Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Session – Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded

Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2391

The meeting of the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman Dave Barrons at 3:06 p.m.

Barrons led the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Roll Call:

John Arens
Dave Barrons, *Vice-Chairman*
Steve Christensen *(Absent)*
Don Frerichs
Charles Godbout
Melinda Lautner *(Absent/prior notice)*
Casey Noonan, *Chairman (Absent/prior notice)*
John Popa
Rick Robbins *(3:15 p.m. arrival)*
F. Jon Walter

Staff Present:

Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant
W. Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker

Public Comment:
None.

Agenda Additions/Deletions:
Motion by Arens to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Godbout.
Discussion – None.
Ayes – 6 (Arens, Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout, Popa, Walter)
No – 0 Absent – 4 (Christensen, Lautner, Noonan, Robbins) Motion Passes

Action Items –
Approval of Minutes – September 7, 2022, Regular Session:
Motion by Walter to approve the September 7, 2022, Regular Session minutes, as presented. Seconded by Arens.
Discussion – None.
Ayes – 6 (Arens, Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout, Popa, Walter)
No – 0 Absent – 4 (Christensen, Lautner, Noonan, Robbins) Motion Passes

Approval of Financials:
- Transaction History Listing Report – September 1-30, 2022
- Revenue & Expense Reports – Period Ending September 30, 2022

Motion by Arens to approve the financials, as presented. Seconded by Barrons.
Discussion – Bradley reported that total expenditures through September 30, 2022, were 89.09% of budget, including expenditures for the entrance project at Veronica Valley Park. (Evans noted pictures of the project on pages 12 – 14 of the packets.) Barrons reported that the fill installed at each end of the culvert was damming up water flow and will need to be dug out. He said either Bradley or the Road Commission will address the issue. Popa requested and Evans confirmed that pictures of the completed project had been presented to the Board of Commissioners (BOC).
Ayes – 6 (Arens, Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout, Popa, Walter)
No – 0 Absent – 4 (Christensen, Lautner, Noonan, Robbins) Motion Passes

Committee Reports and Recommendations –
Myles Kimmerly Park Committee:
Frerichs reported that the grub shack was removed from the park. He added that the item regarding the sale of park property for a fire station was removed from the BOCs' September 13, 2022, Executive Board meeting agenda. Evans advised that the item was deferred to the November 8, 2022 Executive Board meeting. Evans then provided instructions on how to view the video of the discussion from the September 13, 2022, Executive Board meeting. Popa inquired the reason for postponing the item and Evans responded that she heard that the BOC did not like the recommendation that was submitted by the Parks and Recreation Commission, but Evans said what was submitted was a Parks recommendation and that it was up to the BOC to frame their own recommendation. Barrons inquired and Evans responded that Christensen attended the meeting on behalf of the Parks Commission. Evans said she provided to the BOC ample information regarding the item, including minutes from the committee meetings that detailed all comments as well as the corresponding BOC resolutions.

Robbins arrived here.

Old Settlers Park Committee:
Godbout referenced an October 4, 2022, email from Lautner requesting a motion be made (in her absence) regarding the donation from the Nancy Lanham family (reference page 11). Evans advised that the BOC Building and Grounds Committee would be meeting on October 10, 2022, and that this item would be on the agenda.

Motion by Godbout that the Parks and Recreation Commission allow members Melinda Lautner and Casey Noonan, and Maintenance Worker Scott Bradley to work with the Nancy Lanham family to develop what is necessary to present a donation (for Old Settlers Park) to the Building and Grounds Committee of the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Barrons.
Discussion – Evans reminded the group that the BOC needs to review donations on a case-by-case basis. Discussion ensued about if there was enough information provided in Lautner's email to formulate a recommendation (such as what the dollar amount of the donation was; if there was supporting documentation from the doners; if there was sufficient money to cover the requested "animal bouncer" playground equipment). Evans suggested making a broad

motion to submit in time for the October 10, 2022 Building and Grounds Committee meeting. Barrons inquired and Bradley confirmed that there was room for the additional playground equipment at the park. After review of previous minutes, Arens confirmed $800.00 was the donation amount. Other discussion ensued about the family also requesting a memorial bench with a plaque.

Ayes – 7 (Arens, Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout, Popa, Robbins, Walter)
No – 0 Absent – 3 (Christensen, Lautner, Noonan) Motion Passes

Veronica Valley Park Committee –

Barrons reported that the newly completed entrance to Veronica Valley Park looked good and that the added definition to the entrance would be beneficial for future plans for the park. Barrons responded to Godbout that there were no firm plans to pave the entire parking lot. Barrons informed the group that the new wayfinding signs were installed at both Veronica Valley and Myles Kimmerly Parks, and he thanked Bradley for installing them. Barrons reported there were beavers at the park whose dams were causing flooding on the far side of the midway bridge. Two sizeable dams were discovered. A nuisance beaver removal permit from the Department of Natural Resources was obtained and Trapper Ron was engaged to remove the beavers. Barrons said he has not received an update from Trapper Ron, and added that the flooding caused by the beaver dams will not affect the upcoming cross-country event. Barrons also said that the Conservation Officer from Benzie County was unable to assist with the removal of the beavers this year, but that they would be interested "next year or the year after" if there were future needs.

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 2% Allocation Application –

Motion by Barrons that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the County Board of Commissioners that they approve the Grand Traverse Band 2% application coming from Youth Works (for weed eradication) on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Seconded by Popa.

Discussion – Barrons noted that Bill Watson, head of Youth Works, will secure the matching funds. Barrons inquired and Evans confirmed this item will go to the November BOC meeting. Barrons added that the application includes the use of goats and that he thought the action would be well supported by Tribal authorities.

Ayes – 7 (Arens, Barrons, Frerichs, Godbout, Popa, Robbins, Walter)
No – 0 Absent – 3 (Christensen, Lautner, Noonan) Motion Passes

Barrons reported that he did not succeed in contacting the invasive species network, but will "attack next spring."

Public Comment:

Evans advised the group to reference the August tab, page 16 of their notebooks for a concise outline of budget requests for the upcoming budget meetings. She said the Board of Commissioners will be meeting on October 12, 2022, at 9 a.m. to discuss the FY2023 budget. She added that Christensen advised that the dock sections at Old Settlers Park could be

deferred until 2024. Evans reminded the group that the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is November 2, 2022.

Commissioner Comments:
Frerichs inquired if funding for the paved loop trail at Myles Kimmerly Park would be presented to the BOC for consideration? Evans responded that the item will be considered along with other requested expenditures. (Barrons reminded Frerichs that the "Commissioner Comments" segment of the meeting was for comments only.)

Popa noted that he saw about five school busses of kids parked in the Veronica Valley parking lot and that the lot easily accommodated the buses. He added that there were classes being conducted and that he was "tickled to see that place used."

Chairperson Comments:
None.

Adjournment:
The meeting adjourned to the call of Vice-Chairman Barrons at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lori D. Eubanks, Recording Secretary