

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday October 13, 2021
10 AM
Minutes**

Chairperson Craig Richardson called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall.

Roll Call: Ava Richardson, Dan Hinch, Terry Tarsi, Keith Hamel, Nick Karnack, Phyllis Mangone (10:02 a.m.) and Richardson.

Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Rachel Andreski and City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Bernadette Coates.

Public in attendance: Darren and Tricia Mercier, Benjamin Garcia and Elizabeth Fuller.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Tarsi moved, with support from Hinch to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent – Mangone.

APPROVE MINUTES

Hinch moved, with support from Hamel, to approve the August 11, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All were in favor; Motion carried. Absent – Mangone.

MANAGER'S REPORT –

Conversion Issue:

Andreski said she had no update on the conversion issue. She said John Lacoangeli would be helping with this item over the winter months.

Recreation Plan Update:

Andreski said she contacted Vanessa Warren of OHM and since they have filled their contract obligation and the City's Recreation Plan is already three years outdated, GEI submitted a proposal to update the plan. GEI's proposal is under New Business on the Agenda. Warren has sent an electronic copy and is willing to help with any of the plan's graphics.

WE Energies Property/Disc Golf Course Parking Lot:

Andreski said WE Energies is awaiting more in-depth information. Richardson said he would be able to provide that information next week because the construction season would be done.

Andreski said the seasonal employees are done for the year and construction jobs are being completed. She said she received many compliments on how good the parks and cemetery looked this summer.

OLD BUSINESS -

Improvement Projects FY20:

Richardson explained he had not had time to research the Bachman Park Tennis/Basketball Court resurfacing. Andreski said the funds would be available until June 2022 and plans could be drawn up over the winter months.

Andreski said the DPW couldn't check the outfield lights at Bachman Park when they had rented the bucket lift for the parking lot light and Washington Street lights. She said due to the age, she doesn't think anyone should be trying to climb the poles. Tarsi agreed the lights are outdated and the poles do sway in the wind. Andreski said there are groups that play softball after dark, and the Iron County Fair and U.P. Rodeo do utilize the lights during their events. Mangone said the lights should accommodate everybody.

Tarsi said at a previous meeting it was agreed upon that funds would be better spent at improving the larger parks instead of constructing a new one at the Forbes Park. Hinch said he received information from Richard Sinclair of GameTime Playground Equipment, and grants are available, however freight and surcharge fees would cost approximately \$5,000 which could considerably offset the amount of the grant received. He said November 1st is the deadline and payment would be expected at that time. Richardson said he didn't want to pay that much in fees right now and waiting until the Recreation Plan is updated would be best.

Richardson said the City received an original bid from Stik Bilt for the Nanaimo Park Restroom Partitions, however, that material is not available. Richardson said they have proposed an alternative material that is used in airports and are durable. He also said the same partitions have held up at Bachman Park. The cost is an additional \$2,200 and Richardson recommended bringing the proposal to Council for their approval.

Richardson moved with support from Tarsi to recommend bringing the proposal for the partitions to Council to approve the purchase. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Plan – GEI Proposal

Richardson said because the public hearings were not properly done by the previous City Manager, the MiDNR did not accept the City's Recreation Plan as submitted. He said there will be a need to start over with the public participation portion of the application. Richardson suggested a survey, and a public meeting held in the evening. Tarsi moved with support from Hinch to hold a public workshop on November 4th at 6 p.m. All were in favor. Motion carried. Abstain – Richardson.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Garcia said he thought the dog park was going to be on the agenda for this meeting.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Hinch welcomed Ava Richardson to the group.

Mangone reported that a member of the Pickle Ball group tried to use the bathroom at Nelson Field and was met with a group of disrespectful kids. She said both boys and girls were in the bathroom and the member could not get in. Mangone said she then went there and told them they did not belong there and that it was a public restroom for all to use. She asked if they could be foot patrolled more often. Andreski said the Nelson Field bathrooms had been vandalized on three separate occasions. Richardson said other communities have their facilities under video surveillance to curb vandalism. Andreski also suggested to anyone in that situation in the future is to immediately call 911.

ADJOURNMENT

Tarsi moved with support from Mangone to adjourn at 10:57 a.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.



Bernadette Coates, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer