

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission
Veronica Valley Park Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 16, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan
Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2154>

The Veronica Valley Park Committee meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Committee Chairman, Dave Barrons.

Committee Chairman Barrons waived the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance due to time constraints.

Roll Call: Dave Barrons, *Committee Chairman*
Steve Christensen (*1:12 p.m. arrival*)
John Popa
F. Jon Walter

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

No guests present.

Public Comment:
None.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Popa to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by Walter.

Discussion – none.

Ayes – 3 (Barrons; Popa, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 1 (Christensen)

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:

Evans introduced Lori Eubanks as the new Recording Secretary for the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission, effective May 10, 2021.

Action Items –

Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2021, Veronica Valley Park Committee Meeting:

Motion by Popa to approve the May 19, 2021, Veronica Valley Park Committee meeting minutes as submitted. Seconded by Barrons.

Discussion – none.

Ayes – 3 (Barrons; Popa; Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 1 (Christensen)

Motion Passes.

Pond Weed Management Update:

Committee Chairman Barrons reported that he met with the technician from Savin Lake Services and it was determined there was no evidence of milfoil in any of the three ponds; therefore, there was no need to spray at this time. (The Savin contract is specific to milfoil eradication.) Barrons added that although the Chara algae looks nasty and appears to be clogging the fishing pond, it is not attached to the bottom of the pond and it creates a good habitat for fish, while adding oxygen to the water. He said the native pond weed is more dominate in the back ponds. All three ponds have numerous fish, including bass – and fish are spawning in the two long ponds in the back, so there is evidence over-wintering. The plan is for the tech to return in three weeks to inspect the ponds again and spray if treatment is necessary and to return throughout the summer for intermittent inspections and treatment.

Committee Chairman Barrons further reported that the Savin contract is good for one year, but that he wants to understand “how we use it.” He is working on getting that information from Paul Barber at Savin Lake Services. Barrons added that stocking of the ponds is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, with Wednesday, June 23, 2021, being the first revised date. The time is yet to be determined. Barrons and (Lake Leelanau Lake Association member) Lonnie Rademacher plan to assist with the stocking, along with one or two members from the Association’s Fish Committee.

Christensen present.

Committee Chairman Barrons added that Savin Lake Services is now carrying cutting and removal tools. The Savin technician said the Veronica Valley Park ponds were ideal for use of this equipment for pond clearing by volunteer crews.

Fish Pond Edge Walkway RFP Update:

Popa reported that we will be “going out for bids” this year and reviewed with the committee a handout that included the proposed scope of work, including a two-page schematic for the walkway project at Veronica Valley County Park. The walkway will be 8-foot wide and approximately 180-foot long (schematic available on the web via the link on page 1). Popa continued to review the plan. Committee Chairman Barrons inquired if the walkway would extend as an access to the parking lot. Popa responded that it would not, but that there would be an approach on the north end.

Popa added that the County Road Commission offers 6- x 8-foot guardrail posts at a \$1.00 a foot, which will be used to border the pathway. The soil down to the pond will be excavated to create a gentle slope and leveled to the surface of the water. The shore will be layered with 21AA crushed stone and topped with 6A pea gravel to fill the interstices. Lastly, two bushes will be removed at the north and south ends of the pond and the entire area will be seeded. Popa asked and Evans clarified the administrative process for posting bids and the protocol concerning on-site meetings with the bidders. She advised Popa to let County Administrator Chet Janik know the timeline for posting the bid so he could include this information in his update to the County Board. Barrons inquired how long it would take the legal department to

prepare the bid documents. Evans surmised two weeks minimum, depending on their workload. Discussion followed. Evans continued to outline the bid process.

Committee Chairman Barrons asked Evans if the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is the first step and best method of communication with the County Board of Commissioners for keeping that Board informed of what future projects are planned, so they are not blindsided when the Parks and Recreation Commission decides to move forward with a project. Evans responded that it is a good thing to keep the County Board up to speed about intended projects through updates, as well as including projects in the County's CIP. Discussion ensued on the CIP.

Christensen suggested adding the entire plan for Veronica Valley Park to the CIP. Committee Chairman Barrons asked besides the parking lot upgrade, the fishing access walkway, and the Porta-potty upgrade, what other projects should be added to the CIP? Walter asked if the wayfaring signs should be included in the CIP. ***Consensus not to include the signs (within the 2022 Budget request), since the cost would be minimal.***

Christensen suggested adding the native prairie plantings and the pavilion to the (draft 2022) budget. Discussion ensued on potential 2022 budget recommendations.

2022 Budget –

- **Parking Lot Upgrade.** Committee Chairman Barrons remarked the (estimated) \$80,000.00 required for the parking lot upgrade could be beyond the 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission budget. ***Consensus of the Committee was that the request should be presented as dollars beyond what is budgeted for 2022.***

Barrons also inquired if the fishing access project does not proceed as planned, should they ask for a small portion of the cost? ***Consensus of the Committee to wait to “cross that bridge when we come to it.”***

Consensus of the Committee to recommend to the full Parks and Recreation Commission the parking lot upgrade at Veronica Valley Park.

• **Any Other Items For Potential Recommendation:**

- Native prairie plantings and the pavilion
- The Myles Kimmerly Park list that Bradley had created
- Painting the bridge at Veronica Valley Park – Popa said he did not see the need to paint the bridge for another five years. Christensen said the bridge was “iconic” and a main focal point at Veronica Valley Park and that an estimate to paint should be posted somewhere. Committee Chairman Barrons said his priority would be the pavilion over painting the bridge. Discussion followed
- Recruitment of a skilled assistant for the Parks and Recreation Commission

Public Comment:

None.

Board Member Comments:

- Committee Chairman Barrons solicited the committee for a date for the next Veronica Valley Park committee meeting (there is no meeting scheduled for July.) A tentative date of late July or early August was noted.

Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Walter.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Lori D. Eubanks, Recording Secretary