

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson, Craig Heikkila called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

Present: Commission members present were Claudia Demarest, Craig Heikkila, Jason Chapman, and Bob Antilla (4). Absent: Carrie Meyer and Kevin Corkin (2). One (1) vacant seat. Also, present was City Manager, Randy Scholz and Lexi Hart, Account DPW Clerk/ Deputy Clerk.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS- Member Demarest nominated Craig Heikkila for the position of Chairperson, supported by Member Chapman. Member Antilla nominated Claudia Demarest for the position of Vice Chairperson, supported by Member Chapman. Both motions carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Demarest supported by Member Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of December 16, 2025, as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

a. RG Design- Al Quaal Renovations

Jason Gauthier from RG Design provided an update on the planned renovations for the Al Quaal Lodge. He reported that the client review set is approximately 95% complete, pending any additional changes. The project has not yet been submitted to the county, as submission will be delayed until the plans are fully finalized. Jason clarified that the delay in completing the project plans was not due to issues with the County over the bathroom permit, as previously reported to the Commission. Instead, the delay resulted from RG Design not receiving payment from the City. He also corrected a previous statement that suggested the City was billed when a Commission member contacted RG Design directly. Jason explained that the City is the client and that he considers Commission members to be part of the City. The City Manager reiterated that it is best practice to maintain a single point of contact for the project, which will be the City Manager. A motion was made by Member Demarest, supported by Member Chapman, to send the plans to Council. A subsequent motion was made by Member Heikkila, supported by Member Demarest, and carried unanimously to approve the plans for the Al Quaal Lodge renovations.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Brasswire Campground End of Year Report

City Manager Randy Scholz provided the Revenue and Expenditure Report for the Brasswire Campground. Several questions were raised regarding specific spending within the Operating Supplies category. Scholz stated that he will provide a detailed breakdown of those expenditures at the next meeting. Member Chapman also suggested increasing marketing efforts for the campground. Member Chapman asked if the campground signs were ordered for M28. Randy indicated that he ordered them and they will be installed in the spring.

The commission held further discussion regarding the possibility of permitting camping within the Al Quaal Recreation Area. It was collectively agreed upon to bring the topic back for further consideration at the next meeting, with more historical background and information to support a more informed discussion.

b. Update on Brasswire Solar Grant

City Manager Randy Scholz reported that the solar project is continuing to move forward. UPEA will serve as the contractor for the project and will coordinate with UPPCO on the electrical components. As part of the grant opportunity, several campsites will need to be expanded, and the Parks Foreman, Kaleb Rundman will continue that work during the summer.

Further discussion was held regarding potential improvements to the campground, and Member Chapman recommended developing a master plan to guide future upgrades.

c. Tube Slide Update

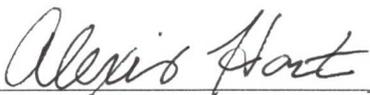
It was announced that the tube slide will be opened January 31st, 2026. Member Demarest suggested that we discuss lowering the fee for the tube slide from \$15 to \$10. Member Chapman made a motion, seconded by Member Antilla, and carried unanimously to send a recommendation to City Council to lower the daily tube slide fee to \$10.

d. 2026 Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Member Chapman, supported by Member Demarest, and unanimously approved to adopt the 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting schedule. The Commission also discussed the possibility of changing the regular meeting time from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. After brief consideration, it was decided to place the topic on the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:05 p.m. a motion was made by Member Heikkila supported by Member Chapman and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Lexi Hart, DPW Clerk/Deputy Clerk