

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at the Al Quaal Lodge. Chair Lisa Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Present: Commission members present were Claudia Demarest, Lisa Thompson, Stephen Piersen, Jane Hendrick, Kevin Corkin, and Council Representative Lindsay Bean (6). Absent: School Representative Carrie Meyer (1). We currently have two open seats. Also, present was DPW General Foreman Bill Anderson, DPW Assistant Foreman-Cemetery/Parks Kaleb Rundman, and DPW Office Manager April Holm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Corkin, supported by Member Demarest and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as presented for 06/20/2023.

CREATION OF ORDINANCE FOR PARK COMMISSION

The Parks and Rec received a draft of the new Park Commission ordinance to look over and make any changes.

They would like to have the last sentence in section 11-2602 to read “Each member shall be a resident of the City of Ishpeming except the Ishpeming Public School Board member who may or may not be an Ishpeming City Resident.

Section 11-2604 the first sentence should be changed to “The Parks and Recreation Commission shall meet at least every other month” instead of monthly.

Member Demarest made a motion with support from Member Corkin to recommend to city council to accept the new ordinance for the Park Commission with the 2 wording changes. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

TUBE SLIDE

With the winter season approaching the Park Department wanted to discuss the tube slide and the staffing problems. The tube slide has remained closed because we have not been able to find enough part time college students to run the hill. There was a discussion regarding the agreement between the City and DPW Union that limits who the city can hire to help run the hill.

A motion was made by Member Demarest with support from Council Member Bean to recommend the City Manager draft a proposed letter of agreement to the DPW Union that would change the wording from part time college student to read part time employee for the tube slide. The vote was carried unanimously.

PLAYGROUND RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

DPW Assistant Foreman-Cemetery/Parks Kaleb Rundman had a meeting with Terry Van Duren from MMRMA and a representative from CUPPAD. They came to do a risk assessment of all the playgrounds in the City of Ishpeming.

Kaleb discussed that some of the big issues were the metal slides and merry-go-rounds. All of those were recommended to be removed from all parks due to safety issues. He also stated that a lot of the spring toys were not in great shape. Terry stated that we have a lot of neighborhood parks and suggested that we have fewer parks with newer equipment so that it will be easier to maintain. Once the entire report becomes available a copy will be sent to everyone on the commission for their review. This report will also be included in the Council Packet for the September meeting.

PARK REPORT

The Park Department currently does not have a working groomer to maintain the ski trails this winter. Kaleb and a DPW mechanic are leaving tomorrow to go look at a used Pisten Bully that is for sale in Minnesota. This would not be a permanent fix but would most likely last a few years until we are able to afford a new groomer.

We have had a busy rental season with all the lodges and pavilions. We purchased 2 plastic signs to be used at the pavilions to let the public know when there are private events being held.

Chairperson Thompson made a motion with support from Member Demarest to recommend to Council that they investigate hiring a part time tubeslide/campground attendant. The motion was carried unanimously.

A Commission member noticed that there were no open or close dates published on the website for the campground. A motion was made by Council Member Bean with support from Member Demarest to recommend to Council that we post May 15 as the 1st day of the season and October 15 as the last day of the season for the campground to be open. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Bean wanted to relay some information regarding her last Planning Commission meeting. They were discussing the best use of vacant land that the city currently owns. She said that some of the land would make a great green space for everyone to enjoy instead of developing it into housing. The piece of land that she was discussing is located close to the Brasswire Campground and has very limited street access.

DPW Foreman Bill Anderson discussed that he was in the process of looking into applying for a grant through the Great Lakes Sports Commission. He was hoping that the grant would pay a large portion of a new Pisten Bully for the Parks. He was also hoping to get donations from other businesses as well.

DPW Foreman Bill Anderson also passed around various no smoking/no vaping signs for the commission to vote on since we had a new playground go up and it needs some signage regarding smoking.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5 p.m. a motion was made by Council Member Bean supported by Member Demarest and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



April Holm
DPW Office Manager