

**Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission
Veronica Valley Park Committee**

Wednesday, January 15, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom and at the Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded

(<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2040>)

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Dave Barrons at 1:02 p.m.

Committee Chairman Barrons deferred on reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, due to time constraints.

Roll Call:
Dave Barrons, *Committee Chairman*
Steve Christensen, *via Zoom*
F. Jon Walter
John Popa

Guest present.

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

Motion by Walter to accept the agenda presented. Seconded by Barrons.

Discussion – none.

Ayes – 4 (Walter, Barrons, Christensen, Popa)

No – 0

MOTION PASSES.

Public Comment:

The Clerk provided the number to call in for public comment – no comment received.

Action Items –

Signage:

Committee Chairman Barrons said there are two things, and asked Walter to discuss a handout (https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/vvp_draft_map_01112021.pdf). Walter said the image depicts signage that could be installed on posts at different locations, noting “you are here”. He noted similar signage is found at Houdek Dunes (https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/mkpc_mapping_example_02022021_1.pdf), adding that an 8.5” x11” dimension should be suitable. More comments followed. Barrons said he had walked the site with Popa, and concurred we need some wayfinding signage. They had identified four potential locations where trails intersect and you cannot see the parking lot. Discussion ensued over the draft map of potential signage, including the number of identifiers, budget, types of signs, numbers, materials, and potential vendors who produce long-lasting signage. Two quotes were then discussed.

Committee Chairman Barrons asked and Walter confirmed the Houdek Dunes signage is from an orthophoto. Walter commented on how where Maintenance Worker W. Scott Bradley mows seems to be the definition of space. Discussion followed on narrowing down the signs needed.

Barrons said the purpose of the signage is to inform people where they are within the park, not necessarily where everything is located. He would keep the picnic area, etc., and fishing bridge off this sign. Christensen suggested getting a clean copy and let the company know what is needed to be reproduced be legible. It seems like we are one step away – are we in a rush? Barrons said we need to do it correctly, this coming season. If we don't take steps until the end of June or early July, there will be a new flyover with a more contemporary photo. Christensen asked is there a way that we could adjust the background color or intensity to ensure it is legible? If we can get something even without the new flyover, we should probably proceed. Committee Chairman Barrons said it will probably come down to another step, and get another sample from the printer.

Popa noted we are in favor of signage. We should have Walter come back with a sample to size with a cost estimate. We should also think about the kind of post, then go before the full Commission. Committee Chairman Barrons asked what is the feeling about the identifiers? How much information do we need on a wayfinding sign? Discussion ensued on sign content.

Committee Chairman Barrons asked do we need an ice safety sign between the pond and parking lot? Bradley said there used to be one. Discussion followed on moving the existing sign or adding an additional sign. Bradley noted MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, the County's Risk Management carrier,) has reviewed and approved the signage currently at the park. Walter said his main concern is the safety of children near water. Discussion followed.

Bridge Paving:

Popa said two things were discussed in October, (with one being) to paint the two bridges. He said he had pulled out a spec from when (Solon Township had) painted the Cedar bridge (in Cedar). If you have someone paint the bridges, these are the six things you will want to do. Do we need to do that to these two bridges? If we move forward, we should all agree on what needs to be done. Popa asked and Bradley responded just touching them up will not work. Committee Chairman Barrons asked is that true of the Midway bridge, where the paint is peeling on the wood? Discussion followed on the bridges, and other wooden structures. Barrons said he has not addressed bridge painting for this year. He had talked with Ray Pleva about the Cedar Bridge painting project and has the phone numbers/contacts for that project. They had picked it up, relocated it to have it sandblasted and then brought it back to Cedar. Can we lift and move this? Popa listed the differences between the two. Barrons asked where do we go to find out that information? Bradley remarked there are State regulations. Bradley to forward information to Barrons. Barrons said he agrees with Popa and Bradley we should tackle this issue. Christensen said when we talked about this before, the idea came up that the ideal time to sandblast would be in the winter, and he doesn't know if it is possible. We need to determine whether the paint is lead-based or not; that will dictate the cost, where we go, and how we do it. Popa to follow up. Bradley remarked he may have that information on the bridge specs. Clerk offered comment that Planning/Community Development Director Trudy Galla has worked closely with Envirologic on many projects (and could assist with hazard mitigation). Discussion followed on the existing paint. Popa to follow up.

Barrons noted we are in consensus that we will move forward on this topic. Popa said he is not sure on the wooden bridge. Barrons said he and Bradley will follow up on the wooden bridge, as he is not sure if this would fall under the Bill Watson crew work. Walter asked can you just scrape the paint on that? Bradley noted it is constructed of Wolmanized wood.

Paving Parking Lot Entrance:

Popa said he had asked to add this because when reviewing the potential grant work, he met with the engineer at the Road Commission on what we need to do, and came up with some cost estimates. If we wanted to pursue this this year, it could cost up to \$20,000.00. It is about \$10,000.00 in asphalt, \$3,000.00 in curbs, and (the entrance) will have to be wider with an island. You might be able to do it for \$20,000.00. We ought to look at that culvert. If we decide to pave this, the culvert might need to be replaced. He doesn't want to move ahead on this...we might not have money for it this year, but it doesn't mean we cannot plan for it. When we (get closer to September), we might need to go to the County Board and ask for a budget increase. If we want to do it this year, it could get done. Popa said he isn't sure on how this year's budget is allocated). Discussion ensued.

Popa continued, adding the current set up isn't in compliance with (Road Commission) standards. He thinks it should be added to 2022 (projects). Discussion followed on the 2021 budget. Popa continued to comment on the proposed entrance project. Committee Chairman Barrons asked and Bradley responded he thinks the brush clearing at Myles Kimmerly Park alone could cost \$20,000.00. Barrons said even though we have started a new year, we are close to using it up. Discussion followed. Barrons said we need to (prioritize project in order to) decide in June for the 2022 budget. Popa added the culvert might cost \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 more; he will get the culvert checked. Christensen said when we get (a chance to speak at the next Regular Parks) meeting, we can discuss with the Commission what we are looking at, and prioritize them. We have a rough idea of what the paving would cost for the entrance to the park; we are inching our way toward painting the bridges. It looks to be another year out, and we need to identify if it has lead-based paint, and (if there are) any safety concerns around the old putting green. We will have some priority here to offer to the full Commission. There may be another item or two at the Commission level, so we can offer a laundry list of items, and as a Commission, earmark our way forward. All we can do at this level is recommend what we see and prioritize all. He thinks all would fall under that category. The big ones, we need to show the Commission our priorities and hash it out there. Popa to follow up.

Fishing Safety around Old Putting Green:

Committee Chairman Barrons said we had discussed Walter's drawings at this level before. Popa said this has been discussed for at least six years. He reviewed what had been presented for the grant work. The renderings had three revisions and went from \$75,000.00 to \$30,000.00 to do something in this area. If we got the grant, we had all agreed we wanted to approve it. Popa said he had sketches and drawings made up and presented it to a prior Commission session. He had completed an underwater inspection of the pond along that entire edge (https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/vvpc_handout_pond_bank_restoration_01152021.pdf). Popa referred to his documentation on potential steps that may need to be done, noting he

had spoken with a contractor on the potential project. Walter noted the rationale for his revised drawings. Popa said if we have something done, he won't do any more designing. Discussion ensued on the renderings. Popa stated we need to ask the Commission to set money aside for the project. He and Walter could draw up the renderings. More comments followed.

Committee Chairman Barrons said from Popa's drawings, the underwater cedar logs – we don't want to remove those. Won't we get into extra permitting issues with water disturbance? Can we leave them in, and install a packed gravel surface? Popa said leaving the logs in should be flush to the water. Discussion followed. Bradley said he had talked with our insurance rep. If we put a slope in, it creates a beach, or an "attractive nuisance." Even if you replace the cedar logs with steel pilings...a bank will discourage fishing. A six-foot path around would be desirable. Popa suggested a recommendation to the full Commission to move forward with sketches this year with work in 2022. Leaving the retaining wall as is, with a six-foot flat surface. With Walter's drawing, would we be able to bring the proper slope for UA (Universal Access) to the middle of the old green, so when kids come out, they can turn right or left? Walter said when you look at it, and come in with a backhoe, you are moving the dirt, not removing it. you are reshaping the mound. More comments followed.

Christensen said he likes Walter's ideas – it will be more cost-effective, we will keep our good fishing spots. In his mind, when we talk UA, it is more than six-feet in width, which is good. If we came in from the parking lot, in the middle of the putting green, then split the access from the right and left, put the walkway all around, it is kind of like a two-way street, with the soil in the middle to stabilize. We will need a railing; check the grant proposal on those specs. Committee Chairman Barrons said under some circumstances, the only blockage we need is not a full rail, but something for the wheels of a wheelchair. This is some of what we can look into. Discussion followed on UA specs, with Walter expressing and outlining his concern on railings.

Popa noted it would be better to haul the dirt away then mound it. He said he and Walter will work on this design. Christensen said we should look closely at what (Klaus Heinert of Gosling Czubak) had drawn up for the grant attempt. We made a decision (at that time) that everything we do from this point forward, will be UA. if we don't make it UA, shame on us. Committee Chairman Barrons said we can stay away from railings. We are in agreement this is a priority to develop our plan. Christensen said it might be beneficial to have Heinert sit in with us. He put in a lot of time (on developing the new five-year plan) and we spent a lot of money. There are probably some things we need to do for UA that he knows flat out. That way we do not spend extra time designing when we do not have all the information. Barrons said he will contact Heinert. Christensen said our committee needs to meet with Heinert; we all need to meet with him. Barrons asked do all four of us need to meet with Heinert initially? It would nice to have Heinert be involved in that, too.

Clerk suggested and Committee Chairman Barrons will follow up with County Administrator Chet Janik prior to contacting Heinert; he will then contact Popa and Walter on how to proceed.

Public Comment:

Clerk announced the number to call in – none received.

Board Member Comment:

Popa said in reviewing the list from Walter, the nine items, including a barrier-free portable toilet, etc., we should document it in our next minutes what we have done. Christensen said we have some big things on our plate. The Port-a-Potty situation, which may be similar to what is at Myles Kimmerly Park, would be a nice improvement and should be added to the next agenda, and we can look for things that are less expensive we could still fit in for this year. Committee Chairman Barrons concurred; we will make that list a part of our next agenda. He has done a few things about the Port-a-Potty, and wants to add it to the next meeting.

Motion by Walter to adjourn. Seconded by Popa.

Ayes – 4 (Walter, Barrons, Christensen, Popa)

No – 0

MOTION PASSES.

Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chairman at 2:25 p.m.

Laurel S. Evans, Secretary Pro Tem