

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson, Craig Heikkila called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Commission members present were Chairperson, Craig Heikkila, Vice Chairperson, Claudia Demarest, Kevin Corkin, and Amy Lerlie (4). Absent: Carrie Meyer, Jason Chapman, Bob Antilla and Parks Foreman, Kaleb Rundman (3). No vacant seats. Also, present was City Manager, Randy Scholz, DPW Director, Jake Roberts, and Kathy Hakala, Utility Billing Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Lerlie supported by Member Demarest and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026, as presented.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### a. Parks and Rec. Priorities for 2026-2027 for City Council Consideration

At the previous meeting, City manager, Randy Scholz, recommended that the Commission begin developing a priority list to present to City Council. The Commission discussed options which they thought would be the best for the City. The Commission discussed ways to make some cuts to the City parks and focus more on Brasswire and making it more profitable. Some of the parks are not ADA compliant with the equipment being outdated and possibly closing these parks and focusing on where new ones should be placed within the City.

There was discussion on fixing the Al Quaal Lodge and how to go about getting the funds raised for the upgrade to the lodge. Member Lerlie said that we should reach out to the influential people of the community and then approach the legislature for assistance. Member Heikkila mentioned that we get the community involved with some local fundraising as well.

The commission has made their priority list as follows:

1. Neighborhood Park Inventory and Assessment
2. Repairing the Al Quaal Lodge
3. Making Brasswire Profitable
4. Developing Campsites at Al Quaal

A motion was made by Member Demarest supported by Member Heikkila and carried unanimously to approve the priority list and present it to the City Council at the next meeting.

##### b. Dog Park- Liability

The Commission discussed the removing the Dog Park from the list of priorities since there are liability concerns and the proximity of the new one in Negaunee.

A motion was made by Member Demarest supported by Member Lerlie and unanimously approved to remove the dog park from the list of priorities.

##### c. Tube Hill

City Manager, Randy Scholz, provided an overview of the usage for the current season: we had 930 users for the tube slide this season and only 181 or 20% of them were Ishpeming residents. The season was shortened because of weather related issues; it rained and caused the hill to turn icy and there was one injury. There was discussion about possibly changing how the rentals are done especially with the community sponsored ones, the times the hill is open and possibly opening earlier in the year.

Lindberg will be reshaping the hill this summer while they are doing work on the road, it wants to push everyone towards the lodge.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Grant for Al Quaal Recreation Area Upper Lodge

The City Manger had applied for (2) grants; one was the USDA and the other one was the Rural Development Grant; both grants were denied. Member Lerlie said that she has grant writing experience and she would be willing to look for some. She would also be willing to reach out to some of her contacts for possible donations or other areas of support. The City Manager also has a letter of support for those who would need.

b. Fee schedule – Men’s Softball League

City Manager, Randy Scholz provided information that the men’ softball league has been paying less than the Girl’s Little League. It was changed on the fee schedule to \$1,600.00 to match the rest of the league.

A motion was made by Member Demarest supported by Member Lerlie and carried unanimously to approve the new fee of \$1,600.00 for the Men’s Softball League.

c. Camping at Al Quaal Recreation Area

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:49 p.m. a motion was made by Member Demarest supported by Member Lerlie and carried unanimously to adjourn.

  
Kathy Hakala, Utility Billing Clerk