

LELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND REC COMMISSION

Tuesday May 2, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

Leland Township Library – Munnecke Room

203 E. Cedar St., Leland, MI

Minutes

PRESENT: Mariann Kirch, Molly Steck, Julianna Lisuk

ABSENT: Karen Kirt, Nick Bierschbach

GUESTS: Tim Parvin, Jeff Keen, Susan Och

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Kirch expressed concern that the minutes of March 8, 2023 reported that a motion was carried to have a workshop held in April to write an application for a Sparks grant for Hancock Field. The workshop was not listed on this agenda. Ms. Lisuk stated that the subject would be discussed under item “Grant updates for Parks” in this meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 8, 2023: Regular meeting, Parks and Rec Commission

ACTION: Ms. Steck moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2023 as presented; supported by ?. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tim Parvin – He passed out a packet of information to consider improving the public access at the foot of Oak Street. Some neighbors are depositing waste there. An illegal shed has been built there. He presented a petition of neighbors who would like the public access cleaned up. Tim has located an old dock for the launching of kayaks on the river. He would like the Parks and Rec committee to take this project on. There is historical information of this area in the packet. He would like the committee to look over the proposal and he would come to another meeting to follow up. Ms. Kirch reported that a sewer line crosses the river at this point which would be a concern.

Ms. Kirch – She noted that this would be her last meeting on this committee.

Ms. Och – She noted that the pipe under the river in this location is encased in concrete. Concerning the Spark grant, the 2nd and 3rd opportunities opened yesterday. June 26 is the deadline to get an application in. Ms. Och started a budget and outlined steps to get ready for the grant application process and sent it out to the Board members.

Ken Hagstrom is still off work because of his shoulder injury. He will not be back at work for another 6 weeks.

Jeff Keen – He asked to be part of the discussion of the Sparks grant. Granted.

UPDATES / DISCUSSION

Park updates

Suelzer Park – no update

Schneiders - Tress that have come down have been cleaned up except for one in the water.

Grove Park – The park could use another clean up of sticks.

Hancock Field – Spinniken has been hired to do the fertilizing.

Van's Beach – no update.

Nedow's Beach – no update

Thompson Street – no update

Provemont Park – Ms. Steck has the plaque and it needs to be installed. She is working on getting verbage for the sign at Provemont. There were some trees blown down at the east part of the pond. People has diverted the path around the trees. Garlic mustard is coming up. Ms. Och may be able to get goats for next year to clear the garlic mustard. A work party would be needed this year to get it pulled before the end of the May.

Two cemeteries have been cleaned up.

Emelia's Landing – Ms. Kirch is in the process of obtaining a permit for placing rocks in the launch area and getting two estimates in line with the budget allocation.

Bathrooms at the Harbor – Ms. Kirch reported. Jeremy Anderson is happy with the new cleaning group. They cleaned the rust off the stainless. Other rust stains were also cleaned. There is still a problem with the faucet. The water runs for a full minute when the faucet is turned on. Shirley Garthe has reported that the Harbor has large water bills.

Spring Work Parties- Garlic Mustard removed and trail clearing at Provemont Pond

Ms. Lisuk will connect with Ms. Kirt to get students together for a work party. Ms. Steck volunteered to be part of it. Trail clearing may need a power saw. They will put together some date options.

Lawn Fertilization – Hancock and Drow

Spinniken has been contracted to do it.

Schneider Beach – Downed tree removal and erosion control

The downed trees were removed. Schneider Beach and Suelzer Park need erosion control. Ms. Och described what EGLE will allow. They do not want grass down to the water anymore. They would like coir logs stacked at the shore and then native plants behind the logs. Bill Watson may have some other ideas as well.

Grant updates for Parks

Ms. Och made a spreadsheet of the wants and needs that could be covered by a grant. That list needs to be compiled with the costs of each of the items.

Jeff Keen suggested he could find someone to hire to write the grant, to write one piecemeal with the committee, or a combination of both. Gosling is also willing to help with it. Ms. Steck has discussed trail construction and pavilion repair with Bill Watson. Ms. Och stated that the Sparks grant is designed to be very simple in application. There is a lot of feedback from the public about Hancock. The grant can be \$100,000 to 1 million.

Jeff Keen met with the soccer people. Various needs and wants were expressed. He has a scaled aerial view of Hancock which can be a great tool in planning various areas of the park. Dates are needed of when leagues are using the field and what they need. He has also talked with people who are somewhat resistant to the improvement of Hancock. Ms. Och stated that the varsity field gets chewed up because it never has a time to regrow or rest. We will have to chronicle how much the school and the public uses the field. Jeff Keen suggested the use of the fields should be expressed in hours of use rather than days of use.

Ms. Kirch made several comments concerning the Sparks Grant. Grove Park aligns more with the grant requirements. The committee needs to work on the Parks & Rec plan that was made 4 years ago. Parks & Rec is a committee and not a commission (as it is listed with the State of Michigan) and that could be a problem. Clint Mitchell had drawn up plans that Ms. Kirch distributed at the last meeting. There have been requests for a playground system and a pickle ball court on Hancock Field. P & R should be looking at more winter activities for Hancock. There was continued discussion about the needs and wants for Hancock Field.

Ms. Och was updating into the spreadsheet. The spreadsheet will be attached to these minutes. Universal access needs to be incorporated into the plan.

There is an interest in pickleball courts and tennis courts. Trails can be used for running and cross-country skiing. Storage is needed for the skating rink.

Ms. Och stated a preference for hiring a planner rather than going about it piecemeal. The plan could be written in phases.

It was noted that the irrigation system was installed in the 80's. The irrigation that is there was installed in the 80's.

Steps for writing the grant:

- Writing narrative
- Getting support
- Getting a budget

- Would require a resolution form the Township Board.

Ms. Lisuk will put together an outline of the grant application to identify information still needed.

ACTION ITEMS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Ms. Steck moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.; supported by Ms. Kirch.
Motion carried.

Next meeting: June 14, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kacin

Township Clerk, Lisa Brookfield

Date