

**Elmwood Township Parks and Recreation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**

**1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

**2. Roll Call** – Present were Lori Leugers, Derith Smith, Fred Plamondon, and Sarah Bourgeois. Matt Heiman from the Leelanau Conservancy and Klaus Heinert were both present to provide grant project updates. Brad Garmhausen, representing the Traverse City Little League was also present.

**3. Approval of Agenda** – Motion by Lori, seconded by Derith to modify the agenda and move the New Business item, “Little League Baseball – Diamond upgrade/expand” from Item #10 to Item #4.  
**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4a. New Business - Little League Baseball – Diamond upgrade/expand:** Brad Garmhausen, a coach for and representative of the Traverse City Little League presented details of a proposal that they would like Elmwood Township to consider. Currently, three of the four Elmwood Township’s four fields are used by the Traverse City Little League for baseball for children ages ten and under. The fourth field, (designated as Field #3) which was originally intended as a softball field, is currently in a state of disrepair, and cannot be used for organized league games in the same manner as the existing fields. Brad explained that the TC Little League would like to allocate funding to renovate field #3 (northwest corner) from a softball field to a baseball field, and to bring it into compliance with National Little League Association specifications for safety and playability. The league is greatly in need of a facility for the Kids Pitch/Majors division which are for children in the 11 to 12 year-old range. Although this project would be their priority, he noted that some minor improvements of the other fields could be incorporated into this as well. Brad stated that the estimated cost for the project was somewhere between \$30,000 and \$40,000. The TC Little League would bear most of this cost. They would like the township to approve the project and allocate funding for additional bleachers (approximately \$3,000) and to set aside an annual budget item to provide ongoing maintenance (watering, fencing upkeep, lawn mowing; etc). Klaus Heinert brought up the possibility that grant funding might be available for such a project. Derith noted that improving the field which is so close to the township parking lot might encourage more people to park in designated parking areas, rather than alongside Cherry Bend Road, which presents a hazard for both attendants and drivers. There was also discussion about the proposed backfield fence, and whether or not it would impact the usability of the other fields. Brad noted that because the other fields are primarily laid out for younger players, the proposed backfield fence on field #3 is not likely to be a hindrance to games played on the other fields. **Motion by Lori; seconded by Sarah** to endorse the concept of improvements to Field #3, as presented by Brad Garmhausen of the Traverse City Little League, and to budget funding for bleachers at approximately \$3,000 and to allocate an annual budget for maintenance. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Approval of Minutes – 6/11/08 Regular Meeting** – Motion by Derith, seconded by Lori to approve the minutes of the 6/11/08 regular Parks and Recreation Committee meeting as written. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Management Plan De Young Property - Matt** – Matt had to leave the meeting early, but distributed a copy of the draft DeYoung Management Plan for the committee to review for discussion at our next meeting.

**7. Park Development Update – Klaus** – Klaus noted that the township has now been formally authorized to spend money on the design process for the construction phase. He stated that we should

now focus on the development of the southern end of the property for because TC Light & Power has committed \$80,000 toward improvements of their property and also because the timing is good for submitting our Rotary grant request for the new bathroom facility. He also noted that it is critical to engage MDOT to ensure that the proposed safe crossings along M-22 are in their hopper for evaluation.

Motion by Lori, seconded by Sarah to recommend that the board move forward and sign a contract with Gosling Czubak for the design phase of the park development. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Elmwood Beach Park Restroom Facility** – Klaus noted that most of the design work has been done for this facility, and that we should be on track to submit for a grant request to Rotary charities in the fall.

**9. Wildflower Rescue Program Update – Marilyn** – Marilyn was not present to provide a report, so discussion on this topic was tabled.

**10. Old Business – Newsletter – Kelly** – Kelly was not present to provide an update.

**11. New Business (cont'd)** – Fred passed out information on upcoming Tour de TART, the TART trail's largest annual fundraising event, which is to be held on Friday August 8<sup>th</sup>. They were looking for volunteers to hang posters in the region.

**12. Next Meeting: August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – Elmwood Township Hall @ 5:30 p.m.

**13. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

**Submitted by,**

**Lori Leugers**