

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
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: Dan Hinch, Keith Hamel, Nick Karnack, and Richardson.

Absent: Phyllis Mangone and Tyana Elenbaas.

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

Public in attendance: Betty Fuller

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Hinch moved with support from Karnack to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Mangone and Elenbaas.

APPROVE MINUTES

Karnack moved, with support from Hinch, to approve the July 13, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All were in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Mangone and Elenbaas.

MANAGER'S REPORT –

Conversion Issue:

Richardson said there is still time before the April 1st deadline to be able to work on the conversion issue. He said he and Andreski would be able to spend more time on that once the construction season was over.

Recreation Plan Update:

Richardson said a list of priorities would need to be done before the March 1st deadline. A public hearing would need to be held prior to approving the draft plan.

WE Energies Property/Disc Golf Course Parking Lot:

Andreski said she just received the WE Energies lease agreement and although City Attorney Tousignant did not see any issues with it, she did have some concerns. She said the lease term was through September 30, 2025. She said that is not a lot of time, but it would renew after one (1) year, unless either party terminates with 90-day notice.

Another concern was the permitted use was listed as “general public related to the use of the Tailings Disc Golf Course and no other uses without Licensors prior written consent”. She said she did correspond with WE Energies that there would be anglers, and recreation vehicles that would be accessing the ORV trail from that property and she asked if they would consider putting that information in the agreement. She also said there would be a \$100 per year fee. Tousignant said Andreski could discuss these concerns with WE Energies.

Andreski said the DPW had been maintaining the lawn mowing every two weeks through the disc golf course.

Andreski said the Dog Park Committee still had not been formed. She said there was a lot going on with construction season but now that that was winding down, she would contact potential members.

Andreski said the sale of parks had been discussed previously at several meetings. She said Tousignant had given her criteria as to what needs to be done to sell park property if it was designated as a park. Andreski said recently, a person had expressed interest in purchasing the James Location Park. She said she had not found any information within City records that that park had been designated as such. Tousignant suggested if the Parks and Recreation Committee would like to sell the property, the process would start with them, then they would recommend the sale to Council.

Karnack said he was in favor of selling the park, however he would suggest the City keep the building that sits on it.

Hamel moved with support from Hinch to recommend the sale of the James Location Park to City Council and any funds from this sale and any future park sales to stay with the Parks and Recreation Committee budget for park improvements. The City would also keep the building either by moving or having easement to it.

Roll call: Ayes – 4: Karnack, Hinch, Hamel and Richardson. Nays – 0: Absent – 2: Mangone and Elenbaas. Motion carried.

Andreski said City Council approved the installation of security cameras at Nelson Field, Ice Lake Park, Bachman Park, and Nanaimo Park. She said Teck Solutions had begun the installation process and they should be up and running by the end of the week. Hinch said he would ask the West Iron County Booster Club if they could help fund the portion for Nelson Field which was in the amount of \$5,370.17.

OLD BUSINESS -

Improvement Projects FY21/22:

Bachman Park Tennis/Basketball Court Resurfacing:

Richardson said priorities need to be set and updated estimates need to get done. Drainage is an issue and will need to be addressed, and it will cost more to complete. Richardson said until the conversion is taken care of, the City does not have the funds to do anything at this time.

Karnack said the catch basin located in the basketball court had been completely rebuilt. He said this project should be a priority because this park gets the most use.

Bachman Park Lighting:

Andreski said the volunteer that offered to help with the Bachman Park lights has not been in contact with her. Karnack said Kevin at Dryer Electric told him that to do the electrical lighting job properly, MJ Electric or VanErt Electric should be retained.

Hamel said it is frustrating to see other communities receiving grants and improving their parks when Iron River cannot. He said the conversion issue needs to be done immediately.

Andreski said she would be contacting the marihuana businesses because they stated in their original applications, they would be willing to help the City financially with some projects.

Forbes Location Park (Playground Equipment):

Hinch said he keeps checking with Sinclair Playground Equipment, but they still have surcharges associated with orders. He said because of those surcharges, it would not benefit ordering any equipment at this time.

Richardson said maybe it would benefit waiting until the sale of the James Location property so those funds could be used towards new playground equipment.

Richardson offered to contact West Iron County School Superintendent, Kevin Schmutzler, about a student representative for the Committee. Andreski said she would also advertise again on social media.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Karnack moved with support from Hinch to adjourn at 10:42 a.m. All were in favor. Motion carried. Absent: Mangone and Elenbaas. Motion carried.



Bernadette Coates, City Clerk