

**CITY OF IRON RIVER  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
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: Aubrey Richardson, Jeff Andreski, Dan Hinch, and Richardson.

Absent: Michael Berg, Keith Hamel and Benjamin Garcia.

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

Public attendance: None.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Approve Agenda**

Hinch moved with support from J. Andreski to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Berg, Hamel and Garcia.

**Approve Minutes**

Hinch moved with support from J. Andreski to approve:

- September 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- November 13, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

All were in favor. Motion carried. Absent: Berg, Hamel and Garcia.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Recreation Plan Update**

R. Andreski gave the committee an update stating that the plan is still on hold considering the MDNR Conversion Issue is still unresolved. She explained that she will be in contact with West Iron County School to discuss the usage of Nelson Field and the finances associated with it. She recommended starting a committee to further help with negotiations regarding the usage and upkeep. Hinch kindly volunteered, as did C. Richardson pending no conflict from the school. R. Andreski stated that she will ask a member of the City Council if they would like to be on the committee as well.

J. Andreski stated that the Apple Blossom Trail was vandalized right before Christmas, prompting the DPW to put up temporary "No Motor Vehicle" signs. The signs were generously given to the DPW by the Sno-Kats Trail Club. He stated that the signs are not permanent and the DPW will replace them in the Spring with permanent signs.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MDNR Conversion Issue**

C. Richardson updated the committee on the Alexa property, stating that we had to abandon the idea of that property satisfying the conversion issue. He suggested that we pursue the Angeli property. R

Andreski stated that she spoke with Rhonda Angeli, who was interested in selling the parcel to the City pending approval from her daughters. It was discussed that if the City did acquire the parcel, they could name the area after her late husband Everett Angeli.

C. Richardson raised concerns that the property might not be zoned correctly. R. Andreski stated that now would be the time to update the Zoning because the City is currently updating the Zoning Ordinance and map. C. Richardson stated that he hopes this property will satisfy the Conversion Issue because there is no other property within the City limits that would satisfy the issue.

### **Nelson Field Lighting**

Hinch asked if there was a way to allow usage of the lights at the tennis courts.

R. Andreski explained that there used to be a coin-operated timer, but it had since worn out. People are breaking into the electrical box and turning them on. She stated that she had received complaints from residents that live within proximity to Nelson Field, about the lights at the court being left on. She stated that at one point, the lights had been left on for 3 days.

J. Andreski explained that the DPW covered the power outlet with a sheet of metal and unfortunately that did not stop people from trying to turn on the lights. They had peeled back the metal to try and stick their fingers in the box to turn on the lights. The DPW reinforced the metal. He added that if we were to upgrade the lighting, it would be a big task because when they blacked topped the tennis court, the electrical was left in the ground and paved over.

C. Richardson stated that WICKWIRE will investigate some options regarding lighting.

### **Planning Commission Referral – Pickle Ball Courts at Bachman Park/ Skateboard Park**

Hinch stated that he had talked with the Recreation Association of Iron County about repurposing the Skate Park and putting in a few pickleball courts. At that time, the Association was not ready to commit. He stated that he will bring it up again at their next meeting.

R. Andreski stated that she has seen discussions on social media regarding a community skate rink, which had been done in the past. C. Richardson informed the Committee that Caspian is currently bidding on a large project which includes a community ice skating rink, and furthermore, doesn't see a need for a rink in both communities.

### **Apple Blossom Trail Boardwalk**

C. Richardson informed the Committee that the bidding for this project will begin today and bids opened on February 12, 2025. He is hopeful that the bids will be low, and we can complete the trail with the grant funding we already have. If the bidding comes in high, the Parks and Recreation Committee could provide funding, as well as asking the City Council to allocate money.

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

Nothing new to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Election of Chair/Vice Chairperson**

Hinch moved with the support from J. Andreski to appoint C. Richardson to Chair. C. Richardson accepted the appointment.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: A. Richardson, J. Andreski, Hamel and C. Richardson. Nays – 0. Absent – 3: Berg, Hamel and Garcia. Motion carried.

C. Richardson moved with the support from J. Andreski to appoint Hinch as Vice Chair. Hinch accepted the nomination.

Roll Call: Ayes – 4: Richardson, Hinch, J. Andreski and C. Richardson. Nays – 0. Absent – 3: Berg, Hamel and Garcia. Motion carried.

### **2025 Meeting Schedule**

C. Richardson moved with support from Hinch to approve the 2025 Meeting Schedule with the amendment of March 13, 2025, date which will be changed to March 12, 2025. All in favor; motion carried. Absent – 3: Berg, Hamel and Garcia.

### **2025 Projects**

C. Richardson suggested that the Committee wait to see where the bids come in for the projects and see if we can get the Conversion Issue solved by the next meeting. At the next meeting, they can see what funds are available and then discuss future projects.

### **Public Comment**

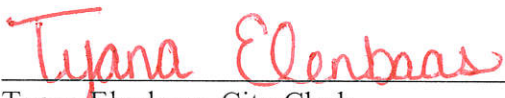
None.

### **Member Comments**

None.

### **Adjournment**

C. Richardson moved with support from J. Andreski to adjourn at 10:29 a.m. All in favor. Motion carried. Absent - 3: Berg, Hamel and Garcia.

  
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Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk