

LELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND REC COMMISSION

Monday, December 20, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

Leland Township Library – Munnecke Room

203 E. Cedar St., Leland, MI

Minutes

PRESENT: Chair Molly Steck, Karen Kirt, Julianna Lisuk

ABSENT: Mariann Kirch, Nick Bierschbach

GUESTS: Clint Mitchell, Susan Och

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE: Ms. Steck called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Ms. Kirt moved to approve the agenda; supported by Ms. Lisuk. Motion carried. (3,0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 1, 2021: Regular meeting, Parks and Rec Commission

ACTION: Ms. Lisuk moved to approve the minutes as presented; supported by Ms. Kirt. Motion carried. (3,0)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

UPDATES / DISCUSSION

State of the Parks - report from park stewards

Hancock Field – Ms. Kirt reported that it is in great shape. The ice rink is bigger than last year, almost double in size from last year. There is signage to keep people off until it is frozen. Ms. Kirt described the location of the bigger size. The rink has been reoriented 90 degrees. The group did a go-fund-me and raised money for it.

Van's Beach – Ms. Lisuk will put up the ice safety signs for Van's Beach, Reynolds Street, North Beach, and Avenue A.

Provemont - The bridge is done and the trails are in.

Ken Hagstrom toured the parks and found no trees had come down in the wind storm. Ken would like a larger gate by the burn pile to keep people from putting their trash in it. Ken does the burning when the conditions are good: good snow cover and no wind. He also checks with the Fire Chief.

Sign for Reynold St. Recreational Access/Reynold St. Ordinance – Mariann Kirch

Ms. Kirch was absent. An ordinance had been discussed in September. Ms. Kirch sent Ms. Kirt an ordinance that was written for Little Traverse Lake in Harbor Springs. We were working on an ordinance a couple of years ago but stopped because of the lawsuit on Reynolds. Ms. Och distributed two ordinances that were drafted. A sign was ordered for Reynolds Street which was written according to the settlement agreement. The Parks and Rec Commission does not need to work on this at this time. There was discussion about posting opening and closing times at the beaches. Ms. Och stated some history on the situation. A previous sign, written in the 80's, stated that the beach could be accessed between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. The police would be responsible for enforcement. The Reynolds Street

ordinance states opening at sunrise and closing one hour after sunset. However, you cannot close access to walking the beach on Lake Michigan. Ms. Och suggested that the Commission take up the subject again. It was agreed that the subject would be discussed in March after the budget is done.

Discussion on number of parks

Given limited funds, Ms. Steck suggested that the Township may want to cut down the number of parks it maintains. It was suggested that St. Mary's may want to take over Drow Field and Leland School, Hancock Park. Ms. Och explained that parcels (parks) have been donated to the Township with deed restrictions. We have a user agreement with Leland School for Hancock Park. We could reopen that. We have a 5-year rec plan that was approved by the Board. We need to review the plan and work on it month by month. We could research on how well the parks are used.

We don't have a formal agreement with St. Mary's for Drow Field. Drow Field and Hancock Park depend on volunteer labor with help from the Township.

It was agreed that Parks and Rec should continue to focus on a couple of parks at a time.

Future plans for Hancock Field Study

The Township Board did not approve the Parks and Rec application for the 2% grant funds from the Grand Traverse Band. Where do we go from here? The 5-year plan states that Hancock Field was a priority. It was suggested that we can go through the school to reapply for the 2% grant in May. However, the Township would still have to approve the application for the 2% grant or any other grants. There was a discussion about the Ball Foundation grant that was obtained by the school for Hancock Field. It was specific to building soccer fields. The removable outdoor fence was purchased through that grant.

It was agreed that a committee should be formed just for Hancock Field, specifically for raising money for the land use study. Several people who may be interested will be contacted to serve on the committee.

It was decided to redo the 2% grant application designating the school as the agency. The application will be completed at the next Parks and Rec meeting on January 4. Then it will be presented to the Township Board for approval. Then it would be presented to the Leland School Board on February 21. The application is due on May 31.

The land use study could be done in 6 months. After that, we could apply for DNR grants.

Subjects to discuss at the next meeting:

Budget

2% grant application for funds.

Investigate DNR grants.

Projects in the park that could be paid for by covid funds.

Review of the Parks and Rec 5-year plan for changes needed in a post-covid world.

BUDGET YEAR TO DATE

Ms. Och distributed budget documents. Fishtown Preservation was asked about contributing to the cleaning of the rest rooms. We could cut back on trash removal.

ACTION ITEMS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lisuk moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.; supported by Ms. Kirt. Motion carried. (3,0)

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 4, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

Chairman Molly Steck