

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission
Veronica Valley Park Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 25, 2023
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan
Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2539>

The Veronica Valley Park Committee meeting was called to order at 3:21 p.m. by Committee Chairman Dave Barrons.

Chairman Barrons led the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

Roll Call: Dave Barrons, *Committee Chairman*
Steve Christensen (*Absent-prior notice*)
John Popa
F. Jon Walter

Staff Present: Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant

Guests Present:
None.

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

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

Discussion – Barrons requested to add “Insurance Review” to the agenda.

Ayes – 3 (Barrons, Popa, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 1 (Christensen)

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:
None.

Action Items –

Approval of Minutes – April 25, 2023:

Motion by Barrons to approve the minutes of April 25, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Walter.

Discussion – Barrons requested a correction to the April 25, 2023, minutes on Page 2, Paragraph 5 – Change first bullet to read, “Walter will create a scaled rendering of the proposed ***parking lot*** design.”

Ayes – 3 (Barrons, Popa, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 1 (Christensen)

Motion Passes.

Insurance Review:

(There was no discussion on this topic.)

Update and Review of Parking Lot Plan:

Walter reviewed his notes from October 20, 2021, relating to the Veronica Valley parking lot that he updated on July 23, 2023.

- Follow county entry guide lines – Walter reported that this had been done.
- Assume gravel parking lot at this time – no parking lanes (previously \$40,000.00 paved; Walter updated to \$60,000.00)
- How many parking spaces? Barrons noted that there are 20 spaces on the current rendering. Walter said that depending on the setback (property line) from CR641, parking spaces will be adjusted accordingly. Walter will verify property line with Bingham Township.

The remaining items from Walters notes (below) were not discussed.

1. How to design for busses/children; counter-clockwise circulation
2. How to handle snow plowing
3. Location of portable toilets – barrier free
4. Waste receptacles?

Porta-Potty Concrete Pad:

Barrons confirmed with the group that two portable toilets will be placed on the new pad - one will have universal access. The discussion turned to the location of the pad for the portable toilets and who would do the work to build the pad. Barrons reminded the group of a previous discussion that Jerry Culman might do the work; however, for reasons tied to liability, Barrons did not think the County would support this direction. Discussion ensued about hiring a contractor, and Evans informed the group that, if the cost to hire someone was under \$2,500, County board approval was not necessary. She added that the amount might now be as high as \$4,500.00 before County board approval is required. (Bradley stepped out of the meeting to talk with Culman and, upon his return, he confirmed that Culman would do the work to build the pad.) Discussion on whether to meet at Veronica Valley Park on **Friday, July 28 (2023) at 9:30 a.m.** to perform the stakeout. Prior to the meeting, Walter said he would go out to the park to update his drawing.

Update on Obtaining a Permit to Chemically Treat Ponds:

Barrons said that Evans reminded him that in February or March, a recommendation was formulated by the Veronica Valley Park Committee to contract with Savin Lake Services for the 2023 season to manage weeds in the ponds at the park. This recommendation was to be presented to the full commission, but was subsequently postponed. Barrons said the Committee instead made the decision to self-manage the weeds using pellets in spot locations based on discussions with Fisheries Biologist Heather Hettinger of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. At the time, Barrons thought an EGLE permit (Michigan Department of the Environment Great Lakes, and Energy) and certification of the applicator (which Bradley already had) was all that was required to self-manage the weeds; however, he discovered that whomever applies the pellets must be certified by taking *two* tests – the core test that covers the application and a second test specific to aquatic applications. He added that the textbook is not supplied and that there are several hours of study involved to

become certified. He said that Christensen has the first part of the certification, but would need the aquatic portion of certification. For this reason, Barrons said the decision on how to manage pond weeds needs to be revisited and suggested waiting until next year to decide on how to proceed. In the meantime, Barrons said he would talk to Savon Lake Services about the use of pellets for spot treatment from the shore instead of spraying the whole pond. Evans reminded the group about Hettinger's advice to wait until next year to allow time to observe returning plant growth and then determine a course of treatment, since Savan Lake Services eradicated everything from their treatment of the pond. Barrons stated that he is halting all action on this project until next year.

Barrons reported that, during fishing day, a number of people complained there were not many fish, or fish being caught. Bradley said he saw a few dead fish after the event. Barrons said he will talk with Hettinger to schedule a walk around the ponds to get her thoughts.

Public Comment:

Bradley thanked Popa for his work in assisting with bolstering the break wall along the fishing walkway at Veronica Valley Park.

Board Member Comment:

None.

Motion to Adjourn:

Chairman Barrons called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Walter to adjourn. Seconded by Popa

Ayes – 3 (Barrons, Popa, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 1 (Christensen)

Motion Passes.

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary