

Elmwood Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2007

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call – Present were Lori Leugers, Fred Plamondon, Matt Schmidt, and Derith Smith. Klaus Heinert and Matt Heiman, representing Gosling-Czubak and the Leelanau Conservancy, respectively, were present. Several members of the public were also in attendance.

3. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Lori, seconded by Marilyn to approve the agenda as presented. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Approval of Minutes – 2/21/06 Minutes – Motion by Derith, seconded by Marilyn to approve the meeting minutes of 2/21. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 3/6/06 Minutes – Motion by Derith, seconded by Marilyn to approve the meeting minutes of 3/6.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Klaus: Update on application for MNRTF. Due 04/02/07. Grant graphics & narrative to be put on the web site by the Clerk. Draft Resolution & Public Notice. – Klaus provided a brief history of the grant application, including the steps we took last year to prepare for the initial grant submission. Since we received a relatively good score in the last go-round, and because several factors in our project are likely to benefit from changes made to the scoring criteria of this year's grant cycle, we should be in good standing. Klaus also outlined some specific enhancements to the plans with respect to barrier-free accessibility features. Klaus anticipates receiving letters from marina users in support of this design. He said the total estimated cost of the project is \$657,000, and the Parks and Rec Committee will be recommending that the Elmwood Township board provide a 36% local match. The source of the funding will be partially from the general fund and partially from the township marina fund. Marina Funds will be allocated to that portion of the project which benefits boaters directly, primarily the promenade which connects the Marina with the park area. Klaus noted that portions of the project (creek restoration, one of the footbridges, play areas, and a restroom located on the south end of the park) were not included in the grant request, as these are projects for which the township can seek other grant sources in the future.

There was a brief question and answer period. Members of the audience asked about other potential grant sources, including Kellogg Foundation grants for barrier free access. There was also some extended discussion on the Waterways grant application, which has the same deadline as the MNRTF grant. Klaus provided some background on this as it relates to the MNRTF grant and also how it relates to the issue of the 3rd pier.

6. Final preparatory meeting invitation to the Marina Committee, Planning Commission, ET Board.

Questions and Answers: The audience was comprised of Marina Committee and ET Board members, who had questions that were addressed in Klaus' update (agenda item 5, above).

7. Matt Heiman: Update on DeYoung acquisition grant in conjunction with the Harbor Beach grant. MNRTF Acquisition grant– Matt explained that the Leelanau Conservancy will retain title to the property, and the acquisition grant will be for Elmwood Township to purchase a conservation easement on the property. He noted that no money will come from the township. The grant request is for \$977,442. They are applying for a 64% grant, with the local 36% coming from the equity in the property. He expected a revised appraisal on the property to have favorable results. Matt provided a bit of information on the Conservancy's plans for the property. He noted it will be passive recreation such as fishing, hiking, wildlife observation, with limited opportunity for hunting

on the upland portion, and some possible waterfowl trapping and hunting on the water. He described the fishing pier which will be barrier-free accessible. Matt then answered some questions from the members of the audience including plans for parking, invasive species removal plans, and partnering with other compatible organizations. He also explained that the 5 acres surrounding the farmstead are not included in the grant application, as this would likely complicate matters with respect to requirements of allowing public access into the buildings, which may entail safety concerns, among others. Matt elaborated on the township's role in the conservation easement. He said that Elmwood Township would be responsible for annual monitoring to ensure that the easement terms were being upheld.

8. Public Comment - In a brief public statement, Eric Saxon noted that both the township's beach park project and the DeYoung project will make a big difference in the quality of life in this township. He noted that we could not make this happen without the participation of the state, and was very supportive of moving forward with both projects.

9. Parks & Rec Committee appointments were approved by ET Board – Both Marilyn Schmidt and Lori Leugers were approved for re-appointment for three-year terms.

10. Greilickville Harbour Park Beautification Day. Invasive species eradication, etc. – Last year, the event took place on the weekend prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Fred felt we would have better participation if we held it in April. He suggested April 28th. There was further discussion about whether or not we would be able to identify the purple loosestrife plants at that early stage, and whether or not there might be other issues to consider. Deri suggested contacting the Watershed Center for feedback and possible volunteers. Motion by Fred, seconded by Lori to schedule the beach clean-up and invasive species eradication for Saturday April 28th, unless further inquiry determines that the Saturday prior to Memorial Day weekend would be more appropriate. **Passed Unanimously.**

11. Old Business – None

12. New Business – None

13. Next Meeting – Wednesday April 18th, 5:30 p.m. at Elmwood Township Hall

14. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Submitted by,

Lori Leugers