

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission  
**Veronica Valley Park Committee Meeting Minutes**  
March 6, 2024 | 2:00 p.m.  
Leelanau County Government Center – Commissioners Meeting Room  
8527 E. Government Center Dr. Suttons Bay MI 49682

CALL TO ORDER: 3:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- Keith Beduhn, Chair
- Steve Christensen (Absent)
- John Popa
- F. Jon Walter

STAFF PRESENT:

- W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker
- Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

- Dave Barrons
- Alan Campbell

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Stenette Amy, Executive Director of AAHNEE Grandmother Kee, proposed conducting a series of workshops at the County parks about the use of native plants for food and medicine, one of which grows at Veronica Valley Park. Popa advised Amy to write a proposal and submit it to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review. He also suggested that she ask to be added to a future Parks and Recreation agenda to present her proposal.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Discussion: None.

Ayes: 3 (Beduhn, Popa, Walter)

No: 0 Absent: 1 (Christensen)

Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

**Motion by Walter to approve the minutes, as submitted. Seconded by Beduhn.**

Discussion: None.

Ayes: 3 (Beduhn, Popa, Walter)

No: 0 Absent: 1 (Christensen)

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**1. Savin Lake Services**

Barrons reported that the \$225 permit fee required for spraying the ponds for evasive weeds was inadvertently left out of the contract with Savin Lake Services. Barrons said Christensen was taking care of this oversight and would work with the Board of Commissioners and the Accounting Department to get the payment processed. Barrons said he would like to come to an agreement regarding what areas of the ponds should be sprayed for weeds so he could guide Savin Lake Services accordingly when he meets with them to line out the project. Popa said "he trusted" Barrons to make the decision based on Barrons past experience dealing with the weed issue in the

ponds at Veronica Valley. Popa advised Barrons to move ahead with spraying as he deemed appropriate. Barrons said he plans to contact Heather Hettinger, Fisheries Biologist (Hettinger) with the Department of Natural Resources, to get her input on the project.

Alan Campbell inquired if he needed to line up a crew to rake pond weeds prior to Kids Fish Day (as he has done in prior years). Barrons responded that he will have a better idea if weeds will need to be raked once weed spraying details have been worked out with Savin Lake Services.

## **2. Kids Fishing Day**

Beduhn reported that he talked with Hettinger and she said no help was needed at this time with regard to Kids Fishing Day. Campbell noted that this year there will be an increase in prices for the fish purchased to stock the ponds.

## **3. 2024 Budget/Repairs and Improvements**

Per Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's (MMRMA) August 4, 2023 Park Risk Review, the "Mack bridge has openings in the rails more than four inches and is a head entrapment and fall through hazard." MMRMA suggested installing boards to reduce the opening to smaller than four inches. Walter said he needed clarification about whether this issue was a "finding" or a "recommendation" because how the repair would be completed depended on this clarification. Popa said more research was needed before moving forward on the repair. Beduhn requested that this item be added to the April Veronica Valley Park Committee meeting agenda.

Popa reminded the group that they had authorization to purchase a safety ladder to be installed at the main pond. He added that the split-rail fencing around the park is broken, is a hazard, and needs replacement. Bradley said he already purchased the materials to repair the park sign.

**Motion by Popa to recommend to the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission to find a contractor to install new split rail fencing and to reinstall the park sign. Seconded by Beduhn.**

**Discussion:**

Ayes: 3 (Beduhn, Popa, Walter)

No: 0 Absent: 1 (Christensen)

Motion passed.

Bradley reported that he received an invoice from Savin Lake Services for \$225 for reimbursement for the EGLE permit (Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy). Bradley said he was holding the invoice until Savin's contract was approved. Popa advised Bradley to bring the invoice to today's Parks Commission meeting to get authorization to pay the invoice.

Beduhn mentioned that the ropes around the throw rings are broke and wondered if it was okay if he fixed it himself. Popa said it was okay for Beduhn to fix it. He said no formal authorization was needed.

## **4. Veronica Valley Park 5-Year Plan**

Beduhn reported Elmers gave him a quote of \$48,000 to pave the trail around the pond and to the bridge. Discussion ensued about pursuing a two percent grant from the Tribe (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians) to pay for the project. Popa thought the Committee had resolved not to install ADA (Americans with Disability Act) trails at the park because of other competing projects. Beduhn responded that the current park plan shows ADA trails. Walter discussed a design he previously created for a covered area(pavilion) at the park that would hold up to 60 people. He added that if there was still interest in the project he would gather estimates.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Campbell mentioned if there was interest in renting a tent for an event at the park or other events elsewhere, to contact him.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned to the call of Chair Beduhn at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary

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