

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission

Veronica Valley Park

Friday, October 13, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded

<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2584>

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Veronica Valley Park Committee was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Committee Chairman, Dave Barrons.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Committee Chairman Barrons waived recitation of the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

Roll Call:

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

Staff Present:

Laurel Evans, Executive Assistant
Scott Bradley, Maintenance Worker
Jerry Culman, Maintenance Director

Approval of Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

Barrons requested the addition of “beaver update” and “two percent project update” to the agenda.

Motion by Popa to approve the agenda, as revised. Seconded by Christensen.

Discussion – None.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Public Comment:

None.

Action Items –

Approval of Minutes – July 25, 2023, Committee Meeting:

Motion by Christensen to approve the Veronica Valley Park Committee meeting minutes of July 25, 2023. Seconded by Walter.

Discussion – None.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

Beaver Update:

Barrons reported that Trapper Ron has observed no new beaver activity on the upper pond at Veronica Valley Park, possibly due to Al Zielinski’s work in breaking down the beaver dams, so he does not plan to set new traps unless there is future evidence of their presence.

Two Percent Project Update:

Barrons reported that Bill Watson (Youth Works) will be sending his crew to Veronica Valley Park in the next few weeks to spray for weeds and to paint the tree trunks. Bradley mentioned that Roundup is not effective for killing weeds and suggested Pathfinder as an alternative. Barrons said he would advise Watson. Barrons added that the goats will not be used this fall (for weed control) but that they would be used in the spring instead (2024) without jeopardizing the 2023 grant awarded for this work.

Update on Obtaining Permit to Chemically Treat Pond Weeds:

Barrons reported that chemically treating the ponds at Veronica Valley Park is on hold until January (2024); however, he said that when they do move forward on chemical treatment, it will be pursued through Savin Lake Services versus trying to self-manage the weeds themselves.

Concrete Pad Construction for Portable Toilets:

Barrons reported that the posts for the cement pad for the portable toilets were set at 12' x 23-foot rather than 12' x 14-foot, as discussed. Barrons inquired if anyone remembered why they did that. Popa thought it was to allow for better wheelchair accessibility. The group agreed to keep the larger dimensions of 12' x 23-foot. Barrons directed that the elevation of the pad should be set even with the end of the walkway. Barrons inquired and Maintenance Director Culman affirmed that he could pour the pad before winter.

Evans inquired if this project and its associated costs had been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Barrons thought it had been approved at the June meeting; however, a motion for a recommendation was made for presentation at the November 1, 2023, Parks Commission meeting.

Motion by Christensen to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission to approve moving forward with the pad project at Veronica Valley Park at a cost to not to exceed \$3,000.00. Seconded by Barrons.

Discussion – Barrons and Christensen suggested preparing the form so the pad could be poured as soon as approval was granted from the Parks Commission.

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

No – 0

Recommendation Passes.

Update and Review of Parking Lots Plans:

Barrons opened a discussion regarding drainage for the parking lot at Veronica Valley Park. Christensen said there was plenty of area on either side of the parking lot to install drainage basins; however, the need to consider future paving plans needed to be considered. Bradley pointed out that one of the drainage basins proposed was positioned in the overflow parking area. Christensen said a grass berm or a grass berm with shrubs, or even a grass berm with concrete pavers would prevent flooding of the overflow parking area. Barrons noted that he asked Evans to maintain the third page of Walter's handout as the official design record for future reference. Barrons proposed for the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), paving the trail from the parking lot to the crushed pad walkway down to the fishing pond. Christensen

responded that he thought they should wait to see what amount is approved by the BOC for the Parks 2024 budget before a decision is made.

Popa proposed the purchase of a dock ladder in case of an emergency (if someone fell into the pond) and per the recommendation by Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA). He suggested using money left in this year's budget for the purchase.

Motion by Popa to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission to approve the purchase of one safety ladder at a cost not to exceed \$500.00, and per the recommendation of MMRMA. Seconded by Christensen.

Discussion – Barrons mentioned that the spacing of the boards on the sides of the pond bridge were out of compliance per MMRMA, but he thought the repair could be covered under maintenance. Walter said he would research cabling to secure the safety ladder for the fishing pond.

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

No – 0

Recommendation Passes.

Public Comment:

None.

Commissioner Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, Barrons called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Barrons.

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

No – 0

Motion Passes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary