

**Elmwood Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2006**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call – Present were Fred Plamondon, Derith Smith, Sarah Bourgeois, Marilyn Schmidt, Lori Leugers, Kelly Ignace, Klaus Heinert and Bill Swanson

3. Approval of Agenda – No vote was taken

4. Approval of Minutes – Motion by Smith, seconded by Bourgeois to approve the minutes of 7/18 meeting with the typo correction on page 2. Roll call vote – unanimously approved.

5. Discuss Partnership options between Elmwood Township and the Leelanau Conservancy for the DeYoung Natural Area:

A. **Option 1:** Elmwood Twp to apply to the MNRTF in April '07 for funds to purchase a Public Access Conservation Easement over the entire 142 acres owned by the Leelanau Conservancy

VS.

B. **Option 2:** Elmwood Township to apply to the MNRTF in April '07 for funds to purchase the fee simple title to the DeYoung Natural Area.

Discussion: Fred Plamondon started off by stating that he had reviewed the goals the Leelanau Conservancy had established for the property and changed his mind about pushing for any sort of active recreation. The discussion then turned toward the options presented by Matt Heiman from the Leelanau Conservancy. There was general consensus among committee members that option 2 would not be acceptable to the Elmwood Township Board. Smith thought it would be good to explore other alternative arrangements as well. She noted the possibility of asking the Trust Fund for examples of other similar partnerships between municipalities and non-profit organizations. Heinert noted that it would also be good to see a specific example from the Leelanau Conservancy of a partnership agreement they have with a government entity. He also stated that item #1 under Option 2 on Matt Heiman's list ('Elmwood responsible for funding development of public access infrastructure') should be split off and incorporated into a third option, as this is the only item that is in line with the township's recreation goals. There was some additional discussion about the water ski course which is located right off of a portion of the DeYoung property shoreline. Opponents feel that it is disruptive to fishing and bird habitat. Proponents claim that it has been there for many years, and there are not many other viable locations for it on Cedar Lake. After continued

discussion about the options presented, the committee decided more information was needed from Matt Heiman:

1. Elaborate more on the details provided under each option (especially #2)
2. Provide a sample contract agreement for Elmwood Township's attorney to review.
3. Provide other options
4. Provide a copy of the deed restrictions on the property.

6. Senior Days at the Park – Marilyn Schmidt was not certain about the details (dates, times, etc.). It was determined that a group from Cedar Creek Commons brought over their own equipment to use the park facilities. This was consistent with how the township has handled arrangements with other organizations that have wanted to use the facilities. They just need to ask for permission from the township clerk.

7. Review recreation equipment available. Storage – There was discussion about whether or not the township should offer equipment storage. It was determined that there is not enough storage space available and there could be an issue with insurance. Smith suggested that we wait to address the issue until an actual request for storage came to the township. She noted that the township has typically provided equipment (and storage) for fixed items such as nets for tennis, soccer, basketball and volleyball. There was further discussion on the possibility of reinstating an outdoor ice arena. Smith noted in the past the fire department maintained it, but it was an issue because they did not have any full-time employees. Now that the township does have full-time personnel at the fire department, it may be more feasible, but the biggest problem is weather she noted.

8. Committee Organizational Plan. Secretary? – Lori Leugers will be the Minutes Secretary as long as others are willing to periodically share the duties.

9. Old Business – Klaus Heinert presented an update on the TCLP discussions. He reiterated the importance of having the Greilickville corridor and parking lot be an agenda item for discussion and to remain on the radar of both the ET Planning Commission and Board. If not, we will lose our chance to work with MDOT and LUTS. We need to address shared access, density, parking, signage and lighting issues. He said that we need to have officially adopted an access management or corridor plan. Derith stated that there is an access management plan in place, but the only site where it is currently being used is McDonald's driveway.

Klaus continued his discussion noting that the Greilickville business corridor is currently comprised of seven zoning districts, and that it may be possible to draw up an ordinance that respects the shoreline side, thus creating two zoning districts (one on the east and one on the west of M-22). Bill Swanson added that it might be good to try and allow for other uses such as residential.

Fred Plamondon had presented notes from the Elmwood Township Board minutes, noting concerns voiced by Elmwood Township Trustee Terry Lautner about the third pier at the marina and how it is being held up by the Trust Fund Grant. Klaus explained that the issue is more complex than what Mr. Lautner presented, and would hopefully be able to clear up any misconceptions.

10. New Business – None

11. Next Meeting – Tuesday August 15th at 5:30 p.m. at Elmwood Township Hall

12. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.