

LELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND REC COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

Leland Township Library – Munnecke Room

203 E. Cedar St., Leland, MI

Minutes

PRESENT: Molly Steck, Karen Kirt, Julianna Lisuk (Chair), Susan Och, Township Representative

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Guests were present

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE: Ms. Lisuk called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Steck moved to approve the agenda as presented; motion supported by Ms. Kirt. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 2, 2022: Regular meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission

Ms. Steck moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion supported by Ms. Kirt. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sally Biggs was present and discussed her concerns about the proposed tree removal at Hancock Park for the proposed soccer field. Many of the trees are very old and were donated by the neighborhood and it would be a shame to remove them.

UPDATES / DISCUSSION

State of the Parks - report from park stewards

Ms. Steck updated that the dedication sign has been placed at Provemont Pond for Dennis Coburn, and the trail has been cleared of trees. Some Garlic Mustard has been removed from the southern end of the park, but there is still a lot that needs to be eradicated.

Ms. Och toured the parks with Ken, as he is still recovering from shoulder surgery. They have found a young man that has been able to help with mowing. Trustee Mitchell was able to help with mowing as well. There are no large trees down that need to be cleaned up. The dock at Nedows Beach is very late going in. Ms. Kirt had some of her students help clean up Hancock Field. There have not been any applicants for the lifeguard position at Nedows.

Spark Grant Application Update and Next Steps for Grove Park and Hancock Recreation Area

Ms. Lisuk gave a brief overview of the Spark Grant and mentioned there are three opportunities to apply, with the next round due June 26, 2023. There are no matching requirements from the township. Hancock Rec Area and Grove Park have been identified by the township as the parks most in need of improvements. The plan for Grove Park is to improve the tennis court, new playground equipment and do some landscaping. For Hancock, the proposed updates include the baseball field, leveling the soccer field and adding an additional field, paving the parking lot, updating the playground equipment and pavilion, rehabbing the grandstand, as well as retaining wall improvements. Ms. Lisuk referenced the proposed plan that was on display and reiterated that it was not an engineered plan, that proposed changes will be implemented based on community feedback. If funding is awarded, there would still be an opportunity for public input before working with Gosling Czubak Engineering to conduct a land use study. It would be most beneficial to work with a professional engineer to have the park improved in a way that would be sustainable for years to come. Ms. Lisuk stated that most of the work would not be done during this fiscal year. For Grove Park, the township is applying for \$190,000; and for Hancock the amount is \$570,000, which would also cover construction costs. Ms. Och added that the Spark Grant is a once in a lifetime opportunity, with \$23 million available from the state. Ms. Lisuk and Ms. Och answered multiple questions from guests that were present about timelines and funding from the state. Ms. Lisuk also stated that she and Ms. Kirt are gathering letters of support from community members to be submitted with the grant.

Trail Signage at Provemont Pond

Ms. Steck distributed a draft of park rules, including trail etiquette, to be posted at Provemont Pond. She will be working with Image 360 to have the signage completed. Committee members tabled the draft to be reviewed and will revisit during the next committee meeting.

Oak St. Public Access

Discussion about the petition and proposal to construct a temporary “landing” at the end of Oak Street for neighbors to use for launching kayaks into the Leland River. Tim Parvin was present to discuss. He gathered numerous signatures from members of the community that would like to use the access. Mr. Parvin answered questions and concerns from committee members. Ms. Lisuk mentioned prioritizing other projects first, due to budgeting. Ms. Steck questioned square footage of the “landing”, whether drawn plans were available, parking concerns, proposed materials used, and if EGLE has been contacted. Ms. Och added that there is no concern about disrupting the sewer pipe that runs below the river. She also received three letters of disapproval from the community. Mr. Parvin has contacted the Road Commission about potentially just clearing the access and wood chipping a small trail, without a “landing” being constructed, which they are willing to do.

Motion by Ms. Steck to recommend to the Township Board to enter into agreement with the Road Commission to clear and wood chip the access at the road end of Oak Street, with the understanding that the adjoining neighbors are notified by the township. Seconded by Ms. Lisuk.

Ms. Och – Abstained.

Ms. Kirt – No.

Ms. Steck and Ms. Lisuk – yes. Motion passes.

Plan for the Next Community Recreation Plan

Ms. Lisuk stated the five-year Recreation Plan concludes at the end of 2024. Ms. Och mentioned it is a process to revise this, which is why the township previously worked with Networks Northwest to have this completed. Ms. Och suggested taking it section by section and looking to see what needs to be updated, and work with the Planning Commission's master plan.

Recruitment of New Parks & Rec Committee Members

Members discussed the need for new committee members. This should be a five-member committee. Ms. Kirt's term ends in August, and she will be stepping down after that.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Saffel expressed concerns about the proposed trail at Hancock Field and is against the expansion of the current footprint and cutting down any trees.

Rob Mothershead supports proper use of the Hancock Field but has concerns about the plan as presented and adding more infrastructure that cannot be maintained. He is glad to hear there will be public input.

Heidi Weckwert questioned the new fencing at Reynolds Beach and if permission was granted for this. She is glad to see there is new dune grass planted at the (former) Janko property.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Steck moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.; supported by Ms. Kirt. Motion carried.

The next meeting is Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Molly Steck, Committee Member

Date Approved: _____

Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

Chairman