

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, October 21st, 2025, at the Al Quaal Lodge. Chairperson Jane Hendrick called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Commission members present were Jane Hendrick, Claudia Demarest, Craig Heikkila, Jason Chapman, Kevin Corkin (arrived at 4:08 p.m.), and School Representative Carrie Meyer. One (1) vacant seat. Also, present was DPW Director Bill Anderson, Kaleb Rundman, Foreman Cemetery-Parks, City Clerk Cathy Smith, City Manager Randy Scholz, 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 Heikkila and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 15, 2025, and September 16, 2025, as presented.

#### OLD BUSINESS

DPW Director Bill Anderson advised there is language in the ordinance pertaining to no smoking in the parks and there have been no issues or complaints. It was the consensus of the Commission to not add additional signs if there have not been any issues regarding no smoking in the parks.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### a. Al Quaal Lodge Repairs- RG Design

Jason Gauthier, RG Design, lead architect on Al Quaal project, provided an overview of the plans they have for the Al Quaal Lodge. Questions were raised regarding the final look of the lodge, the roof, and keeping the good materials and replacing the bad.

Member Demarest obtained a quote from a log home company, Weatherwize. Gauthier said he would reach out to that company.

There was discussion related to keeping the originality of the building and receiving some changes that would be made due to repairs and having a design of the finished look from RG Design.

##### b. Proposed Resolution #27-2025

Member Chapman, President of Forging Futures Organization introduced the Vice Presidents, Leeanna Pepin and Nathan Gray, Treasurer Bud Hart, and Internal Auditor Craig Heikkila. Member Chapman asks if the parks will send this resolution up to City Council that would allow Forging Futures to raise funds to replace the playground equipment and make improvements to the Wabash play area. They were looking to take away some financial burden from the City for this play area so the City could focus on other play areas.

A few residents mentioned that the basketball court is unlevel, full of grass, and unsafe for the kids to play at. There are many kids that want to go play basketball over there but there are too many potholes and run-down equipment which makes it unusable. Forging Futures Vice President, Leeanna Pepin mentions that their group has lots of support from the community to proceed with this project. Member Chapman as well as the rest of the group and residents would like support from the City to move forward with this.

Member Chapman advised there is a fundraiser already lined up to raise funds for the Wabash play area on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Ishpeming High School in the auditorium, a showing of Anatomy 59.

DPW Director Anderson clarified that this was brought up to the board in October 2024 to replace all the playgrounds and was then approved by City Council with a budget and a plan to replace the playgrounds in 2025. The week after that meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street caved in, so the funds for the initial playground plans had to be

involved with an emergency switch for 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The park plans are still in motion and at the council level, which they are fully aware of and committed to replacing all the parks.

A motion was made by Member Demarest, seconded by Member Heikkila, and carried unanimously to move forward with the support of Proposed Resolution #27-2025, supporting Forging Futures.

c. Draft Parks and Recreation Bylaws

City Manager Randy Scholz gave an overview of the bylaws and the changes made under Article 1, which states that the Chairperson works with DPW/ Deputy Clerk and DPW Director to prepare meeting agendas to improve organization.

A motion was made by Member Demarest, seconded by Member Chapman, and carried unanimously to pass the Parks and Recreation Bylaws as presented.

d. Discuss Meeting Location

DPW Director Anderson speaks on the advantages of moving our meeting location to City Hall, such as having accessibility to computers and the location being more efficient for staff during the workdays.

The members unanimously agreed to table this matter until next month's meeting.

e. Parks Update

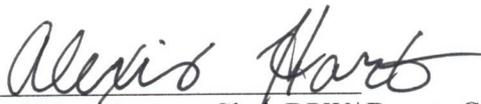
DPW Director Anderson mentioned that the chips and border were done at the new playlot at Al Quaal Park and it was now complete. There was damage done at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street playlot on the main slide, so a blockade was put up to prevent people from using it. Parks-Cemetery Foreman Rundman is looking for a replacement slide. The two picnics tables that were donated from Habitat for Humanity have been installed. Lake Bancroft Pavillion had some vandalism, but the cameras caught the identities, and the police have been involved. Old playground equipment is a liability according to MMRMA so it needs to be destroyed and hauled away and should not be sold. He also advised that the city purchased a Zamboni for the ice rink.

DPW Director also mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Commission should start thinking about renewing their 5-Year plan as almost everything in the '24-'28 plan is completed with exception of a dog park. Mentioned that the city is still looking for a good place for a dog park.

There was continued discussion related to the dog park.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:54 p.m. a motion was made by Member Chapman supported by Member Corkin and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Lexi Hart, Account Clerk DPW/ Deputy Clerk