

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission

Myles Kimmerly Park Committee

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 – 2:15 p.m.

Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded

<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2482>

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee was called to order by Committee Chairman Don Frerichs at 1:53 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Recitation of the “Pledge of Allegiance” was deferred to the Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Session, which follows at 3:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

John Arens (*Absent*)
Steve Christensen
Don Frerichs, *Chairman*
Kama Ross

Staff Present:

Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant
W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

Motion by Christensen to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Frerichs.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross)

No – 0 Absent – 1 (Arens)

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:

Steve Stier, President, Leelanau County Historic Preservation Society. Stier stated that he has been working on behalf of the Poor Farm Barn for about five years. He welcomed the Commission’s new member (Kama Ross) and reminded the group of the upcoming joint Poor Farm Barn meeting and expressed appreciation for coffee being offered at the meeting.

Action Items –

Election of Chairman:

Motion by Christensen to elect Don Frerichs as Chairman of the Myles Kimmerly Park Committee. Seconded by Ross.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross)

No – 0 Absent – 1 (Arens)

Motion Passes.

Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2022:

Frerichs summarized the minutes of May 26, 2022 “for the benefit of new members” and reminded the group of the importance of attending committee meetings.

Motion by Christensen to approve the May 26, 2022, Myles Kimmerly Park Committee meeting minutes. Seconded by Ross.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 3 (Christensen, Frerichs, Ross)

No – 0 Absent – 1 (Arens)

Motion Passes

Conceptual Master Plan for Myles Kimmerly Park; Evaluation of the Updated Proposal:

Christensen explained and Evans confirmed that (per County Board Budget Rules), if quotes received are under \$5,000.00, a recommendation can be made to the County Board of Commissioners to accept one of the quotes and the County Administrator can sign off and there is no requirement to go out for bids. Christensen reported that he received three quotes for updating the master plan for Myles Kimmerly Park – two verbal and one written – all under \$5000.00.

The quote from Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc., of Traverse City, the firm that helped formulate the five-year plan, was \$4,700.00; ECT of Traverse City came in at \$4,500.00 to \$4,800.00, and Mansfield’s quote (submitted by Dusty, Christensen’s son) was for \$4,000.00 to \$4,500.00. Christensen said that the Myles Kimmerly Park master plan represents old thoughts and since its creation, there are “new thoughts,” so the plan is inconsistent with the current vision for the park. Ross questioned if the quote from Czubak did not include conducting public input sessions because, according to their quote, there was “a good amount of public input” previously received from their work in creating the master plan and conceptual design. Ross also asked if public sentiment was still the same since Christensen stated the current plan represented “old thoughts” on the direction of the park. Christensen responded that the public input is still valid and good; the plan is not – it is outdated. He added that meetings to gather new public input would increase the scope of work and, therefore, the cost would go up resulting in the requirement to go out for formal bids.

Evans asked if the cost would be more to conduct public input sessions because “the experts” have to attend these meetings. Given her past experience, Evans did not see the need for “the experts” to attend the meetings, especially because there are other means to collect public input besides a formal meeting. As an example, conducting a survey as an alternate method was one Evans mentioned. Evans recommended getting itemized quotes so it is clear what services are covered in formulating the master plan. Christensen asked if the group wanted to take that extra step or if they wanted to make a decision from the quotes being presented at today’s meeting.

Bradley pointed out that the quote from Gosling Czubak was eight months old and questioned if the quote was still good. Ross wanted to do a “good job” and get “three solid quotes,” especially with one quote being eight months old. Frerichs wanted to ensure due diligence and

supported gathering new public input. Evans said they could gather their own public input (vs. having the vendor do it) via a QR code posted at Myles Kimmerly Park. Discussion ensued regarding bid processes and approval limits.

Christensen said he will go back to Gosling Czubak and ask if their quote is still good. The group decided to pursue the Gosling Czubak bid since they have worked with that firm previously. Christensen said he would follow up on this issue and provide an update at the next meeting.

Proposed Projects:

Frerichs reviewed the document, “Proposed Projects Myles Kimmerly Park,” (page 13 of the packet, link on page one) and asked the group about their thoughts on reprioritizing the list. Christensen said he thought the walking trail plan should be solidified with regard to its location. Frerichs said the walking trail is later on the agenda and redirected the discussion to reprioritizing the projects list. Christensen inquired about relocating the driving range to the northwest corner, since it overlaps the walking trail. Frerichs thought the master plan was not realistic because of the expense of all the projects. Christensen said it was good to have a wish list so the public could see their vision for the park and perhaps be motivated to donate for the cause. Ross said with the recent additions of tennis courts, pickle ball courts, and a playground at Glen Lake Community Schools, consideration should be given if similar projects should be lowered in priority on the Myles Kimmerly Park project list. Ross and Frerichs agreed that universal access toilets should be a top priority. Ross asked for a proposed timeline from Gosling Czubak for the master plan to be completed to ensure enough time to meet the five-year plan deadline.

Paved Loop Trail:

Frerichs confirmed that the \$190,000.00 in Capital Outlay for the pave loop trail was not approved by the County Board of Commissioners. Evans said American Rescue Plan (ARP) monies were still outstanding, so she encouraged the group to keep the paved loop trail on their radar.

Review of Requests to Consider Selling and/or Leasing Park Land

For the benefit of new committee member Ross, Frerichs reiterated the Parks and Recreation Commission’s stance on the sale of parkland and read an excerpt of the Parks Commission’s recommendation to the Board of Commissioners from the September 7, 2022, Parks Regular Session – ... *“to (continue to) preserve and maintain Myles Kimmerly Park, Old Settlers Park, and Veronica Valley Park as park land... into perpetuity.”*

Frerichs concluded, saying the next Myles Kimmerly Park Committee meeting was slated for February 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Steve Stier, Leelanau County Historic Preservation Society. Stier referred committee members to the approved Parks plan, Page 66, goal 3; improved partnership with the Preservation

Society. Below that, Action on F, work closely with the Preservation Society to develop a site master and facilities use plan. Stier said he has met with folks on that.

Committee Member Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned to the call of Chairman Frerichs at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary