

Leland Township Board Workshop

June 18, 2024, 1:00 PM

Leland Township Office, 489 W. Main St., Lake Leelanau 49653

Amended Minutes

PRESENT: Supervisor Susan Och, Clerk Lisa Brookfield, Trustee Clint Mitchell, Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Trustee Mariann Kirch

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: 3

CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Och called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

DISCUSSION: A workshop to discuss future plans and possible interest in long-term lease for the Leland DNR Carp River Park. The Township is currently under a maintenance agreement for the park which runs through the calendar year. The public has expressed interest in the park remaining under Township management and would like the dock replaced.

The board discussed budget concerns and revenue sources for caring for this park. Ms. Garthe asked if any other entities would be interested in managing this space. There are restrictions for use of this property, primarily that it must be used for boating and fishing access to the river.

It was generally agreed that the board would remain open to the possibility of a long-term lease. There are many questions that would need to be answered. The issue of funding is high on the list. The Clerk will reach out to the DNR to establish a line of communication on behalf of the Township Board; and to ask when the earliest they would consider negotiating contract, and how long they expect this to take.

Ms. Och reminded the board that out of area guests used the dock space as well and that there aren't available funds to take on more property. Mr. Mitchell commented that the way forward is to seek a long-term lease arrangement if it works for the Township. The DNR timeline of a winter review of contract dovetails well with the township calendar, a new board, and budget season. He also feels that private funding would be available.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lynn Telgard would like to know how the Parks & Rec budget is appropriated and spent. Who is responsible for how the funds are spent? A discussion of budgeting and the internal process took place. Parks & Rec has unspent funds annually. Ms. Telgard would like to be on the committee, if one is created, to help advise on use of the DNR park.

Skip Telgard commented that this is a great asset for the Township, a special piece of property. It needs to be restored to what it was at a minimum, if this is possible. The vision for the park could be expanded. He encourages seeking private funding.

Kathryn Dawkins supports the refurbishment of this park and would like to see the docks restored under Township management. There is a citizen-led group supporting this. Ms. Dawkins questioned Township Board members ~~speaking~~ writing letters to the press and wants to know what the policy is for this.

BOARD COMMENT:

Ms. Och gave an update on the Keith Ashley complaint about church use of Township property. Ms. Och met with Pastor Bennison to discuss how the episcopal church might use the property in the future. They are having bagpipes at the services. There were questions about which groups could use the lawn and which would need special permission. The lawn doesn't come with the Munnecke Room and can't be reserved. Ms. Brookfield noted that other groups are using the lawn and the policy application is inconsistent.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk

Date Approved: _____

Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk