

LELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND REC COMMISSION

Tuesday October 17, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.

Leland Township Library - Munnecke Room

203 E. Cedar St., Leland, MI

Minutes

PRESENT: Susan Och, Tim Zywicki, and Juliana Lisuk

ABSENT: Molly Steck

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms.Lisuk called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Ms. Och moved to approve the agenda as presented; supported by Mr. Zywicki. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 9, 2023: Regular meeting, Parks and Rec Commission

ACTION: Ms.Och moved to approve the minutes of August 9, 2023 as presented; supported by Mr.Zywicki. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Saffel - He asked what happens next with Hancock Park since Leland Township did not get the DNR Spark grant funds. He wants to have thoughtful planning for long term progress of the park and suggests that the committee should do a survey to find out what people in the community want with their parks. He also commented on the ice rink at Hancock Park and how it is a remarkable experiment in the community coming together to fund and volunteer to create a community asset. The ice rink currently has an active group of 25 volunteers who help to take care of it as a labor of love. There are also folks from outside of the area coming to Leland to use the ice rink. He commented that this is generating enthusiasm from the community.

Maude Babington- She noted that the fence at Reynolds road end access says, "private", when it is within the public access. There should be 60 feet at the road end and it is smaller with the fence. She commented that she is concerned with the "private property - no trespassing" sign that is located on the road ending.

Heidi Weckwert- She commented about the Reynolds road end access. There is a "private" sign that is 10 feet within the public access. Heidi noted that the neighboring property has also put a snow fence closer to Lake Michigan, which is in public trust land. Heidi noted that she has

brought this up since June and nothing has happened. She is concerned for the lakeside recreation area and does not want it to be adversely possessed. Heidi uses the lakeside recreation area on a regular basis and doesn't want it to be lost. She noted that signs are not keeping with the agreement that was put in place.

UPDATES/DISCUSSION

Parks Stewards Update

Provemont Pond - One tree down at the SE end, 16-18 inches across. They sprayed for phragmites.

Hancock Park - Youthwork came and rebuilt the retaining wall with salvaged landscaping bricks/blocks and black locust. Cost \$2,600. Nobody got hurt on the retaining wall during the time it was down.

Nedows Bay and Barthmolomew - The committee had a discussion about lifeguards at Nedows Bay. Michael Parsons, who was hired as the lifeguard at Nedows Bay this past summer from mid-August through Labor Day, was in attendance to give an update and reflection on the role of a lifeguard at this park. He noted the importance of planning and starting to look for a lifeguard well in advance of the summer season. Mr. Parsons commented that if the committee wants to prioritize water safety at Nedows Bay, they need to identify someone to champion it and begin a lifeguarding program. He noted that there is a 2-6 minute gain in responding to an emergency with having a lifeguard there. It is important to promote that there is a lifeguard there and why. Currently the fire department is the primary contact for the lifeguard system.

All docks are out except for the fishing boat dock at Suelzer Park.

Ken is still off work, but is coming back on October 27.

Schaub Outdoor Services has been doing the mowing. Susan will see if they can also do some leaf work.

Provemont Pond Signage

No updates currently

Upcoming 5-Year Community Recreation Plan

Current plan is for 2020 - 2024. The Parks and Recreation committee will start getting public input for the plan that will be for 2025-2029. Leland Township did not receive either of the DNR Spark grants for Grove Park or Hancock Park. The projects are on hold and it will be determined how to move forward with funding the projects. The DNR Passport grant may be a future option for funding smaller projects within the park.

Ms.Och gave an overview of what all is included in the Parks and Rec five year plan. There are 19 different park areas in Leland Township. A survey is being developed as an avenue for the public to give input about the Leland Township parks. It will be a public survey for anyone who uses the parks.

ACTION ITEMS

New Parks and Recreation Committee Chair- This is the last meeting of Ms. Lisuk’s 3-year term with the Committee. Ms.Och agreed to take on the chair’s preparation jobs for the next meeting in December, which includes preparing the agenda, sending the agenda to the Clerk, arranging for the meeting room, and arranging for a secretary. The committee will revisit this action item at the next meeting on December 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Ms.Och moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.; supported by Mr.Zywicki. Motion carried.

Next meeting: December 13, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliana Lisuk

Township Clerk, Lisa Brookfield

Date