

Elmwood Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2006

- 1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call** – Present were Deri Smith, Klaus Heinert, Matt Heiman, Kelly Ignace, Marilyn Schmidt, Lori Leugers, and Fred Plamondon. Sarah Bourgeois was absent.
- 3. Agenda** – Discussion on the coal dock property was added to Klaus's update. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Lori to approve the minutes as amended. Unanimously Approved.
- 4. Approval of Minutes (11/15/06)** – Motion by Marilyn, seconded by Fred to approve the minutes from the 11/15/06 meeting. Unanimously Approved.
- 5. Klaus Heinert:**
 - A. Update on Greilickville Harbor Park Project Grant** - Klaus explained that the grant was not awarded to the township. He provided a breakdown of how the total \$8 million dollars in development grants was distributed. He suggested that the Parks and Rec Committee should recommend that the ET Board resubmit its application for next year. He noted that the township may be able to leverage our resubmittal with other matching grants.
 - B. Coal Dock Property Discussion** – Klaus explained that the off-site parking issue, as it relates to the coal dock property is tied up due to the environmental assessment that TCLP wants to complete on the property. Klaus noted that our goal is to apply for land-based improvements for the property through the DEQ.

Peter Simons from the Maritime Heritage Alliance was present to discuss the issue. He noted that they would like to dredge the harbor area. There was some discussion about using the dredged material to replace the contaminated sand that is to be removed from the coal pile side of the property, but it may not be feasible due to the timing of the dredging and the delay resulting from TCLP's desire to conduct an environmental assessment of the property. The sand may also not be suitable for surfacing the lot either.

Peter Simons said that the MHA would be continuing to work on plans for their site, and hoped to have more information available for the January Parks and Rec meeting.

There was a brief discussion on the options for crossing from the east to the west side of M-22 in that area. Due to the stream and other limitations, Derith commented that a median may be the only viable alternative. There was further discussion on the parking plans that MHA is projecting for their site with respect to zoning, landscaping, and whether or not the parking would be available to the public.

John Noonan from the Children's Museum spoke briefly about Mike Dow's donation of the property to the non-profits. He noted that the gifting has been completed. They are now

looking for a grant to connect the Leelanau Trail to M-22 and will be asking for a letter of support from Elmwood Township.

Motion by Lori, supported by Fred to draft a letter of support for a trail to connect the TART/Leelanau Trail to M-22 via the property utilized by the Grand Traverse Bay Alliance.

6. Matt: Update on the DeYoung Property and the Lake Loop: Matt announced that the Leelanau Conservancy received a Rotary award of \$50,000 for the DeYoung property. As far as progress on the site itself, he said that the lakeside trail has been completed. Future projects include a parking lot, the fishing pier, rain gardens for storm water run-off (instead of rock and pond for water retention). He explained that the fishing pier will be a cantilevered platform driven into the bank, so they won't have to drive piers into the lake bottom.

Matt feels that the DeYoung project has the potential to score high when the acquisition grant is submitted to the DNR. He is hoping to get some letters of support from biologists.

Kelly noted that she is coming up to speed on the grant process, and especially the scoring criteria.

Deri, Klaus, and Brian Price will be meeting to make sure that the DeYoung Project's grant is complimentary with the resubmitted development grant from Elmwood Township. Deri noted that our Parks and Recreation Master Plan has the beachfront as its primary goal.

There was some brief discussion about future plans for the DeYoung property. Matt stated that he will get a copy of the Conservancy's management plan for the site to the Parks and Rec. Committee meeting in January. He did state that they are working on a partnership with Wings of Wonder. Fred questioned whether or not this would create a liability issue for the township. Matt said that this is one of the reasons that the Leelanau Conservancy wants ownership of the property, so the township does not have to worry about these kinds of issues.

Last of all, Matt noted that the Conservancy has received a \$10,000 Forest Land Enhancement Project Grant to remove the invasive species, Buckthorn from the lakeside portion of the parcel. Their goal is to encourage growth of native bushes, such as Red Osier.

7. Deri – Update on Parks and Recreation General Fund Budget 2007: Deri noted that the bulk of the Parks and Recreation budget is for the grant application. Next year's Parks & Rec budget is \$10,000, with \$1000 allocated to equipment. Fred brought in some additional requests to add to the budget:

- a. \$2000 for the continued work on the landscaping in Elmwood Township
- b. Bringing back the recommended \$39,400 from the 2005 budget.
- c. Mileage reimbursements toward meetings in the county (i.e., M22 Heritage Route) \$100

Deri commented that the specific funding requests that Fred noted could be incorporated into the budget, as it was passed, and that an additional budgeting amount would not be necessary.

8. Marilyn: Thoughts on Beautifying M22 Heritage Route in Elmwood Township:

Marilyn had done some research on felt that there are limitations as to what can be done, partially due to the traffic. She said that we would need to select plants that would tolerate drought. She thought good sites would be surrounding trees. She also noted that flowering shrubs (such as Barberry) might be a good choice in some locations. There was discussion about the irrigation needs, and that it might be best to target a specific area or couple of designated “Greilickville” areas to showcase plantings.

9. Fred: Natural Features Inventory Workshop Update: Fred attended a workshop on this subject and brought a packet of literature back for each board member. There was brief discussion on the topic. Basically, the intent of this workshop is to help local governments to identify these natural assets in their communities and craft zoning ordinances to preserve them.

10. Old Business – None

11. New Business - None

12. Next Meeting – Wednesday January 17th at 5:30 p.m. – Elmwood Township Hall.

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

Submitted by,

Lori Leugers