

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 11, 2024
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, Jeff Andreski, Michael Berg, Keith Hamel and Richardson.

Absent: Kaylee Rosengren.

Also present: City Manager Rachel Andreski and City Clerk Tyana Elenbaas.

Public attendance: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Hinch moved with support from Berg to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Rosengren

APPROVE MINUTES

J. Andreski moved with support from Berg to approve May 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All were in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Rosengren

- May 8, 2024, Regular Meeting

MANAGER'S REPORT

Recreation Plan Update

R. Andreski updated the Committee on the Disc Golf Course, stating that it is gaining traction and is being utilized more often. She has continued working with Zach Hautala (ICECA) on signage, which will help bring attention to the Disc Golf Course.

She detailed her meeting with Kevin Schmutzler (WIPS Superintendent.) They went over the agreement to use Nelson Field. She showed him the utility bills and explained that the utility bills are coming out of the Parks and Recreation Fund, leaving the Committee with a depleted budget. Around 85% of the Parks and Recreation budget is used for utilities, which is why other parks cannot be upgraded. She is hopeful that he will present this to his board and the school will start to provide funds for the utilities.

Hamel moved with support from J. Andreski to approve the Manager's Report as presented. All in favor; motion carried. Absent: Rosengren.

OLD BUSINESS

MDNR Conversion Issue

Richardson stated we have run into more issues in our attempts to rectify this issue. He believes that the Alexa property, once appraised, will not satisfy the MDNR Conversion. He suggested we investigate other property, such as the Angeli property. He thinks this property would be a better fit and could satisfy the Conversion Issue. Other properties that were suggested were the Goodman property behind Ace and the Leonarduzzi property. The property must be within City limits and must be acquired by the City.

WE Energies Property/ Disc Golf Course Parking Lot – Pay Request #2 and Change Order #1

Berg motioned with the support of Hinch to pay \$13,409.41, which is half the cost, as the other half will come from the DDA.

Roll Call – Ayes – 5: Hamel, J. Andreski, Hinch, Berg and Richardson. Nays- 0. Absent: 1 - Rosengren. Motion carried.

Nelson Field Lighting

Andreski stated Ronjo Leonoff is still working with the Nelson Family and at this point we are at a standstill.

Pickle Ball Courts -Skateboard Park

Tabled.

The school uses the courts for tennis.

Apple Blossom Trail Boardwalk

R. Andreski explained we have received the Hazard Mitigation Grant, which gives us \$250,000 to put towards flooding projects such as the Apple Blossom Trail. Although the Grant will help significantly, it is about half of what we would need to fix the trail. R. Andreski is still working on obtaining more grants to help fund the project.

Michigan State University/Iron County Lakes and Streams Partnership – Ice Lake

A section of the lakefront has been allocated for this project. The plans have been finalized, and work will begin next year. The Iron County Lakes and Streams Partnership also donated a park bench for the pocket park on Genesee Street.

2024 Capital Projects

The MDNR Conversion Project is at a standstill, as the Alexa property is more than likely not going to satisfy the issue. We will continue to look for other land that could potentially end this issue. Once we fix the Conversion issue, we will proceed with the Capital Projects.

J. Andreski stated that he bought and replaced the swing chains at Bachman Park. The chains were worn and hadn't been replaced in a very long time. He noted that the park equipment is dated and will need updating once the Conversion issue is resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Hinch stated that talks about a dog park have been circulating on Telephone Time. Hamel expressed concern over the money that is being dedicated to the Disc Golf Course, stating it is in Caspian, and we should be using the Parks and Recreation funds for parks and recreation within the City limits. He also noted that there is still a lack of signage and suggested that we continue to work on signage. Berg expressed concern over issues he has encountered at Bachman Park. He stated that he was approached by Alisa Poirer of the Iron County Little League and was told that he was not allowed

to use the park for his adult league. Berg suggested coming up with time slots to ensure all citizens can have access to these public parks.

ADJOURNMENT

Hamel moved with support from Berg to adjourn at 10:44 a.m. All in favor. Motion carried.
Absent: Rosengren.



Tyana Henbaas, City Clerk