

**Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission**  
Executive Committee – Wednesday, June 7, 2023  
Leelanau County Government Center, Suttons Bay, Michigan  
*Tentative Minutes – meeting recorded*  
<https://www.leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2527>

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Noonan at 4:30 p.m.

The “Pledge of Allegiance” was waived, as it had been recited at the preceding Regular Session.

Roll Call:  
Dave Barrons, *Vice-Chairman*  
Steve Christensen, *Secretary*  
Casey Noonan, *Chairman*

Approval of the Agenda and Late Additions/Deletions:

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

Discussion – None.

**Ayes – 3 (Barrons, Christensen, Noonan)**

**No – 0**

**Motion Passes.**

Public Comment:

Charles Godbout, Empire Township – Requested that the Executive Committee ensure the inclusion of the top, number one priorities from each of the Parks and Recreation Commission’s three subcommittees. He added that the top priority for Old Settlers Park was the refurbishment of the gazebo and that this project was submitted to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Action Items –

Review of FY2024 Parks and Recreation Commission Budget Requests:

Chairman Noonan reviewed projects in the 2023 budget that were not completed. He said the park plan design was the only project completed in 2023. Replacement of dock sections would be eliminated because that project does not need to be done; however, the dollars budgeted for this project remain. He said, looking forward to Capital Outlay, they need to ask for some increases because projects are now more expensive. Noonan stressed the importance of justifying the requests for more money. He said he will include all parks projects listed in the CIP in the proposed 2024 budget. Noonan mentioned that Team Elmer’s was recently sold to another construction company which he thought would raise the dollar amount quoted from Team Elmers to pave the loop trail at Myles Kimmerly Park. He wondered if they should keep this project in the 2024 budget. Evans reminded the group of the yet to be distributed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money from the State that might become available and could potentially be used to cover the cost of the paving the trail. Christensen suggested beginning the discussion by creating a wish list.

Christensen began the wish list with the portable toilets enclosure including a Universal Access (UA) toilet at Veronica Valley Park for \$20,000.00. Evans said this project was already in the CIP

for \$33,050.00 as Priority 3 (Important). Because earthwork for the project was no longer needed, Christensen suggested reducing the budget amount to \$20,000.00

Veronica Valley – Trail that Loops across the Mackinaw Bridge - Phase I - \$40,000.00.

Old Settler’s Park Gazebo – In the CIP for \$40,000.00 as Priority 3 (Important). Christensen suggested listing the total amount but also parting out the project to break the dollar amount into smaller amounts.

Myles Kimmerly Park – Portable Toilets – \$40,000.00

Myles Kimmerly Park – Paved loop trail – \$200,000.00 (Originally \$190,000.00 but Noonan suggested rounding off to \$200,000.00.)

Myles Kimmerly Park – Two pickleball courts – \$50,000.00 - Priority 3 (Important)

Chairman Noonan explained that in his introduction for requesting these budget dollars he explains that these projects are obviously not all going to be completed, but instead are projects the money could be spent on based on enthusiasm from the park subcommittees. Evans reminded the group of recent accomplishments such as the installation of playground equipment at Old Settler’s Park and the removal of the grub shack at Myles Kimmerly Park. The upgrade to the entrance at Veronica Valley Park was also mentioned.

Christensen suggested designing the budget request into three columns with the first column noting small projects in the range of \$55,000.00, the second column with the medium-priced projects, and the third column with “the whoppers” (paved loop trail and pickleball courts).

There was discussion about how the Veronica Valley trail was entered into the CIP. Godbout said the project was entered into the CIP as a Universally Accessible (UA) trail encircling the two ponds in the amount of \$85,000.00. Barrons explained that \$85,000.00 was to cover two loops and the \$85,000.00 was entered before the discussion about breaking the project into Phase I (the loop around the main fishing pond) and Phase II (the loop around the upper fishing pond). Christensen explained \$40,000.00 was derived for Phase I based on the complexity of the trails – Phase I does not require a bridge to be built; Phase II does.

Chairman Noonan thanked Godbout for all his work on the spreadsheets and said that they were helpful. Godbout said he has compiled documents showing three-year averages. He suggested that Noonan review those numbers and add 10 percent to create the 2024 budget.

Barrons said he liked the idea of submitting an application for the Tribal two percent allocation for the ice rink and wondered if the UA walkway at Veronica Valley might be a good candidate for the two percent allocation program. Godbout suggested requesting full dollar amounts for projects in the budget but noting, where applicable, potential grant money that could offset the

cost. Chairman Noonan said he did not do this last year because the applications have not been successful in the past due to the affluence of the County.

Evans explained the process of gathering budget information and did not anticipate receiving budget packets any time soon.

Public Comment:

None.

Board Member Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

**Motion by Christensen to adjourn. Seconded by Barrons.**

With no further business to come before the Executive Committee, the meeting adjourned to the call of the Chairman Noonan at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lori Eubanks, Recording Secretary