

LELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS AND REC COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Leland Township Office

203 E. Cedar St., Leland, MI

Minutes

PRESENT: Tim Zywicki, Leslie Maclin, Greg Mielczarek, Justin Acker, Mariann Kirch

GUESTS: 4

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions to the agenda: the position of chairperson, rating system of parks, introduction of Mariann Kirch, old business, Board comments.

ACTION: Kirch moved to approve the agenda as presented and amended; supported by Maclin. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 15, 2024: Regular meeting, Parks and Rec Commission

Kirch presented two corrections to the October 15, 2024 meeting minutes. There was discussion as to the appropriateness of the corrections as Kirch was not present at the October 15, 2024 meeting. The Committee came to an agreement as to the wording of the amended text.

ACTION: The minutes of October 15, 2024 was approved as presented and amended. Motion carried by consensus.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Keith Ashley – He commented on the proposed elimination of Ken Hagstrom’s position as maintenance man for Leland Township. He asked if the services will be the same. He is concerned that all the work will not be done as it has been before. What will be the level of service?

Mr. Ashley’s comment prompted other comments by the Committee members. Mielczarek asked if there would be an RFP for the position. Mowing, fertilizer, removal of leaves, and trash removal will be contracted out. Committee members stated that they were not informed of the plan to eliminate the position.

Betty Elliott – She stated that she would be very upset if Ken Hagstrom’s position is eliminated. He has been a good worker and is a person of integrity. She has written a letter to Clint Mitchell.

Kathy Dawkins – She stated that Ken Hagstrom has been told that he will be out of a job as of April 1. The Parks and Rec committee was not informed. She is concerned about the transparency of the Township Board’s actions.

UPDATES

1. State of the Parks

Hagstrom – The portajohns at Van’s Beach and Grove were not taken in. There are trees down at Grove and Hancock has branches down at the entrance.

Maclin suggested that there should be a report of every park at every meeting. The address sign at Hancock has come down.

The last section of the dock at Schneider’s Beach is cracked. It will cost about \$400 to replace.

There was a tree down at Provemont. Someone cut it down and took care of it.

Acker has been focusing on the ice rink at Hancock.

2. Budget 2024-2025

\$85,000 was spent so far this fiscal year. There is a budget of \$116,000. It is anticipated that \$20,000 will be spent by April 1. There was discussion about the need for more funds. Current funding is only enough for maintenance and allows minimal for park improvements.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Current needs for the parks

As we go into budget meetings, Kirch asked the committee to list park needs. Kirch had researched the park needs previously and has pictures and a power point presentation.

Maclin suggested that the parks be rated by a rating system and safety issues be identified. Grills need to be replaced at Hancock. The committee would still like to get the rating system that was used in Suttons Bay.

2. Budget workshop for 2025-2026 Budget

We will need a list of park needs. Kirch stated that the parks budget will be about \$120,000. Maclin suggested that the committee make up two budgets: one for \$120,000 and one for what we really need.

3. Harbor Bathroom repairs

The Harbor bathrooms would need heaters if they are to remain open through the winter. The Board felt that should be a responsibility of Fishtown. Acker explained how a plan needs to be put together before determining a cost for any improvements.

4. Role of committee

The committee expressed their frustration with the role of the committee. They cited that the committee was unaware that the Board was considering eliminating the maintenance position. It is the Committee’s opinion that Ken Hagstrom does a lot more

for the Township than what is listed as job responsibilities. Frustration was noted that funds are not available to improve and maintain the parks for our residents. Investment in the parks doesn't go well if there is no one to take care of it (maintenance). Kirch will inform the Board of the Committee's frustrations.

There was discussion about a millage.

5. CRP Update and timeline

The CRP is not currently completed. It could be merged with the old plan. Merging was discussed but no decision was made. Funds are needed to finish it. Maclin has put a lot of hours into the CRP and suggested the Township could pay her to finish it. There was discussion, but no decision was made.

6. Meeting schedule for 2025

The Committee will meet the third Thursday of the month. A list of meeting dates will be put on the agenda.

January 9, 2025

February 20, 2025

March 20, 2025

April 17, 2025

May 15, 2025

June 19, 2025

July 17, 2025

August 21, 2025

September 18, 2025

October 16, 2025

November 20, 2025

December 18, 2025

7. Role of Chairperson

It was discussed previously to give someone else on the committee the opportunity to be the Chair. No one has volunteered as of yet. Zywicki will stay on until a new chairperson is found.

8. Park Rating system

The Committee would like to use a rating system for the parks but has been unable to find one that is appropriate for our Township. The Committee has been unable to get the rating system that was used by Suttons Bay. Zywicki will try again to get it.

9. Old Business

“Old Business” should be added to the agenda.

10. Board Comments

“Board Comments” should be added to the agenda for each month.

Leslie Maclin - She suggested that we could promote our parks with a pamphlet and/or a newsletter.

Justin Acker – Our parks are an asset to the area and more money is needed to take care of them.

Tim Zywicki – He asked if there would be more money once the Sunset Shore project is completed. Because of a lack of funds, Grove Park has not received any attention.

11. Introduction of Mariann Kirch to the Parks and Rec Committee and orientation.

Kirch distributed a document of an ordinance that was created by the Parks and Rec Committee previous to this Committee. The ordinance establishes rules for the parks. The ordinance will be discussed by the Board at the next Board meeting. Maclin asked if road ends with docks were included in this ordinance. The Committee was not aware of this ordinance until this meeting. The closing of parks at sunset was discussed. The Committee felt people should be able to stay in the park one hour past sunset.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Ashley – A document of projected maintenance costs for 2024 was discussed. He is opposed to the elimination of the maintenance person position. He also noted the possible responsibilities of Committee members that are in the ordinance. He is annoyed that the Board does not listen to Committee members. He urged Committee members to attend Board meetings and offer public comment. He talked to Ken Hagstrom about his job and was impressed with Hagstrom’s flexibility with mowing when special events are going on in the parks. Contractors will not be that flexible. He feels that this is a generous community and they would support a millage. He stated that you shouldn’t make a rule in an ordinance that you can’t enforce.

Betty Elliot – She is concerned that the Committee mentioned registration of STR’s as a way to get more money for the parks. That is illegal. She expressed that the trees the DNR put in by the Leland River did not adequately replace the trees they took down. She suggested that existing buildings should be used as rest rooms for the public in Leland. There is a building next to the Post Office that could be used as a visitor’s center with bathrooms.

Kathy Dawkins – She stated that the source of problem is a lack of communication with the Township Board. The survey is not on the website. Many things are not on the website that should be there. The Parks and Rec ordinance that the Board will be discussing should have been introduced sooner. She asked why the Board has not discussed the elimination of the maintenance position with the Parks and Rec Committee. She also is opposed to the \$500 sign for the Leland office that doesn’t work.

Keith Ashley – He advised residents to join the Leland Forum on Facebook. It is designed to give factual information and be a voice for Leland residents.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Acker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.; supported by Maclin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kacin

Township Clerk, Lisa Brookfield

Date