

**Elmwood Township Parks and Recreation Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 5th, 2007**

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

**2. Roll Call** – Present were Sarah Bourgeois, Deri Smith, Marilyn Schmidt, Fred Plamondon, and Lori Leugers. Matt Heiman and Brian Price from the Leelanau Conservancy, and Klaus Heinert were also in attendance.

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

**4. Approval of Minutes** – 6/27/07 Minutes – Motion by Marilyn, seconded by Deri to approve the 6-27-07 minute as written. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Greilickville Harbour Beach. Trash removal? Recycling Options -- Kelly?**

This agenda item was tabled since Kelly was not present to offer input.

**6. Matt: DeYoung acquisition grant. MNRTF. Fall plans? Cedar Lake new dock.** Brian and Matt discussed the status of their grant request. They noted that they scored reasonably well in the preliminary round, but MNRTF board members expressed reservations about having Elmwood Township apply for the grant to purchase a conservation easement for the property, in spite of the fact that there have been precedents established with other government entities applying for MNRTF funds. Brian and Matt presented an alternative which would yield the same results in that the Township would still have no cash outlay for the project, and the Conservancy would continue to oversee the management of the entire 175 acres, with input from the township. Under the new scenario, the Conservancy would sell to Elmwood Township fee simple title to 65 acres of the DeYoung property on the lakeshore for 75% of the appraised value (yet to be determined). The township would then submit a request for grant funds in an equal amount. Matt noted that this option is likely to garner an additional 100 points, which could significantly improve our chances of being awarded the funds. Fred noted that he would like the timing of the DeYoung Management Plan to coincide with the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Brian noted that there is plenty of time to work out the details of the management plan, as it is likely to be at least another year before the funding is distributed. Several committee members voiced agreement about the fact that recreational uses of the property are to be passive in nature. There was some discussion about potential liabilities to the township, and Brian noted that he would be doing some research on this issue prior to presenting the information to the ET Board. There was then discussion about adopting a simple resolution to present to the board at their next meeting on 9/11. Matt drafted a simple proposed resolution, which the committee felt was suitable. Motion by Lori, seconded by Sarah to adopt the resolution to restructure the grant presentation, such that Elmwood Township will apply to the MNRTF to purchase fee simple title to 65 acres of the DeYoung property from the Leelanau Conservancy for the purpose of passive recreation. Passed Unanimously. Fred said that he will notify Connie Preston to add the issue as an agenda item.

Matt gave a brief update on the status of the property in general. He said that the fishing pier has been well-received with lots of participation. For now, trail improvements on the upland portion of the property are on hold.

**7. Klaus: MNRTF Board Meeting August 15<sup>th</sup>. Greilickville Harbour Park area update. Fourth Dock & Shared Parking. Preliminary Plans. Parks & Rec Committee input.**

Klaus noted that the MNRTF Board does not deliberate extensively over development grants. He said that our preliminary score for the development of the beach park was 320. He noted that he is trying to target an additional 20 to 50 points in a couple of areas. He was surprised that our plans for universal (barrier-free) access did not score additional points; however, he hopes to improve the possibilities on that front before the final grant modifications are due. To that end, he asked for input from a local group, "The Disabilities Network," in order to identify key

issues members of this community encounter with respect to public recreation areas. Klaus hopes to be getting some written feedback in addition to the comments that were made at the meeting. He said he would like to speak with the consultant who the trust fund board has hired to evaluate the “barrier-free” portion of the grant applications in order to get further input on what they are looking for. Klaus said he feels we could gain some additional points by working in partnership with other organizations, such as the Watershed Center, as long as they offered programs which were open to the public. He will be working on gathering input and revising the grant narrative for final submission on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Klaus felt the need for bathroom improvements facilities is growing. It may be best to proceed with a grant request from Rotary Charities (for their spring cycle), rather than to wait until we receive confirmation from the MNRTF grant. This grant cycle is for funding requests less than \$100,000, but Klaus felt that we could make up the difference with other partnering organizations that will benefit from the facilities.

Klaus then gave a brief report on the Marina. He presented an update to the Marina Committee regarding the preliminary engineering grant, and also discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> dock.

**8. Update on Picnic areas. Flowers, Shrubs & Seeds at the Greilickville Harbour Beach. Park? Signs & Beautification of the Heritage Route. Marilyn.** Marilyn stated that there was no point in putting anything in now, and that it would be best to wait until spring. She felt the best idea was to put cedar mulch around the base of the trees and the only reasonable place to put flowers would be around the Greilickville sign. She re-stated her concerns about spending a lot of money on flowers that were likely to be vandalized, and required a great deal of upkeep.

**9. Greilickville Harbour Park Beautification Day. Next step in Evasive species removal.** Lori stated that she went to the park on 3 different occasions to identify when and where the purple loosestrife was blooming. It did not appear to be extensive; however, the south end of the park did seem to have an outcropping, that she could see from the road, but it was probably too late to cut them down, per advice she had previously received on loosestrife management. Marilyn asked whether or not there was an official government body that was responsible for keeping beaches clear of invasive species. Deri said that there wasn't, but there might be grants available.

**10. Old Business. Tabled – Tables. Update.** This was tabled again.

**11. New Business. Inventory of Elmwood Parks & Recreation Facilities & Equipment.** –Sarah did not have a report available.

**12. Next Meeting. Schedule to be determined! Elmwood Township Hall** – The decision was made to hold meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Elmwood Township Hall. The only exceptions noted are the October meeting, which will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, so that the committee can review the revisions to the Greilickville Harbour Beach Development and DeYoung Acquisition grants prior to final submission on October 5<sup>th</sup>, and the December meeting, which will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> in order to allow for time to receive feedback on the grants.

**14. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**Submitted by,**

**Lori Leugers**