

**Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Veronica Valley Park Committee Meeting**  
Monday, February 7, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.  
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan  
*Corrected Minutes – Meeting Recorded*  
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2285>

The Veronica Valley Park Committee meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Committee Chairman, Dave Barrons.

Chairman Barrons waived the “Pledge of Allegiance” due to time constraints.

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

Staff Present: Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant  
W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker

Guests Present:  
None.

Public Comment:  
None.

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

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

Discussion – Barrons proposed moving “Wayfinding Signage” and “Grant Application Update” as the first and second items (respectively) on the agenda.

**Christensen restated: Motion to approve the agenda, as amended. Seconded by Walter.**

Discussion – None.

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

**No – 0**

**Motion Passes.**

Public Comment:  
None.

Action/Update/Discussion Items:

Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2021 Committee Meeting:

**Motion by Barrons to approve the October 20, 2021 meeting minutes, as submitted.**

**Seconded by Walter.**

Discussion – None.

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

**No – 0**

**Motion Passes.**

Wayfinding Signage:

Copies of the design for the wayfinding signage were distributed and Chairman Barrons stated that he was seeking approval of the design created by he, Frerichs, and Walter. Barrons displayed a mockup that was 11" x 14". Christensen thought the size should be bigger. Popa thought the size was fine, but thought the numbers should be larger. Barrons concurred. Walter said the cost to print the signs was \$65.00 each. Barrons said six signs would be needed, bringing to total to \$390.00. Walter said the cost of the posts for mounting the signs (treated, 8-foot, 4x4s) would be \$20.00 and numbers (6-inch, aluminum) for the posts would cost about \$10.00. Bradley agreed to install the posts. Walter added that the signs could be made from foam core board, aluminum plate with a plastic core for \$35.00, or ½" plywood for \$60.00.

**Motion by Popa to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission to authorize the establishment and purchase of wayfinding signage for Veronica Valley and Myles Kimmerly Parks. Seconded by Christensen.**

Discussion – To confirm the discussed changes to the design, Chairman Barrons recounted that the trails would be colored black with a slight, white drop-shadow (if possible) with larger numbers for each of the post locations. Barrons mentioned Frerichs wanted to add trail distances to the signs for Myles Kimmerly Park; however, Barrons did not support that addition for the signage at Veronica Valley Park because the park is so small. Walter added that the distance is already indicated on the map. Barrons said the signage among the parks may look a bit different if trail distances are added to the Myles Kimmerly Park signs, but overall, they will maintain uniformity.

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

**No – 0**

**Motion Passes.**

Grant Application Update:

Chairman Barrons reported that he had not heard from Bill Watson (Youthwork Director) regarding the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' two percent allocation request, but he said he will "stay on him" because they have been late in meeting the deadline in past years. Evans inquired about other alternatives such as Rotary or Ducks Unlimited grants. Evans added that perhaps the Tribal Council did not feel a grant for Veronica Valley Park was a good fit and that it might be time to research other grant options. Barrons encouraged Evans to keep sharing grant opportunities when she comes across them. Christensen commented that Parks and Recreation Commissioner Godbout might be in a position to take on grant writing and said it would be a huge benefit for the Parks and Recreation Commission if he spearheaded the effort. Barrons said he would meet with Evans at a later time to talk more in-depth about grant opportunities.

Parking Lot Design, Culvert Replacement Review/Update:

The group reviewed the proposed Veronica Valley parking lot designed by Walter. Walter explained he included 18 parking spots, but that these spaces were not based on park experience and could be changed. Barrons thanked Walter for his work on the design. Walter mentioned that he had over 60 years of parking lot design experience. He said he was "excited" about the plan design because it resolved conflict between pedestrian and vehicle circulation,

something he felt important given that children frequent the park. Barrons said once the curbing at the entrance is installed, the parking lot has to align center-wise with the entrance. Popa said the bid specs were to center over the culvert. Bradley said an addendum was issued that changed the scope to “to be determined,” and added that the two contractors who bid the project said whatever is decided would not affect the cost. Barrons emphasized that the point of today’s discussion was to come to an agreement of where the center line is so when the curbing is installed in the spring, it matches the vision for the future of the parking lot. He asked the group if they were in agreement with the basic design. Christensen said he liked the design because it kept pedestrians out of the flow of traffic and made the area safer. Bradley was not in favor of fencing in the area because it made it difficult to plow. Popa added that the curves and sweeps in the design would add cost to paving the area. He said a rectangular shape would cost less to pave and would be easier to maintain. Walter said he did extensive research to determine the radius necessary for busses to turn around in the parking lot. He was adamant that busses should not back up in the parking lot. Regarding large group events, Barrons said they will need to manage their own parking. He said they should come to the park ahead of time to perform a reconnaissance and meet with emergency management. Barrons wrapped up the discussion by stating that he was not looking for action today on the design. He said they resolved the important curbing placement question which will allow them to be flexible to do what they choose in the next phase of the parking lot design.

**FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Review:**

Chairman Barrons asked for ideas about how to spend money on park improvements in 2022. Popa said a tree fell on the bridge at Veronica Valley Park and asked if they should pursue a grant to fix it. Bradley said there was damage to the railings but the bridge was still safe and functional. Popa suggested adding additional padding at the Veronica Valley playground. With the same need at Old Settlers Park, once that playground is installed, they will coordinate that effort. Christensen mentioned demonstration fencing for free-standing trees, but thought it might be a maintenance cost. Barrons mentioned prairie plantings and weed mitigation as an expense that he estimated at \$2,000.00 for spray and maintenance. As an FYI, Bradley mentioned that the tractor broke down and the repair may be cost prohibitive (estimated at \$10,000.00). Popa asked about the removal of pond weed. Barrons said the weed rake has been effective and, with volunteers, he felt they could manage it.

Popa asked about the timeline for getting money to purchase fish for stocking the fish ponds. Because of the uncertainty of the process, Popa said he would talk to “Lonnie” (Rademacher of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association) and work out the details. Barrons asked about the cost for the fish purchase. Christensen estimated about \$2,000.00, but he said that cost will be determined once Popa talks with Lonnie.

**Public Comment:**

None.

Committee Member Comments:

Popa said they need to put construction of a pavilion in the budget. Barrons said he would add this topic for future discussion because “pavilion” needs to be defined – how big it is; how much it costs; how will it be used; what does it contain; is there a need; and does it fit with the concept of passive learning.

Christensen inquired if he was supposed to contact Risk Management regarding regulations for wood chips for the park playgrounds. Evans responded that she had a contact she could provide.

Adjournment:

**Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Walter.**

**Ayes – 4 3 (Barrons, Christensen, Popa, Walter)**

**No – 0**

**Motion Passes.**

The meeting adjourned to the call of Committee Chairman Barrons at 10:43 a.m.

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Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary