.**

Discussion – None.

**Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross)**

**No – 0 Absent – 1 (Arens)**

**Motion Passes.**

**2. Review/Discussion MKP Conceptual Plan**

Frerichs opened the discussion on the Conceptual Plan by inviting comments from the group. Ross noted that none of the buildings were identified on the draft, something that needed to be corrected before the public reviews the document. Frerichs mentioned that the number of portable toilets and their locations needed to be resolved; the number of parking spaces needed to be identified; the pickleball courts needed fencing around them; and, if kept in the plan, the tennis courts would need to be refurbished. Frerichs discussed the relocation of the disc golf course - how much it is used by the public, if it was too far removed by being on the other side of the park (north side, across Burdickville Road). Ross reminded Frerichs that the course was relocated because it was impeding the walking trail. Ross thought there had been enough discussion on the topic and that they were “done with that question.” The safety issue called out in the recent Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) parks safety assessment regarding the supplementing the ground cover under the swing set was another issue mentioned by Frerichs. There was a brief

discussion about the driving range, its location, whether to keep it or remove it. The consensus was to keep the range for now since it provides a cost-free opportunity to drive some golf balls and to move it to an alternate location, if needed, was a fairly easy endeavor. Ross talked about the passive, educational nature of the Poor Farm Barn area. She said she would like to keep the native grass meadow.

Ross inquired about if there was a narrative for when the plan is presented to the public and who would prepare and present it. Frerichs said he would prepare and present the narrative once everyone was “on board” about the park’s final Master Plan.

The noise that accompanies pickleball courts was discussed. Christensen thought the plan reflected a good placement of the pickleball courts as it relates to noise. Ross expressed the need for grant money and/or a public fund-raising campaign. Frerichs commented that fundraising was easier if there is up-front money. Ross requested to add portable toilets on the north side (the Poor Farm Barn area) to support the groups that use that area. Bradley concurred, but added that they are expensive. The consensus was to eliminate the existing pit toilets.

Ross asked about prioritizing construction of the pickleball courts. Frerichs thought the courts at the south end of the park would be a good place to start because safety fencing would not be needed in that area. Regarding renovating the baseball fields, Christensen mentioned that the biggest improvement would be to grade the fields to remove the slope. Ross stated that the “ex” notation on the draft was confusing and said the word “existing” needed to be spelled out so it would make sense to the public. Christensen said the fencing between “Fred’s house” and the park is sagging and torn and needs to be replaced, so that project needs to be added to the plan.

For funding purposes, Ross inquired if they could show the priorities of the trail development using Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 notations. The group agreed that the accessible trail would be Stage 1. Stage 2 would be the soccer trail, and Stage 3 would be a trail in the area of the driving range (the driving range would be relocated once Stage 3 commenced).

The amount of earthwork needed for pickleball courts, parking, trails, and the baseball field was discussed. Because of the amount of earthwork required for pickleball courts and how it affects all other areas of development in the park, grading became a possible first step in 2024. Timing of the grading was discussed in relation to the Little League schedule. Frerichs suggested commencing immediately after the Little League season (August, September, October) to allow for grass to take root before winter. Christensen suggested contracting for a grading and stabilization plan as a first step. Also in the works for 2024 is the Five-Year Plan. Christensen thought that if they owned a digital copy of the Five-Year Plan, then the next Five-Year Plan could be tweaked from the digital copy.

Frerichs noted that he placed priorities for Myles Kimmerly Park in 2024 as follows: 1) a Grading Plan; 2) the Five-Year Plan. Frerichs then inquired if there was a “low hanging fruit” project that could be added. Christensen suggested the portable toilet enclosures and filling in the pit toilets. Also, Christensen said the Five-Year Plan was not a committee project, but rather a Parks Commission project, so it did not have to be listed in the priorities for Myles Kimmerly Park.

Frerichs mentioned a previous discussion about the Board of Commissioners approving the rollover of the Parks Commission’s unspent 2023 Capital Outlay (\$55,000). Ross said she did not think the rollover would be approved. Bradley added that, “If we don’t spend what we get now, why would we get more?” Frerichs reprioritized the projects for 2024 as follows: 1) Portable Toilet Prep Work; 2) a grading plan; 3) the Five-Year Plan. (Frerichs still wanted to include the Five-Year Plan as the third priority.)

The timeline for gathering public input was discussed. Christensen recommended that, to save time, they solicit for public input by advertising it as part of an upcoming Parks and Recreation meeting.

At 10:32 a.m., the group place a call to Kevin Krogulecki, Gosling Czubak Engineering, to discuss what was remaining to complete in the contract. Krogulecki said colorizing the rendering was the next step and that no additional meetings were left per the contract terms. He added that comments could be bulleted and added before presentation to the public at no additional cost. Krogulecki confirmed they would receive a digital copy of the plan in PDF format. Frerichs asked to have the Poor Farm Barn identified on the plan. Krogulecki said to scan the document with their changes and send it to him to update. After the call, Frerichs said he would summarize the changes discussed at today’s meeting before submitting to Krogulecki for the updates. Christensen commented that at the next Parks Commission meeting, they should get direction on the Five-Year Plan, and get quotes.

Public Comment:

Steve Stier said that he supports the transition of the Parks Commission to Planning. He added that he would like to see the Park’s mission statement revised to include wording other than cost-effective recreation. He also stated that being involved with old barns for 25 years, he has known of many publicly owned barns in the state, townships, and counties that have purposely become important assets to the parks system, and, he said, that’s what LCHPS is aiming to do.

Board Member Comment:

Ross said she supported Stier’s comments.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, Frerichs called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Ross.**  
**Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross)**  
**No – 0 Absent – 1 (Arens)**

**Motion Passes.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary

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