

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission
Veronica Valley Park Committee Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan
Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2330>

The Veronica Valley Park Committee meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Committee Chairman, Dave Barrons.

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

Guests Present:
None.

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

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

Discussion – None.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:

Tom Adams, Resource Specialist, Conservation District. Adams discussed tree protection and replanting of lost trees at Veronica Valley Park. Thirty replacement trees will be planted. Deer, rabbits, squirrels, and voles are eating trees. Metal fences (enclosures – 10) have been purchased and will be installed to protect some of the new trees. Signs will be installed as an educational tool for tree protection and conservation. Christensen asked about installing large, plastic fencing with chicken wire at the bottom to protect from rabbits. Mr. Adams said he would be happy to install whatever the County decided to purchase for fencing. Christensen said the cost could come out of the maintenance budget and asked Bradley to purchase then contact Mr. Adams when it was time to install.

Fishing Pond Weed Management:

Brian Price, Biologist, and Ron Reimink, Project Manager, Lake Leelanau Lake Association, discussed their process for eradication of Eurasian Milfoil in Lake Leelanau and theories of how the lake was contaminated. Depending on when milfoil was identified in the fishing pond at Veronica Valley Park, the source might have been Neighbor Creek, which flows from the pond

to Lake Leelanau and the weed could have been transported by beavers or muskrats. Price said they would be interested in conducting milfoil mitigation experimentation in the ponds at Veronica Valley Park; however, an aquatic plant assessment first needs to be done. There was question as to whether a permit would be necessary to use burlap barriers in the pond. Price asked if there was a vegetation survey that could be obtained from Savin Lake Services. Barrons said he would work on getting the survey if indeed one had been completed. Christensen thought DNR Fisheries Biologist Heather Hettinger might have an informal list of vegetation in the ponds. Christensen said he would touch base with (DNR Critical Dune permitting staff) Division Robyn Schmidt regarding the permit question. Price cautioned to stay vigilant in fighting milfoil in the ponds because its propagation is rapid once it takes hold. Christensen suggested signage at Veronica Valley Park educating the public about steps they can take to mitigate milfoil contamination.

Christensen said he felt the Committee was not ready for a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission, but he said they could advise the Commission that the Veronica Valley Park Committee is considering a partnership with Price to use the ponds at Veronica Valley Park as a “test bed” that would be of mutual benefit in the eradication of milfoil. Barrons said they will stay in touch and keep the conversation going.

Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2022 Regular Session:

Motion by Christensen to approve the March 14, 2022, meeting minutes. Seconded by Popa
Discussion – None.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Tribal Two Percent Allocation Application:

Motion by Christensen to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission to endorse the application for the two percent funds, on behalf of the YouthWorks for invasive species removal at Veronica Valley Park. Seconded by Popa.

Discussion: Barrons stated that someone from the Veronica Valley Park Committee will attend the next Executive Board Session of the County Board of Commissioners in support of the Committee’s recommendation. He added that he communicated with Bill Watson (Youth Works) about the approval process and timeline.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:

None.

Committee Member Comments:

Popa thanked Barrons “for what you do” and Barrons thanked the committee for their contributions. Walter said he made a sketch of the proposed open area learning center for Veronica Valley Park. Christensen asked that he distribute the sketch to the committee members. He added that the project should be added to the wish list for the 2023 budget

because the 2022 budget has already been spent. Evans advised that the Parks and Recreation's Executive Committee meeting was slated for June 1, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. and that she would try to distribute packets ahead of time. Barrons inquired if another committee meeting was needed ahead of the the June 1st Executive Committee meeting. Christensen suggested waiting until today's Parks and Recreation Regular Session when details of the budget meeting will be discussed.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Popa.

Discussion – None.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

The meeting adjourned to the call of Committee Chairman Barrons at 2:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary