

Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Session – Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 3:15 p.m.

Tentative Minutes – Meeting Recorded

Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan

<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2481>

In Chairman Noonan’s absence, Vice-Chairman Barrons called to order the meeting of the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission at 3:00 p.m.

Barrons led the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

Roll Call:
John Arens (*absent/prior notice*)
Dave Barrons, *Vice-Chairman*
Steve Christensen
Don Frerichs
Charles Godbout
Melinda Lautner, *present at 3:02 p.m.*
Casey Noonan, *Chairman (absent/prior notice)*
John Popa
Kama Ross
F. Jon Walter

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

No guests present.

Public Comment:
None.

Agenda Additions/Deletions:

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

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 8 (Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs, Godbout, Lautner, Popa, Ross, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 2 (Arens, Noonan) Motion Passes.

Action Items:

Approval of Minutes –

December 7, 2022, Regular Session:

Motion by Walter to approve the December 7, 2022, Regular Session minutes, as submitted.

Seconded by Christensen.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 8 (Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs, Godbout, Lautner, Popa, Ross, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 2 (Arens, Noonan) Motion Passes.

January 4, 2023, Organizational Session:

Motion by Popa to approve the January 4, 2023, Organizational Session minutes, as submitted. Seconded by Ross.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 8 (Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs, Godbout, Lautner, Popa, Ross, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 2 (Arens, Noonan)

Motion Passes.

January 4, 2023, Regular Session:

Motion by Christensen to approve the January 4, 2023 Regular Session minutes, as submitted. Seconded by Lautner.

Discussion – None.

Ayes – 8 (Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs, Godbout, Lautner, Popa, Ross, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 2 (Arens, Noonan)

Motion Passes.

Approval of Financials:

Motion by Lautner to approve the Transaction History Report dated January 1, 2023, through January 31, 2023. Seconded by Popa.

Discussion – Bradley reported that \$190,000.00 was approved for the 2023 budget with \$6,600.00 in expenditures so far in 2023.

Ayes – 8 (Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs, Godbout, Lautner, Popa, Ross, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 2 (Arens, Noonan)

Motion Passes.

Review of FY 2023 Advertising, Leelanau Enterprise:

Motion by Popa to approve advertising in the *Leelanau Enterprise* per the email dated January 4, 2023, from Nevin Ruiter to Laurel Evans with advertising rates listed, as follows: Visitor's Guide: Half Page – Full Color Early Bird \$670/\$720; Color Tour: Half Page – Full Color Early Bird \$500/\$532. Seconded by Christensen.

Discussion – Christensen said he thought the price for advertising in the *Leelanau Enterprise* was a good deal given the amount of coverage it provided. Frerichs reminded the group of a previous discussion to add new photos to this year's publications. Christensen, Barrons, and Bradley will check their collection of photos for possible options.

Ayes – 8 (Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs, Godbout, Lautner, Popa, Ross, Walter)

No – 0 Absent – 2 (Arens, Noonan)

Motion Passes.

Committee Reports and Recommendations –

Myles Kimmerly Park Committee. Frerichs reported that the committee is working on updating the park plan and reprioritizing projects. He added that the \$190,000.00 Capital Outlay request to pave the (proposed) loop trail was not approved in the 2023 budget. Lautner stated she highly supported paving the loop trail and was not ready to give up on the project, noting there was still outstanding American Rescue Plan (ARP) monies to consider.

Old Settlers Park Committee. Lautner said she had nothing to report, adding her committee will be setting a date for a meeting in the coming weeks and will report back after that meeting.

Veronica Valley Park Committee. Barrons reported that there has been no progress in capturing the beavers in the ponds. Because of an injury, Trapper Ron has been unable to work on the project. It was turned over to Don Clark, but to date nothing has been done. Popa said he and Barrons would call Clark following today’s meeting. Barron’s said a response letter of interest was returned to the Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA) stating that the Veronica Valley Park Committee was interested in working with the LLLA regarding education and control of invasive weeds in the ponds at the park. Barrons plans to coordinate an on-site walkaround with techs from Savin Lake Services and Ron Remick (Lake Biologist with LLLA) to determine a plan of action before Kids’ Fish Day in June. Barrons anticipates a \$2,500.00 expenditure to Savin Lake Services for a contract for herbicidal spray treatments to control weeds in the ponds. Barrons is also researching signage and opportunities (Kids’ Fish Day) to educate to the public on ways to mitigate cross-contamination in the ponds.

Parks Bylaws Review:

Lautner inquired about Section 2.2.1.b. “Arrange for County staff to act as a recording secretary and record and take minutes for the commission.” She said this does not reflect “what we do.” Evans explained that the Temporary Office Assistant who is currently serving as recording secretary for the Parks Commission is a county staff person, so the statement is consistent with what is being done. Lautner did not understand why “everybody else gets minutes but we cover them out of our budget.” Lautner also questioned the wording under 2.3.c. regarding acquiring property. Godbout also agreed the wording was unclear. Lautner said the Board of Commissioners has the authority around acquisition of property, but not the Parks Commission. Regarding Section 8.2 about designation of a Parks and Recreation Volunteer Coordinator, Lautner wondered who was this volunteer? Lautner suggested that Section 6.5 – Committees, should expound more on what the committees do. For example, the committees make recommendations to the full Parks Commission. Evans said she would create a red-lined document to share with the group before she emails their suggestions to council for guidance.

Public Comment:

Evans asked the group to accept the evites for upcoming meetings that she sent out.

Commissioner Comments:

Lautner stated that she will be absent for the March meeting. Bradley said he would also be absent.

Chairperson Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Lautner.

Ayes – 8 (Barrons, Christensen, Frerichs, Godbout, Lautner, Popa, Ross, Walter)

No – 0 Absent –2 (Arens, Noonan)

Motion Passes.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned to the call of Vice-Chair Barrons at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary