

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at the Al Quaal Lodge. DPW Foreman Bill Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Present: Commission members present were Claudia Demarest, Lisa Thompson, Stephen Piersen, Jane Hendrick, Kevin Corkin, Dave Morton, and Council Representative Lindsay Bean (7). Absent: Edmund Holmgren and Carrie Meyer (2). Also, present was DPW General Foreman Bill Anderson, DPW Assistant Foreman-Cemetery/Parks Kaleb Rundman, DPW Office Manager April Holm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Demarest, supported by Member Thompson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as presented for 09/27/2022 and 12/13/2022.

PRESENTATION OF RECREATION PLAN SURVEY RESULTS

Julia Cogger with CUPPAD attended the meeting to present the Park Board with the Recreation Plan survey results.

Member Demarest suggested moving number 7 on our agenda ahead so that Julia Cogger could listen to some potential new developments for the parks.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

DPW Foreman Bill Anderson opened nominations for Chair. Member Demarest nominated Lisa Thompson which was supported by Member Corkin. With no further nominations, nominations were closed and it was carried unanimously to elect Lisa Thompson to Chair.

Chairman Thompson opened nominations for Vice Chair. Member Demarest nominated Council Member Lindsay Bean which was supported by Chair Thompson. With no further nominations, nominations were closed and it was carried unanimously to elect Council Member Lindsay Bean to Vice Chair.

GREAT LAKES SPORTS COMMISSION

DPW Foreman Bill Anderson let everyone know that they have been in talks with the Great Lakes Sports Commission about possibly getting a grant for new grooming equipment for the ski trails. Bill went to Marquette to attend a meeting with the Great Lakes Sports Commission to discuss possible grant opportunities. The head representative for Great Lakes Sports Commission scheduled a special meeting with Bill and Kaleb Rundman at Al Quaal Recreation Area to look at the park. They were impressed with the location and the possible expansion. The funding that they provide is on a bigger scale than a groomer.

They would be interested in potentially providing a grant up to \$3 million to build a brand new building that we could also use as an event center and also possible improvements to the entire park. The new building would be located on Lindberg's hill located by the pisten bully barn. In order to pursue the funding, we would need to get a business plan developed and submitted to the Great Lakes Sports Commission.

The Negaunee Ishpeming Water Authority expressed interest in using the existing Teal Lake Lodge as a pump house. They would purchase the building for the amount of grant money we had previously received. The money would also be put in the new potential building. We would just need to tear off the deck. Residents would still have access to the water.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bean with support from Member Corkin to move forward with developing a business plan and pursuing the construction of a new event building with funding potentially coming from the Great Lake Sports Commission.

Bill Anderson also said that he has potential funding for grooming equipment as well. He has two local businesses that would have a fundraising competition to see which company could raise the most money and all the proceeds would go toward purchasing a new groomer.

There is also a possibility to split the cost of a new Gator with Northern Michigan University.

GAZEBO, BALLFIELD, AND AQ BATHROOM

A motion was made by Member Demarest and supported by Member Thompson and carried unanimously to establish one rate for residents and non-residents for the Gazebo, Ballfields, and Al Quaal Bathrooms to be set at \$85 and the additional hour for the ballfields would also have one rate of \$15.

CLEAN UP BOND LANGUAGE

The board had a discussion regarding the clean-up bond language. A motion was made by Member Demarest, supported by Member Hendrick and carried unanimously to increase the clean-up bond to \$225 from \$100. We have had several incidents of damage, most recently at the Lake Bancroft Mining Heritage Pavilion that resulted in repairs far exceeding the \$100 clean up bond.

BRUSHING AND MOWING

General Foreman Bill Anderson was seeking a recommendation to go out for a quote on brushing and mowing the south ski hill. In hopes to have more events happening over in that area of the park. It is too overgrown for DPW to handle without some assistance.

A motion was made by Member Pieresen, supported by Councilmember Bean and carried unanimously to recommend Bill Anderson to pursue quotes to have a company come and brush and mow the hill.

PARK REPORT

Kaleb Rundman gave the park report. We have had several ski events that were a success. We have also been able to get the ice rink up and running for the residents to use.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Bill Anderson let the board know that the Campground is tentatively scheduled to open on 5/30/2023. He handed everyone a set of proposed rules to the campground for the board to review and make comments.

Councilmember Bean made a motion with support from Member Demarest to change rule #5 to raise the age to 21 instead of 18. The motion was carried unanimously.

Councilmember Bean made a motion with support from Members Demarest and Corkin to strike rule #14 completely from the set of rules. The motion was carried unanimously.

Member Morton was concerned with rule #17. If it is a rustic campground people would want the ability to charge phones or GPS units. Councilmember Bean made a motion to add the language at the end of rule #14 to state during quiet hours. The new language would read "Powered electrical generators are not allowed to be run during quiet hours." The motion was carried unanimously.

Councilmember Bean and Member Morton were confused with rule #20 since the campground is located right off the bike trails. Councilmember Bean made a motion with support from Member Corkin to strike rule #20 completely from the set of rules.

Councilmember Bean also wanted to see "fireworks are not permitted to be possessed or used on City Park property" as its own rule instead of being included to rule #21. Member Demarest made a motion with support

from Councilmember Bean to have fireworks are not permitted to be possessed or used on City Park property as its own rule.

DPW Foreman Bill Anderson wanted to have the Parks and Rec Board make a recommendation on what they would like the daily rate fee to be. Councilmember Bean researched the Trails End Campground located in Copper Harbor and their daily rate is \$20. Northern Lights Campground in Republic has daily tent rates of \$5. Both examples are rustic campgrounds with pit toilets. Member Demarest made a motion with support from Jane to recommend to Council to set the daily camping rate for Brass Wire Campground to be \$25. The motion was carried unanimously.

Member Demarest inquired about the progress of the Al Quaal Lodge sewer issues. Bill Anderson informed her that we are hoping to be able to tie that sewer issue into the sewer project that will be happening in the near future.

The other issue with the Al Quaal Lodge is that it is not ADA compliant because the bathroom facilities are located downstairs. Bill Anderson is going to look for quotes to see how much it would cost to put a bathroom on the main floor.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:05 p.m. a motion was made by Member Demarest supported by Member Hendrick and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Holm
DPW Office Manager