

Elmwood Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2007

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. Roll Call – Present were Sarah Bourgeois, Derith Smith, Fred Plamondon, Marilyn Schmidt, and Lori Leugers. Klaus Heinert from Gosling Czubak was also in attendance.

3. Approval of Agenda – There was discussion about adding Parks & Rec committee info to the township's website. Motion by Lori, seconded by Fred to approve the agenda as amended. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Approval of Minutes – 3/20/07 Minutes – Motion by Derith, seconded by Fred to approve the meeting minutes of 3/20/07. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- Lori noted that her references to local matching percentages for the MNRTF grant were incorrect in the 2/21/07 minutes. The lowest level for matching funds is 25% for the 2007 grant cycle. Motion by Derith, seconded by Sarah to amend the 2/21/07 meeting minutes to correctly reflect the local matching percentages allowed for the MNRTF grant. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Klaus: Update on application for MNRTF. Due 04/02/07. Klaus commented on a letter that had been sent from the DNR regarding the denial of the waterways grant. He said that this issue has been cleared up, and that the grant has been accepted as 'received on time.' He also noted that he had a good conversation with a DNR official, who recommended reconstituting the grant such that the township is applying for funding for the 3rd dock separately. The essence of the grant will remain the same, so it is not necessary to have a new resolution authorizing it. Klaus also presented copies of the two grants as submitted (Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and Waterways grant).

Matt Heiman was not present to provide an update on the DeYoung grant, but Klaus did say that this grant has been accepted. It was one out of 138 acquisition grants.

6. Moratorium on State Grant Expenditures: Klaus noted that even though there has been a moratorium on distributing funds on existing grants there is no indication that this year's grants will be eliminated altogether. He suggested that it might be wise in the interim to work on grant funding from other sources, such as the Rotary grant for the bathroom facility.

7. Matt Heiman: Update on DeYoung acquisition grant in conjunction with the Harbor Beach grant. MNRTF Acquisition grant. Spring plans?– Matt was not in attendance to give an update.

8. TART Trail. Annual Cleanup. Leelanau County, Elmwood Twp. 9a.m. – 12p.m. Saturday April 21st. Priority – for Parks & Rec. is Cherry Bend Rd to DeYoung property. Second choice is along Greilickville Harbour Park area. Fred passed out some pictures he took along the TART trail to illustrate areas he felt were overgrown, which created unsafe road crossings.

9. Lori: Update on research of invasive species – Lori met with Eric Ellis of the Conservation Resource Alliance at the Greilickville Beach area to identify purple loosestrife and possibly phragmite plants, both invasive species. Although Eric was unable to detect any phragmite growing, he did find several purple loosestrife stalks from last year. The seeds would have already distributed from these, so pulling them would not be effective. He noted that if we chose not to use a chemical application at this location that the best way to keep these plants under control is to wait until they have expended most of their energy producing flowers and seeds, and cut them at their base at that

time. He noted that it is best to catch it when we see the first buds appear. We can come back again at the end of the flowering season and cut others down. These two cuttings will continue to stress the plants at their most vulnerable stages, and over time, may help keep them under control, if not entirely eradicate them. He also noted digging up the plants to get the entire root is very difficult, and can risk exposing the seed beds to ideal germinating conditions. Each plant can produce thousands of seeds.

10. Greilickville Harbour Park Beautification Day. Invasive species eradication, etc. Date, Signs & Advertising. April 28th, 9:00am-1:00pm. Final Plans– Lori had modified her signs from last year and distributed several to businesses along M-22, Norris Elementary and the ET Hall. Fred made copies which he was planning to take along to businesses as well. Deri said that the township would be able to supply garbage bags, and that Chuck Rainey was going to be available to haul the trash away.

11. Old Business – Marilyn: Shrubs & seeds for beautification of Heritage Route. Marilyn thought it would be wise to select planting locations where the flowers would not likely be picked. She suggested using flowering shrubs around trees and installing a low fencing to provide a barrier. She thought annuals would be cheaper and more colorful. There was discussion about planting around the base of the park and Greilickville road signs. Deri mentioned that plantings in the park might be best if we did them in planters since the whole site is scheduled for renovation. Klaus noted that there are products which have reservoirs to recycle water. Deri also noted that Mike Morris might be a good resource to consider for plants.

12. New Business – Website link. There was a brief discussion about getting a link set up on the township's website for Parks & Rec info. We could upload our minutes, the Parks & Rec plan, meeting schedule, committee membership, etc.

13. Next Meeting. Wednesday, May 16th at Greilickville Harbour Park 5:30 p.m. – Primary focus will be on inventory.

14. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Lori Leugers