

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission

Veronica Valley Park Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Veronica Valley Park, 3990 S. Maple Rd., Suttons Bay and
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded

<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2517>

Chairman Barrons called to order the on-site meeting at Veronica Valley Park at 1:00 p.m. In attendance and comprising a quorum were committee members Dave Barrons, Steve Christensen, John Popa, and Jon Walter. Staff members Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant, Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker, and Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary, were also in attendance.

Discussion ensued about the location and dimensions of the pad for the portable toilets (considering the addition of one Universal Access (UA) toilet) that would ensure room for busses to turn around and pedestrian safety in the area. With regard to paving versus using gravel for the surface of the parking lot, Bradley mentioned the disadvantage of having a gravel surface by pointing out the pile of gravel that had accumulated from plowing in the wintertime. He added that it was a labor-intensive effort to remove the pile each spring.

Moving on to the fish walkway, the group inspected the break wall along the Kids' Fish Pond and assessed the work involved and materials needed to reinforce the wall where timbers were missing. Next was an inspection of the ditch drain and culvert along the south border (CR 641) of the park to determine if snaking the drain and/or raking the ditch was needed to improve drainage that would mitigate flooding of the park. At this time, the group directed Bradley regarding the placement of the park sign; the west side of the park entrance, set back enough to maintain a clear view of oncoming traffic was the requested location. The small dam between Duck Lake and the Kids' Fish Pond was inspected. There was discussion about reinforcing the dam, as there was evidence of erosion. The construction of a small bridge across the dam was mentioned as a quaint addition to the park which led to the discussion of a trail that included a crossing of the new bridge, which, in turn, evolved to a discussion about starting with a trail around the Kids' Fish Pond as Phase I, then later adding as Phase II, a trail that crosses the newly constructed bridge that crosses the dam between Duck Pond and Kids Fish Pond.

The Committee disbanded, at 1:50 p.m. and then Chairman Barrons reconvened the meeting of the Veronica Valley Park Committee at 2:13 p.m. at the Leelanau County Government Center.

Chairman Barrons led the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present:

Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant
W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker (*Absent*)

Guests Present:

None.

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

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

Discussion – None.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:

None.

Action Items –

Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2023, Committee Meeting:

Motion by Christensen to approve the April 5, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Barrons.

Discussion – None.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Brief Tour of Veronica Valley Park:

Chairman Barrons reviewed the work assignments resulting from the site visit of Veronica Valley Park.

- Walter will create a scaled rendering of the proposed park design.
- Popa, Walter, and Bradley will spray paint an outline once the rendering is completed by Walter.
- Popa and Bradley will reinforce the break wall along the fishing walkway. Popa said they would need additional help. Popa said he would contact Alan Campbell to pursue Campbell's offer to recruit volunteers from the Boy Scouts (or other resources for volunteers that Campbell may have). Bradley said he would get the wood needed to reinforce the wall.

Barrons discussed his vision for trail enhancements within the park and suggested a Tribal two percent allocation application as a possibility to fund the enhancements. With the bridge already having Universal Access (UA), he suggested "Phase I" to be a trail that crosses over the existing bridge that crosses Kids' Fish Pond. He added that Phase II could extend the trail to cross over the dam between Duck Pond and the Kids' Fish Pond via a "gold star" bridge designed by Walter. Barrons said he would begin gathering the information needed to apply for the grant.

Drainage Pipe – Christensen proposed raking debris from the front of the culvert that is located at the park entrance to gain better outflow in the ditch along County Road 641. Christensen thought taking this action would mitigate park overflow after a heavy rainfall. Barrons and Walter volunteered to clear the culvert. Discussion ensued regarding the drainpipe coming into

the ditch – whether it needed to be snaked for debris, how to clear it, who could do it. Bradley said the County had equipment to clear the pipe (a rod with a brush attached that gets shoved into the drainpipe and removed with a tractor). Christensen said they needed to be able to see the end of drainpipe in the ditch and asked Popa if the Road Commission could scoop the ditch. Popa thought once the culvert was cleared, the water level in the ditch would drop and expose the drain pipe.

Barrons asked the group if the proposed Phase I of the trail enhancement (around the Kids' Fish Pond and over the existing bridge) had moved up as a priority for the park as a project for "next fall." Christensen and Popa both thought it should be a priority with Christensen adding the portable toilets and the trail enhancement were "neck and neck" in his mind. Because the trail enhancement involved UA, Evans suggested exploring other opportunities for grants specific to UA because there might be more options. (Rotary Charities was mentioned.) Barrons commented that he was not sure how much he wanted to "take on" with regard to grant writing. He said he would talk with "Jim" at Disabilities Networks because he is a "good regional contact." He added that with UA access for fishing, the trails, and the portable toilets the park would be "top drawer."

Discussion turned to stocking bluegills in the Duck Pond for fly fishing demonstrations. Barrons wondered if bait minnows were needed in the ponds to encourage the fish to grow. This was deemed a question for Heather Hettinger, Fisheries Biologist with Michigan Department of Natural Resources, who will be attending the May 3rd (2023) regular session of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Pond Weeds – Barrons said he is researching the right spot treatment product for weeds and that the cost would be "several hundreds of dollars instead of \$2,500.00 to pay Savin Lake Services." He said the first step is to determine what type of weed they are trying to control. Barrons said he has not contacted Ron Reimink and Brian Price (LLLA) because there is not enough growth in the pond to plan a course of action. Popa thought at the very least, algae in the ponds needed to be addressed; Barrons concurred. Evans mentioned that she thought Hettinger wanted to "take pause" for the season and not do anything. Barrons felt there needed to be some form of weed management taken whether it was manual raking or otherwise. There was question as to if an EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) permit was needed for spot treatment of algae. Barrons said an EGLE permit is not dependent on the size of the body of water, but rather on the area being covered, so he thought, depending on the size of the area being treated, a permit may not be necessary. Christensen reminded the group to allow sufficient lead time for obtaining the permit if it was deemed necessary.

(2:41 p.m. - Popa left meeting to take a call.)

Barrons thought that, to assist the LLLA in cleaning up Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Leelanau, "prepared" signage (not signage prepared by the committee) should be posted at the pond regarding aquatic hitchhikers and how to mitigate cross contamination (cleaning tackle, boats, etc.). With agreement by the group, Barrons said he will research design and cost for the signage, though he was unsure about having the information by the May 3rd (2023) Parks and

Recreation regular session. Christensen said to take advantage of an educational opportunity, the goal should be to post the signage before Kids’ Fishing Day in June.

(2:51 p.m. - Popa rejoins meeting.)

Christensen reiterated that Walter and Popa will be creating a “physical representation” and lay it out on site using spray paint. Walter added that he will go out to the park and locate existing points so his renderings will be to scale. He said that having the areas painted out will allow committee members to visit the park individually, inspect, and report their thoughts at the next committee meeting. Walter inquired and Bradley confirmed he has two different colors of spray paint as well as a surveyor’s wheel. Evans will advise the group when the painting is completed and ready for inspection.

Popa reported on his phone call with Alan Campbell, resident and LLLA member. Popa said Campbell reported that the price of fish went “sky high.” Popa said he invited Campbell to the May 3, 2023, Parks regular session to talk about fish, and about getting help with reinforcing the break wall along the Kids’ Fishing Pond, among other things. Discussion ensued about the timeline for getting a check prepared for payment to Laggis Fish Farms on the day of the fish delivery. Evans to follow up in contacting Hettinger and advising her to bring the invoice and related documents to the May 3rd (2023) Parks and Recreation meeting. Christensen said he would review the documents from last year to determine the split on fish payment between LLLA and the County.

Public Comment:

None.

Board Member Comment:

None.

Motion to Adjourn:

Chairman Barrons called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Walter.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

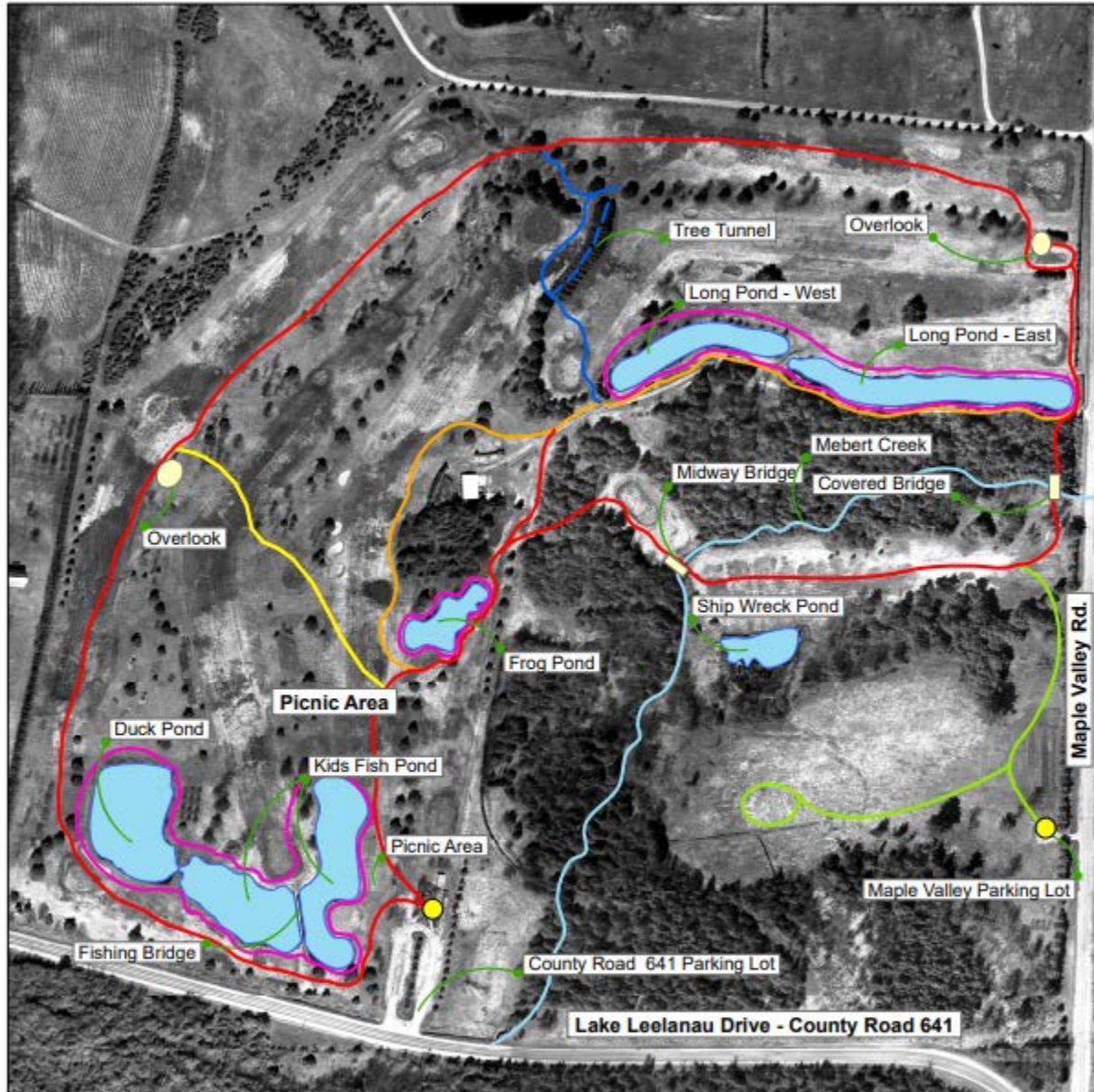
With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary

Attachments: (2)
1: Veronica Valley Park Map
2: Pictures of On-site Inspections

Veronica Valley Park



Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Information & Trail Map

Veronica Valley Park

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|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Red Trail-1.3 mi (6887 ft) | Green Trail-22mi (1180 ft) |  <p>Map for Reference Purposes only.
 2006 Orthophotos
 Prepared by Leelanau County
 Planning & Community Development
 October 2010</p> <p>0 75 150 300 Feet</p> |
| Yellow Trail-.15 mi (833 ft) | Mebert Creek | |
| Orange Trail-.36 mi (1940 ft) | Information Kiosk | |
| Blue Trail-.14 mi (745 ft) | Frog Pond; Kids Fish/Duck .40 mi (2157 ft); E&W Long .43mi (2281 ft) | |
| | Overlook | |

Veronica Valley Park Committee Meeting
Walk-through at Park; April 25, 2023



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