

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at the Al Quaal Lodge. Vice Chair, Craig Heikkila called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Commission members present were Claudia Demarest, Kevin Corkin, Craig Heikkila, Jason Chapman, and School Representative Carrie Meyer. (5). Absent: Jane Hendrick (1). One (1) vacant seat. Also, present was DPW Director Bill Anderson, Kaleb Rundman, Foreman Cemetery-Parks, City Clerk Cathy Smith, and Lexi Hart, Account Clerk DPW/Deputy Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Chapman supported by Member Corkin and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of July 15, 2025, as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Member Demarest questioned the no smoking/no vaping signs discussed at a previous meeting that were to be placed at the playlots. She suggested the ordinance be reviewed and amended if necessary for the installation of the signs.

A motion was made by Member Demarest, seconded by Member Chapman, and carried unanimously to direct staff to review the ordinance for language pertaining to smoking in the parks and, if needed, recommend an amendment to the ordinance to the City Council to include that language.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Al Quaal Lodge Engineer Report

DPW Director Bill Anderson provided the preliminary drawings from RG Design for the Al Quaal Lodge repairs. He added RG Design was checking with the Marquette County Codes Department on the number of bathrooms that would be needed. The approximate cost of repairs was \$155,000 and this would be included in either the 2027 or 2028 capital projects.

There was discussion on preventative measures that could be taken in the interim until the repair could be completed; concerns with ADA accessibility; timeline for seeking bids depending on when it would be included in capital projects; and discussion on fundraising for the repairs.

Member Demarest and Member Chapman would begin to work on establishing a fundraiser for repairs to the lodge and would arrange a meeting with the City Manager.

b. Cameras/NMU

DPW Director Anderson provided an update on the NMU Wi-Fi for the cameras for the Al Quaal bathrooms and the Lake Bancroft Mining Heritage Pavilion. He also noted there would now be Wi-Fi at the Cemetery for the use with GIS.

c. Skate Park Update

DPW Director Anderson reported the skate park construction should begin the first or second week of October and is approximately a 6-8- week time frame for completion.

d. Brasswire Campground Budget Update

DPW Director Anderson advised he received the budget summary from the Finance Director, and he briefly reviewed the revenues versus the expenses to date. He noted there are reservations for the Marji Gesick bike race at Brasswire.

e. MDARD Solar Panel Grant Update

DPW Director Anderson advised the RFP for the solar panels should be sent out in mid-October and are being prepared by UP Engineers and Architects.

f. Discussion of Agenda and Bylaws

DPW Director Anderson and City Clerk Cathy Smith explained the bylaws were currently being worked on by staff and will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review when they are completed.

Director Anderson advised if members have items they would like on the agenda, to please contact DPW Clerk Lexi Hart at least one week prior to mailing so that information could be gathered and provided.

Member Demarest suggested the Parks and Recreation Commission begin to meet monthly. Discussion took place as to whether it was necessary to hold meetings monthly and if the agendas over the last several months warranted the additional meetings.

A motion was made by Member Chapman, seconded by Member Demarest, and carried unanimously to hold Parks and Recreation Commission meetings monthly versus every other month beginning in October.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:55 p.m. a motion was made by Member Chapman supported by Member Corkin and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk