

**LELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND REC COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, September 22, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Leland Township Library – Munnecke Room**  
**203 E. Cedar St., Leland, MI**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Nick Bierschbach, Juliana Lisuk, Karen Kirt, Molly Steck, and Mariann Kirch

**ABSENT:** N/A

**GUESTS:** Ken Hagstrom

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Steck called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Ms. Kirt moved to approve the agenda; supported by Ms. Kirch. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**NEED A DATE**- Regular meeting, Parks and Rec Committee

**ACTION:** Ms. Kirt moved to approve the minutes as presented; supported by Ms. Kirch. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Steve Mikowski comments on meetings not being regular and scheduled for members' schedules not the public. Steve commented about the proposed Township Office site at the Grove Park location, believes the space is not adequate for the Township Office needs. The Township office should have a meeting room for 100 people. A township office should be able to handle the space for many. He stated that we have neglected to do anything about our township space and that we need to listen to the wishes of the people. A recall or petition.

Mary Lou Mikowski- Stated that Grove Park has been there many years. Children use it and people spend time there. It is a sorry state of affairs if the Township Office is built there.

Scott Bouma- Stated that his mother-in-law, Pam lives on Meinard. They are trying to gather information about the facilities committee putting the township office there. If built, it could result in traffic problems in a residential area. To fit the building in an acre and a half seems not feasible because the space isn't big enough. He was told that a renovation of park facilities would also be included. He received a recent email from Lisa Brookfield that said "this is a better option than doing away with the park". The email also states elections would take place 3 times a year. Scott asks, "where is going to take place?" Ms. Kirch explains that the facilities committee is looking at Grove Park as an option and there are other options. Ms. Kirch said there are more options than just Grove Park. The committee will notify the public. Scott thinks the committee has been meeting since January, but Mariann is not sure.

## **UPDATES/DISCUSSION:**

### **State of the Parks - Report from Park Stewards**

#### Beechwood Cemetery

A big tree is down over the driveway - Parshall tree service is taking care of it.

#### Nedow's:

The dock at Nedow's needs repairing. Shore Station was for \$800.00.

#### Schneider Beach:

A big tree fell over, the township board is hoping to get bids on removing it. There has been a bid from YouthWork for tree removal and removal of overgrown vegetation at Schneiders Beach and Bartholomew Park. There is a bid from Deering tree removal that was presented and emailed to all of the board members.

#### Hancock Park:

Leland Public School will have a meeting with Susan Och. They are meeting to look at the lease between the township and the school. They are trying to distinguish whose role it is for maintenance at various areas of Hancock between the school and the township (Ken mows at Hancock). They have fixed the soccer field with Ball Foundation money, which is through the school. Hancock is primarily used for soccer and some cross country. The seats under the stadium at the soccer field cannot be moved to mow underneath. Weed remover was suggested to resolve the problem. The American flag has been replaced at Hancock after a complaint about the state of it.

Bill Watson at YouthWork would like to talk with the township about what they would be able to do with us. YouthWork has a grant program where they can provide the match with a 2% grant. Need more information.

Popps Excavation - Ms. Kirch is waiting to hear back from them about a variety of park projects. She will forward the information to the Parks & Rec commission when she gets it.

85-90% of what happens at Hancock is related to the school. Mr. Bierschbach asks if it has been considered that the school would take over more management of the park? There has been discussion at the board level a few years back. The land was donated by the Hancock family to the township. Dr.Hancock's granddaughter is not pleased with how the park looks. Finances are what is holding us back from doing more work at Hancock. Ms.Steck would like us to consider that we re-apply for the 2% grant. Ms.Kirt received feedback from the Grand Traverse Cand that we need a better itemized list to reapply.

Provemont:

Some phragmites came back. Susan Och has been in touch with folks to have them removed at the end of August and it has been taken care of.

At the last township board meeting, Molly brought up the dedication plaque for Dennis Colebourn (spelling?) because it was in honor of him. The township board approved the plaque. Molly is waiting on the company who is making the sign to install it at Provemont.

Vans Beach:

We will keep the lifesaving equipment at the beach through November. Lifesaving equipment looks good at Vans.

North Beach:

Lifesaving equipment looks good at North Beach too.

Asset Management Worksheet

Where is the Nedows Bay defibrillator? Ms.Kirt will check on where it is and ensure that it is still there.

Parks and Rec Commission went through worksheet line by line and discussed safety and usage of each item.

Grandstand would take priority at Hancock in terms of repairs for safety. Easy for young people to slip through the holes in the Grandstand. Need to support the boards for sitting.

Grove Park - playground equipment is from the 1960s and is a safety concern. The tennis court is currently unusable. Roots are pushing up through the tennis court and causing cracks.

Drow - most infrastructure updated in 2002. Needs weed control. Ken had bleachers moved so he could mow underneath.

Suelzer - need to add the play structure to the assets list

Temporary Docks -

Suelzer dock is sideways, and needs help. Could use a floating dock at Suelzer.

Horn Road dock - township does not own it, another group of people own it (they take it out and put it in). Land is owned by the township and we do have liability.

Permanent Docks -

Emelia's ramp - need a permit from the DNR to put gravel off the end of the ramp. Need a solution that would keep more permanent solution to the drop off at the end of the ramp. Afraid that boat traffic and the current would wash away the gravel.

High Priorities -

- 1) Hancock - hoping to get funding for this next year
- 2) Grove Park updates, pending the future of the site as a park or building
- 3) Suelzer - needs to replace or do away with the old play system and sandbox as well as two picnic tables.

Ms.Kirch says that the board would be open to allocating money from the township's general fund and put it toward the priorities from the Parks and Rec plan.

October meeting -

The Parks and Rec Commission will create a priority list of parks projects to present to the township board.

Ms.Kirch will talk with Lisa Brookfield about the future of Grove Park as a site for the township building. Find out limit of spending Parks and Rec can spend without board approval.

### P&R Ordinance Suggestions

The edited language looks good to the commission. Ms.Kirt would like there to be exact times on the ordinance rather than having it say, "one hour after sunset".

Does it leave access times for the fishing boats if you are closing the park an hour after sunset until sunrise? Consider a special usage for launching fishing boats.

Parks & Rec Commission is happy with the language as it stands.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- 1) Youthwork projects/maintenance - Nedows and Schneiders Beach

The proposed project states that Youthwork will clear out the brush at Nedows and do brush work at Schneiders.

The Parks and Rec Commission needs to find out more details from YouthWork before approving. More information needed includes:

- Are they going to grind the stumps?
- Can they give suggestions for replanting new trees?
- What trees are they specifically going to remove at each location?
- We need more details about what all the funds entail for the removal

- Poison ivy is not a high priority for the non-summer season. Can this happen next year?
- Do they have a stump grinder?
- Can the invoice be itemized so we have more information?

Taking down the birch is a good option this time of year. We should use funds toward tree removal maintenance.

Can we use Deering to remove the tree and YouthWork for the brush removal?

Will discuss at October meeting.

Parks and Rec Commission would like to check with Parshall for a tree quote. Mr. Bierschbach will contact them.

#### Meeting Dates for October and December

Tuesday October 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday November 29 at 5:30 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sandy Reardon: Lisa's letter (email) needs to be copied to the Parks & Rec commission so that they can see what she is saying about Grove Park.

Mariann Kirch: Parks and Rec should consider a plan for memorializing people within parks (gardens, plaques, etc.). Could make it similar to Leo Creek's set-up.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Kirt moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.; supported by Mr. Bierschbach. Motion carried.

The next meeting is October 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliana Lisuk, Leland Township Parks and Rec Committee Member

