The special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson Craig Heikkila called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Commission members present were Chairperson Craig Heikkila, Council Representative Claudia Demarest, Bob Antilla, Amy Lerlie, and Kevin Corkin (5). Absent: Carrie Meyer (1). One vacant seat (1). Also, present was Lexi Hart, Account DPW Clerk/ Deputy Clerk, and DPW Director, Jake Roberts, and Council Member, Jason Chapman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Chapman, 204 Ready Street, provided an update on Forging Futures' fundraising efforts for the park projects they have been working on. Mr. Chapman reported that enough funds have been raised to pave the basketball court and install new basketball hoops at the Wabash Street Playlot. He stated that they are currently awaiting quotes from paving companies, with the project potentially taking place next spring or summer.

Mr. Chapman noted that once the basketball court paving and hoop installation is completed, Forging Futures will begin fundraising efforts for additional playlots and playground equipment. He also reported that donations had been received from Fox Motors, as well as an anonymous donor, to assist with these projects. Mr. Chapman stated that Fox Motors is very supportive of community initiatives and should be considered when seeking future donations. Additionally, Mr. Chapman expressed his willingness to assist with fundraising efforts regarding the Al Quaal Lodge.

Public comment closed at 5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Lerlie supported by Member Demarest and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of August 18, 2026, as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Member Lerlie, seconded by Member Demarest, and carried unanimously to amend the agenda to add 'Parks and Recreation Mailing List' under old business.

a. Parks and Recreation Mailing List

The Commission reviewed the Parks and Recreation mailing list and discussed removing individuals who had not shown interest in the Al Quaal Lodge project. The Commission agreed to remove certain individuals and add additional people and organizations to the mailing list. Mr. Chapman also provided a list of potential contacts to be added to the Parks and Recreation mailing list.

A motion was made by Member Demarest, seconded by Member Lerlie, and carried unanimously to approve the amended mailing list.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution #25-2026, Resolution in Support of Fundraising Efforts for the Upper Lodge at Al Quaal Recreation Area

A motion was made by Member Demarest, seconded by Member Antilla, and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #25-2026, Resolution in Support of Fundraising Efforts for the Upper Lodge at Al Quaal Recreation Area, as presented.

Quick discussion took place among the Commission regarding which nonprofit organization they may wish to partner with, though no decision has been made at this time. The Commission suggested placing this topic on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion. Member Lerlie noted that the amount of money anticipated to be raised is significant and should be managed by a fiscal agent. Mr. Chapman stated that Forging

Futures remains an option for consideration as a potential partner. The Commission agreed that, when the time comes to begin fundraising efforts, the City should publish fundraising information on its website. Further discussion on this matter will take place at a future meeting.

b. Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance #11-2600 Draft Revisions

A motion was made by Member Lerlie, seconded by Member Demarest, and carried unanimously to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance #11-2600 Draft Revision, as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:16 p.m. a motion was made by Member Demarest supported by Member Lerlie and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Lexi Hart

Lexi Hart, DPW Clerk/Deputy Clerk