

**Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission**

Regular Session – Wednesday, January 20, 2021

**Tentative Minutes – meeting recorded**

*Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan*

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Casey Noonan at 3:41 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was dispensed with (as it had been recited at the previously held Organizational session).

**Roll Call:**

Dave Barrons, *Vice Chairman, via Zoom*

Steve Christensen, *Secretary, via Zoom*

Don Frerichs – *via Zoom*

Melinda Lautner – *via Zoom*

Casey Noonan, *Chairman, via Zoom*

John Popa – *absent/prior notice*

Rick Robbins

Lana Schaub – *via Zoom, 3:45 p.m.*

Jon Walter – *absent/prior notice*

Todd Yeomans – *via Zoom*

Guest present.

**Public Comment:**

Clerk stated the number to call in for public comment – 231-256-8109; no comment received.

**Agenda Additions/Deletions:**

**Motion by Lautner to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Christensen.**

Discussion – none.

**Ayes – 7 (Lautner, Noonan, Robbins, Yeomans, Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs)**

**No – 0            Absent – 3 (Popa, Schaub, Walter)**

**Motion Carried.**

**Action Items –**

**Financial Reports:**

Chairman Noonan asked if everyone had a chance to review the reports. Maintenance Worker W. Scott Bradley recapped how the end of the year expenses ended up.

Chairman Noonan asked the Clerk for the status on the RFP for the trail debris clean up at Myles Kimmerly Park. Clerk noted the RFP is in the final stages of revisions. Discussion ensued; Christensen provide a history of what prompted the cleanup efforts to date. Bradley offered comment on the portions of the park that need cleanup and potential liability.

Christensen said if we look at our schedule, there are no meetings in July and November. As we get towards that time of year, it is time we get the ball rolling early in the year. Barrons said the

Executive Committee will need to make 2022 budget decisions in June; we really have just the spring to look ahead for next year. Clerk noted if anyone does not have a copy of the approved five-year park plan, please let her know.

**Motion by Barrons to approve the financial reports, as presented. Seconded by Yeomans.**

Discussion – none.

**Ayes – 8 (Lautner, Noonan, Robbins, Schaub, Yeomans, Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs)**

**No – 0**

**Absent – 2 (Popa, Walter)**

**Motion Carried.**

Old Settlers Grub Shack:

Chairman Noonan recapped the events of last December – there were a few items that went over-budget (that were approved for payment); he went before the Board of Commissioners to get them formally approved. “They beat me up pretty good” over that, which was understandable, as protocols were not followed. We did get approval for them; it was a misunderstanding between he and the County Administrator regarding permit fees. The project is complete, the expenditures were approved, and the project is done. Christensen said he, too, was part of the misunderstanding. Discussion ensued on the process. Noonan remarked he is willing to take the heat as chairman; he knew it was coming. He is thankful they had the (Board) votes to (approve the expenditures).

Chairman Noonan continued; It is one very large project, completed and out of the way. Christensen remarked it is a beautiful thing. Noonan added, it is sometimes better to ask for forgiveness than for permission.

Committee Reports and Recommendations –

Myles Kimmerly Park Committee:

Frerichs said they have a new group; he has talked with Bradley a few times already. They have identified several issues with the park. He is hoping to have a Committee meeting to discuss these and then present to the full Commission in February. Chairman Noonan noted the whole idea on these subcommittees is that they get together to hash out logistics to make recommendations to the full Commission; it makes things more efficient.

Old Settlers Park Committee:

Lautner remarked the grub shack was the big project. They have a few little things, that they can meet and discuss sometime, maybe in the next few months. There was an understanding we would be concentrating on Myles Kimmerly Park for funding this year.

Veronica Valley Park Committee:

Barrons said they had a committee meeting last week; they discussed wayfaring signage that identifies where someone is at on the trails. There are four locations where you cannot see either of the parking lots. He and Walter have worked on this a bit. Walter is working on more drawings. He is hoping to have a recommendation to bring to the full Commission next month. They are looking at paving the main entrance into the parking lot off of CR 641. As people turn in there, the motion digs up ruts. Popa had said they are not really in compliance with Road

Commission standards anyway. They will be bringing drawings and specifics for the full Commission to consider regarding the main fishing area. They want to have that worked on in 2021. They will have some specifics for next month. They discussed bridge painting – and he is referring to the “Big Mac” bridge. There is no funding available for this year, so they are potentially proposing it for 2022. They have to be ready to look ahead at what is involved prior to budget discussions.

Barrons added he knows they will have recommendations coming up soon on Port-a-Potty service improvements.

Public Comment:

Clerk restated the number to call in for public comment – none received.

Board Member Comment:

Barrons said he and County Employee Molly Steck have been working with Bradley to get training on trail grooming at Veronica Valley.

Lautner welcomed Robbins and Schaub to the Board.

Christensen asked if there was any activity with the roller at Myles Kimmerly Park? Bradley responded he has not rolled it yet. Discussion followed.

Yeomans welcomed Robbins and Schaub; he thanked Chairman Noonan for accepting the chairmanship. We need to roll on things sooner (rather than) waiting until December to do things. Noonan said every year, when we get projects completed, we are up against the wall.

Chairman Comments:

Chairman Noonan said he is happy to be chairman again and hopes to get some improvements complete.

Adjournment:

**Motion by Barrons to adjourn. Seconded by Lautner.**

**Ayes – 8 (Lautner, Noonan, Robbins, Schaub, Yeomans, Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs)**

**No – 0            Absent – 2 (Popa, Walter)**

**Motion Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

---

Laurel S. Evans, Secretary Pro Tem