

**Elmwood Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2006**

- 1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call** – Present were Sarah Bourgeois, Klaus Heinert, Marilyn Schmidt, Fred Plamondon and Lori Leugers.
- 3. Agenda** – Lori added Heritage Route discussion, Fred added discussion on ice rink. Both were added under New Business.
- 4. Approval of Minutes (10/3)** – Motion by Sarah Bourgeois, seconded by Lori Leugers to approve the minutes from the 10/3/06 meeting. Unanimously Approved.
- 5. Matt Heiman update on meeting with Linda Haegstrom from DNR. Kelly – DNR Acquisition Grant –**

and

6. DeYoung Property Cedar Lake Shoreline & Trail Plans. Rotary Sight visit. Lori-Cedar Lake Shoreline.

Neither Matt nor Kelly were present to discuss this section; however Matt emailed the committee members an update. The text follows:

5. Update on Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Grant Application: We are in a holding pattern until Linda Hegstrom has finished her final review of the current proposals before the Trust Fund for the August 2006 application round. We hope to begin specific application work with Linda around the Holidays. Prior to that, Conservancy staff and the Parks and Rec. representative will work up a preliminary draft of the application to identify our questions and comments to address to Linda later in December.

6. Jenee Rowe, Conservancy Stewardship Director, reports that we have nearly completed the Lake Loop of our first trail. It still needs to be marked before it is officially open. We hope to have that done by Mid-December.

The parking lot is targeted for the coming spring 2007 as is a drinking well along the Leelanau Trail and the fishing platform. The western 80 acres (property west of Cherrybend Rd.) is under intensive ecological restoration through next summer and is not able to support public recreation at this time. The property east (towards Cedar Lake) of Cherrybend Rd. is open to public recreation; however, we strongly encourage people to stay on the new trail system (once it is completed in the next few weeks).

The Rotary Site Visit went extremely well. Our application was advanced

into the next round of consideration and we remain hopeful to be funded at a level close to our request.

Committee members commented on Matt Heiman's statements: Klaus Heinert had emailed Matt, requesting clarification on the fishing platforms. The committee had discussed the possibility of creating two smaller and somewhat separated piers (10 – 20 yds apart), rather than one large one, since it would be unlikely that more than a single person or group would fish on a platform that was already occupied. Matt responded via email that the Conservancy would not likely pursue building two platforms for two reasons, 1) the ski course and 2) the funding received from the Oleson foundation was for only one platform. He elaborated a bit on the ski course issues, stating that the conservancy would like to address the issues surrounding the ski course before they are comfortable planning recreation activities along the southern portion of the shoreline. They will be working with the permit process this winter and conducting studies on the recreational and environmental impact of the course into the spring. He noted that they would be open to investigating a second platform if it was desired by Township residents.

Fred Plamondon wanted to know specifics of what the Conservancy considers as a reasonable distance from neighboring properties as well as the intended size of the fishing platform.

Klaus wanted to clarify Elmwood Township's roll and ability to expect certain measures from the Conservancy. He would like to see a diagram of proposed facilities.

Marilyn voiced concerns about the possibility of the public utilizing the trails, etc. who trespass on neighboring properties.

Fred wants to see the DeYoung property utilized to its maximum capacity. Klaus noted that acquisition grants would score better if there is a strong indication that there will be a high level of public use.

There was some discussion about the ski course issue, and that the problem is not so much the users who originally installed it, but that the popularity is increasing and there are users who are not following regulations. Lori noted that there were varying opinions amongst the members of the Cedar Lake Association concerning the ski course. Fred thought it would be useful for the Parks and Rec committee to sit in on one of the Cedar Lake Association meetings to get some feedback about their concerns and needs.

7. Klaus Heinert comments on DEQ & DNR September 28th meeting. Sarah Bourgeois in Lansing – Klaus noted that the Waterways grant is all but in the township's hands for the preliminary engineering at the marina. He noted that Deri had requested some verbal pricing from local engineering firms. He also stated that ET's Board discussed the matter but did not act on it, because they wanted to wait until they received formal confirmation from the state. He said that it is important that the preliminary engineering take into consideration long term parking needs, as well as temporary parking resulting from the installation of the third pier.

Moving onto the DNR Grant , Klaus, Sarah, and Deri went down to meet with DNR officials in Lansing. They only had three minutes to comment on the project. Klaus said that the DNR indicated that our grant application was more of an urban project than what they typically consider. He said that we will probably know one way or another in December, and that we should be prepared to resubmit, so that we don't lose momentum on the project. Resubmitted applications, he said, automatically get additional points. If the grant request fails, he said he would get Keith Charters in to discuss why it failed. Klaus also noted that he received a letter from Greg Pierce of TCLP, indicating that they would be conducting an environmental assessment and clean-up on their property that could potentially be used for off-site parking. This will make the property unavailable for at least one year.

8. Watershed Center Contact & further info for application along the beach and up Grandview Rd. Deri, do we need a meeting with the Watershed Center? Deri was not at the meeting, so unable to comment.

9. Old Business – None

10. New Business -

A. Heritage Route update – Sarah gave a brief update of the Heritage Route committee meeting. She said they had been working on the same major issues, such as streetscaping in Empire and Leland, as they had when she attended on a regular basis some time ago. There was some discussion about planting flowers along Elmwood Township's portion of the Heritage Route. Motion by Fred Plamondon, seconded by Lori Leugers to nominate Marilyn Schmidt to look into beautification of Elmwood Township's portion of the Heritage Route and other township sites. Passed Unanimously.

B. Ice Rink – Fred wanted to bring up the concept to explore the feasibility of operating an outdoor ice rink at the township park. The township did experiment with it many years ago. There was some discussion, but no action was taken.

C. Natural Features Inventory Workshop – Lori brought in a flyer that Patty O'Donnell from Northwest Michigan Council of Governments had distributed. The workshop, which is to be held Tuesday, December 5th from 6pm – 8:30 pm at the Traverse Area District Library, will assist communities in developing their natural features inventory, assess priorities based on scientific and public input, and how to consequently incorporate this information into their planning. Fred Plamondon said he would see about signing up as a representative of the Parks and Rec Committee.

11. Next Meeting – Wednesday December 20th, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. – Elmwood Township Hall.

12. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Lori Leugers