The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 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, Council Representative Claudia Demarest, Bob Antilla, Amy Lerlie, Kevin Corkin (5). Absent: Carrie Meyer (1). One vacant seat (1). Also, present was Lexi Hart, Account DPW Clerk/ Deputy Clerk, DPW Director, Jake Roberts, and Parks Foreman, Kaleb Rundman.

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 May 19, 2026, and June 16, 2026, as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Discuss Parks Map and Potential Park Closures
The Parks and Recreation Commission continued its discussion regarding potential park closures throughout the community. No final decisions were made regarding specific park closures; however, the Commission reviewed parks with deteriorating equipment, limited amenities, and low levels of use by nearby residents.

Member Lerlie noted that factors such as park conditions, proximity to neighboring parks, and the availability of recreational amenities for surrounding households should be considered when evaluating potential closures. The Commission reviewed the list of parks provided and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each location. Members identified several parks that should be retained and others that may be considered for removal or modification.

The Commission also discussed the removal of certain park amenities and equipment, including the Salisbury Playlot, the grill at Juniper Street Playlot, and select equipment at the Barnum (7th Addition) Playlot. Additionally, members explored the possibility of replacing outdated equipment with lower-cost recreational options, such as cornhole boards and similar amenities.

Member Demarest moved to recommend that the City Council close the Salisbury Playlot and remove the grill at the Juniper Street Playlot. The motion was seconded by Member Lerlie and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion on Developing a Park Information Folder
The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the need for more comprehensive information on all parks within the City of Ishpeming to aid in future discussions and decision-making. Members agreed that developing a park information folder would provide a more effective way to evaluate park conditions, amenities, and long-term needs.

The Commission recommended compiling information for each park, including its exact location, photographs of the park and its equipment, and other relevant details. Members also discussed the need to create a clearer and more user-friendly parks map to improve the organization and accessibility of park information.

b. Update on the Al Quaal Open House
The Parks and Recreation Commission expressed satisfaction with the Al Quaal Lodge Open House, noting that the event was well attended and successfully provided information to community members. Members discussed

plans for a second open house, which is scheduled for September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Additional notification letters will be distributed of the upcoming event.

Member Lerlie provided a handout containing key talking points regarding the Al Quaal Lodge and the Commission's ongoing efforts to repair, maintain, and preserve the facility for future generations.

Further discussion was held regarding the City's fee schedule and the rates charged to softball leagues for use of City-owned fields. Parks Foreman, Kaleb Rundman explained that the fee structure has been standardized so that all leagues are charged the same rate, ensuring consistency and fairness among users moving forward, regardless of what they were paying in the past.

c. Discussion of Member Participation and Expectations

The Parks and Recreation Commission briefly discussed member participation and expectations. It was noted that School Representative, Carrie Meyer, has not recently attended regular Commission meetings, has retired from her position as Superintendent of Ishpeming Public Schools, and has submitted her resignation from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commission members agreed that efforts should begin to identify and appoint a new school representative to the Commission. It was recommended that the City of Ishpeming contact Ishpeming Public Schools to request the appointment of a replacement representative who can actively participate in Commission meetings and activities.

Additional discussion took place regarding meeting schedules, attendance expectations, and current vacancies on the Commission. No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:59 p.m. a motion was made by Member Demarest supported by Member Heikkila and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Lexi Hart

Lexi Hart, DPW Clerk/Deputy Clerk