



Approval of Minutes –

Minor discussion ensued.

January 20, 2021, Organizational Meeting Minutes:

**Motion by Christensen to accept the January 20, 2021, Organizational Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Popa.**

Discussion – none.

**Ayes – 8 (Christensen, Frerichs, Lautner, Popa, Robbins, Walter, Yeomans, Barrons)**

**No – 0**

**Absent – 1 (Noonan)**

**Motion Passes.**

January 20, 2021, Regular Session Minutes:

**Motion by Popa to approve the January 20, 2021, Regular Session Minutes, as presented.**

**Seconded by Robbins.**

Discussion – none.

**Ayes – 8 (Popa, Robbins, Walter, Yeomans, Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs, Lautner)**

**No – 0**

**Absent – 1 (Noonan)**

**Motion Passes.**

Committee Reports and Recommendations –

Veronica Valley Park Committee:

Vice-Chairman Barrons said his Committee’s focus has been to develop its priority list for this year and the following year. They had discussed signage, and he is looking for approval from this group. Clerk clarified that she will be sending out to all Commission members the minutes from all the committees, to prepare them in advance for the Regular Sessions.

Vice-Chairman Barrons continued – this is regarding wayfinding signage for Veronica Valley Park (VVP), following the (unofficial) “Popa rule” to keep signage at a minimum. There seems to be a need, where people have asked him the location of park amenities. As a result, the Committee has developed signage that answers that question, and subsequently he worked with Equalization GIS Analyst Rob Herman to develop mapping for the proposed wayfinding signage. Barrons continued to provide a description of what the signage contains. The Committee is proposing the purchase of six signs. Additionally, a larger version of the sign will be placed within the glassed-in kiosk at the park. The Committee had voted to recommend moving ahead with the signage development. They had obtained a quote from Traverse Reproduction of Traverse City (for just the signage). The Committee recommendation is to approve the purchase from Traverse Repro in an amount not to exceed \$550.00 for the six signs, which will also include the cost of posts (to be purchased separately). He outlined some of the minor adjustments made to the signs. There may be more changes, as new orthophotos will be taken midsummer. Bradley noted a few trails are missing on the map. Barrons said it won’t change the cost or recommendation. Discussion followed on the missing trails.

Lautner said when they had met last year as a Committee of the Whole for parks, they had discussed native species identification signs, for birds and wildlife – she has not walked this park. Are any of those in place yet? Vice-chairman Barrons remarked not yet. Lautner asked can these be added to the posts or is it a project for down the road? Barrons said he thinks those

were possibilities. Lautner said she wondered if they had linked that educational piece to the grant when we had purchased that park. If we did, she would like to see the Commission begin to move forward with that, as the education is an important piece. Since then, you have done your native plantings, which people should be made aware of as well. Barrons said he will bring that up in future Committee discussions. Lautner said this park has come a long way – she appreciates all that staff and the Committee has done; it is a really beautiful park.

**Motion by Christensen to approve the purchase of wayfinding signage from Traverse Reproduction & Supply Co., Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$550.00. Seconded by Yeomans and Popa.**

Discussion – Walter clarified the cost was based on County staff installing the signs. Vice-Chairman Barrons said the cost was a quote as of now; he added the County had approved the purchase of new aerial photos, and the project will commence mid- to late-summer. Christensen said we can revisit. If we get to late summer, and we see that our number is over, we may bring it back for a revote.

**Ayes – 8 (Christensen, Frerichs, Lautner, Popa, Robbins, Walter, Yeomans, Barrons)**

**No – 0**

**Absent – 1 (Noonan)**

**Motion Passes.**

Vice-Chairman Barrons continued; the Committee had also discussed improvements to the parking lot, developing a piece-by-piece look at the budget. They want to replace the culvert located under the main entrance this year. That will determine the types of improvements to the parking lot on a whole. He noted Bradley had suggested reconfiguring the parking lot to a smaller size. We are moving in the direction of one of the things budgeted, to get done this year is improvements to the parking lot. They will also be looking at what to do for next year, which includes improvements to the Porta-Potties. They have also been talking about fishing access safety, specifically around the old putting green and main fishing access to the pond. They are moving ahead on plans to price that out, and the priority steps to get something done yet this year.

Christensen asked if there is any report available about the netting from the ponds from (DNR Fisheries Biologist) Heather Hettinger? Vice-Chairman Barrons said he has requested it and has not received a response. With that in mind, the Fishing Committee of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association will be going ahead with Kids’ Fishing Day this year. Schedules will be hung on that to some degree, for the last Sunday in June.

Popa said he and Walter have been “working on a quote” for the driveway. He doubts there is money in this year’s budget; we could go before the County Board and ask for more funds. If we put curbs and pave the entryway, we had talked about a cost of \$15,000.00. That is when he had suggested pulling up the culvert which would add costs to the project. If the Road Commission can pull that culvert, we have some time to do that project. It would take about a day’s work. It could cost between \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00. More comments followed; Clerk reminded Commission members of the County Board’s approved bid process, which can be verified by County Administrator Chet Janik. Discussion followed on the County bid process and whether to work on the culvert this year.

Christensen said it might be premature; he would like to see Walter’s drawings. He has been working with Bradley, we are thinking about the size of the parking lot. It is looking like that at the Committee level, we might decide the parking lot is a bit bigger than we need. If we talk about reconfiguring the parking lot, we might need a smaller culvert. We also need to let the bids come in for the Myles Kimmerly Park (MKP debris removal) project, to get a good idea on where we are on extra funding. The culvert work may be premature. Popa detailed the specifications of the existing culvert.

Walter said he has some information on parking. He will show various approaches to parking, starting at 26 total (spaces) maximum, and other considerations for review by Popa. Vice-Chairman Barrons said to review so far, the Committee is working on these improvements, specifically to the entrance. They have some work to do to develop the details for this full Commission to consider; they will straighten out with the County Administrator relative to the bid process. This is one of the big projects they are working on along with the fishing safety.

Vice-Chairman Barrons said the Committee had also voted to recommend approval of the Savin Lake Services Contract for pond weed control. They need to move on this, so that we can present this to the County Board for approval, as it is a contract. More comments followed on the permitting deadline.

**Motion by Christensen to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners to approve a contract with Savin Lake Services to treat the pond at Veronica Valley Park in an amount not to exceed \$2,475.00. Seconded by Popa and Yeomans.**

Discussion – Vice-Chairman Barrons to work with Savin with Walter’s assistance. They want there to be a mix of weeds and open fishing access, to be determined. He has spoken with Paul Barber, owner of Savin Lake Services.

**Ayes – 8 (Christensen, Frerichs, Lautner, Popa, Robbins, Walter, Yeomans, Barrons)**

**No – 0            Absent – 1 (Noonan)**

**Motion Passes.**

Frerichs asked what is the status of the trail going around that pond? Vice-Chairman Barrons responded any reshaping or reconfiguration of the bank, is around the old putting green. They have not discussed any other reshaping at this time.

Myles Kimmerly Park Committee:

Committee Chairman Frerichs noted the Committee had met on February 2; they lost one member, Lana Schaub, which was disappointing, as there is a potential for horse activity.

Frerichs said the Committee reviewed the goals in the five-year plan; they focused on horse-specific areas; the RFP for the logging debris has been released; they had also discussed trail signs, similar to what Barrons had mentioned. Frerichs said he is new to the MKP, and could not find the trailhead for the Patrick Hobbins Trail. We need a bit of signage at the parking lot. The Committee will come back to the full Commission with some recommendations.

Frerichs said he has a “pet peeve” with the existing grub shack, which seems to be somewhat falling over and really needs repair. He remarked that Robbins has not yet toured the Grub Shack, so they will take a tour. The Committee will need to make a recommendation as to whether to tear it down or refurbish it.

The driveway coming into the park needs to be maintained a bit better than it is. In the springtime, it will be a problem; last fall it was a problem. Those were the four things the Committee had focused on. They really need another committee member.

Lautner told Commission members that during last night’s Regular Session, the County Board of Commissioners had appointed a new parks member, Michael Smith, who may be a good fit for that park. Evans to follow up.

Vice-Chairman Barrons said let’s make sure we keep a consistent look across all three parks, and that each committee talks with one another. Discussion ensued.

Old Settlers Park Committee:

Lautner remarked the Old Settlers Park (OSP) Committee has not met recently; they will be meeting soon for a few “housekeeping” things. Vice-Chairman Barrons said one thing the Committees should keep in mind is the budget items for 2022, as the Parks Executive Committee meets in June to work on the Parks budget for the following year.

Popa said he had reviewed some of the items on the list of improvements within the OSP of the Parks’ five-year plan, which he detailed. Lautner remarked she realizes that but by spending so much in 2020 (with the Grub Shack remodel) on the OSP, she thought the majority of money will be going into MKP for this year. The pavilion is one thing; there is also the memorial wall they want to do, now that they have an extension done to the grub shack. Vice-Chairman Barrons said that is something we all need to keep in mind; working on priorities in 2021, and budgeting towards 2022.

Public Comment:

Clerk announced the number to call.

- Clerk commented on the deadline for Grand Traverse Band 2% Allocation requests, that any recommendations by the Parks Commission needs to be done in April for the May County Board sessions.
- Kelly Claar, Chairman of the Solon Township Park Committee. Claar gave her credentials, saying she wished to speak on signage. You do not want to overburden people with signs as most people do not look at signs anyway, and she was a former park ranger. Claar urged consistency in how the signs look so people could clearly identify a county parks sign. The state parks she has worked for in the past had distinctive signage. Everyone identified those as state parks signs.

**Commissioner Comment:**

Lautner asked if a Committee wants to write a Tribal 2% allocation request, should it come before the full parks for recommendation? Discussion ensued.

Popa thanked Evans for her efforts on behalf of the parks.

**Chairperson Comment:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chairman at 3:55 p.m.

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Laurel S. Evans, Recording Secretary Pro Tem