

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson, Craig Heikkila called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Commission members present were Chairperson, Craig Heikkila, Vice Chairperson, Council Representative Claudia Demarest, Bob Antilla, Amy Lerlie (4). Absent: Carrie Meyer and Kevin Corkin (2). One vacant seat (1). Also, present was City Manager, Randy Scholz, Lexi Hart, Account DPW Clerk/ Deputy Clerk, and DPW Director Jake Roberts.

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 April 21, 2026, as presented.

OLD BUSINESS- There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Project Jade- Communication Boards

Sarah Foster, CEO of Project Jade, contacted the City to inquire about placing Project Jade Communication Boards in several local parks. Although Ms. Foster was unable to attend the meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the proposal.

The Commission agreed that the communication boards are a positive addition and would provide valuable support for children and individuals who rely on non-verbal communication. City Manager Randy Scholz noted that proposed locations include Al Quaal Recreation Area, Lake Bancroft, and possibly Brasswire Campground. The Commission also expressed support for expanding the boards to additional parks if possible.

A motion was made by Member Antilla, seconded by Member Demarest, and carried unanimously to approve the Project Jade Communication Boards as presented.

b. Parks and Recreation Commission 2026-2027 Priority List

The finalized Parks and Recreation Commission 2026–2027 Priority List was presented to the Commission for review.

The Commission discussed the first priority item, Neighborhood Park Inventory and Assessment. Member Lerlie requested a map and comprehensive list of all City parks to assist with identifying and evaluating each location. Discussion followed regarding the presence of metal equipment in parks and potential safety concerns. While there was interest in removing outdated metal equipment, concerns were raised that doing so without replacement would leave some parks without usable play structures. It was noted that the City is not currently in a position to replace all equipment if removed. Additional discussion focused on identifying which parks are actively used and which may be underutilized or considered for removal. DPW Director Jake Roberts stated that he will prepare a map of all City parks and provide it to the Commission.

City Manager Randy Scholz excused himself from the meeting at 4:25 p.m. to attend to official business.

The Commission then discussed the second priority item, Repairing the Al Quaal Lodge. Member Lerlie reported that she has been in contact with a potential donor interested in contributing toward lodge repairs. Member Demarest suggested issuing a press release to encourage community support and fundraising efforts. Member Lerlie also recommended compiling a list of potential donors and beginning outreach to individuals and organizations who may be willing to contribute or assist in promoting fundraising efforts.

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Further discussion focused on increasing community awareness of the lodge's condition and needs. The Commission agreed that hosting an open house at the Al Quaal Lodge would help showcase the facility and demonstrate the importance of completing repairs before the building becomes unusable. No date has been set for the open house; however, the Commission will explore scheduling options based on lodge availability.

Member Lerlie proposed that Commission members come prepared at the next meeting with a list of potential contacts, as well as draft talking points and goals for the Al Quaal Lodge initiative.

c. Teal Lake Lodge Update

DPW Director Jake Roberts provided an update on the Teal Lake Lodge. He reported that City staff were able to complete the necessary repairs in-house, eliminating the need for an outside contractor. The work was completed in approximately three days, and the lodge is currently in good condition for use. Additional work to better match the repaired area with the existing wood may be completed at a later date.

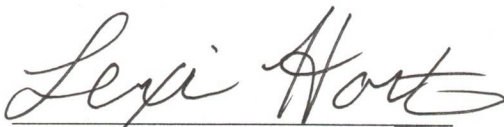
d. Park Review

The Commission agreed that park conditions and usage had already been discussed during the review of the 2026–2027 Priority List.

Member Lerlie provided an update on the Ramba Trailhead and Brasswire Campground. She reported that the City has approved the installation of a small pump track at the campground.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:51 p.m. a motion was made by Member Demarest supported by Member Heikkila and carried unanimously to adjourn.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lexi Hart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lexi Hart, DPW Clerk/Deputy Clerk