

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
10 AM
Minutes**

Chairperson Craig Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall.

Roll Call: Aubrey Richardson, Dan Hinch, Benjamin Garcia, Keith Hamel, Jeff Andreski (10:10 a.m.) and Richardson.

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

Public attendance: Ronjo Leonoff.

Public Comment:

None.

Approve Agenda

Garcia moved with support from Hinch to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor; Motion carried.

Approve Minutes

Garcia moved with support from Hinch to approve:

- January 08, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

All were in favor. Motion carried.

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 will provide updates regarding the Conversion Issue when we get to the MDNR Conversion Issue section in Old Business.
- Apple Blossom Trail Boardwalk - The paperwork for the Apple Blossom Trail has been sent into MDOT and Alliance will begin work soon.
- Nelson Field Park Committee - Andreski 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 noted that in July negotiations between the school and the Nelson Field Committee can begin. She detailed how the West Iron County Public School Middle School Student Council cleaned up Nelson Field for Earth Day, which she extended a big thanks for. She also noted that the DPW has mowed Nelson just in time for the school's regional track meet.
- Summer Help - Andreski stated that DPW has hired three summer employees, one is a returning former DPW worker, who can help direct the new employees.

OLD BUSINESS

MDNR Conversion Issue

Andreski shared that she authored a column on the Conversion Issue for *The Reporter*, expressing hope that it will help inform and educate the public. She also met with Sara Basso, the attorney who previously worked pro bono on seeking a resolution during David Thayer's tenure as City Manager.

Andreski remains optimistic that Aspirus may be open to engaging with the City to explore potential solutions. Additionally, she mentioned the possibility of reaching out to key stakeholders in Wausau to further pursue a resolution to the Conversion Issue.

2025 Projects

Garcia noted that the City has many parks that DPW maintains, a total of 16 parks plus the cemetery. He believes a priority should be to sell some of the parks.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Member Resignation

Michael Berg submitted his letter of resignation to the committee. Hinch motioned with the support from A. Richardson to accept Michael Berg's Letter of Resignation. All in favor; motion carried.

Iron County Little League Scoreboard Request – Bachman Park

Andreski stated that Alisa Porier, Iron County Little League President, reached out to her regarding a scoreboard at Bachman Park. The ICLL would like to purchase a scoreboard for Bachman and has asked the Parks and Recreation Committee for sponsorship of half the cost of the scoreboard. Porier provided an estimate of the score board for the Committee to review. Andreski noted that the old scoreboard was removed by the DPW. It was a manual scoreboard that was in bad condition and unsafe.

Garcia asked if the quote provided was just for the scoreboard or if the materials to secure the scoreboard were included. He also asked if there is currently electric running to where the ICLL would like to place the new scoreboard.

J. Andreski stated that the scoreboard could possibly tie into the light poles, but otherwise, the scoreboard would require new electric to power it.

C. Richardson asked if this would be the best investment for the community to purchase the scoreboard. He was curious if this would grant the ICLL exclusive use to the scoreboard or if the community could use it.

Garcia motioned with the support of Hinch to table the Iron County Little League Scoreboard Request, until more information can be provided. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Trash Can Purchase – Apple Blossom Trail

J. Andreski stated that the DPW workers would like the Parks and Recreation Committee to purchase two garbage containers for the Apple Blossom Trail. They have identified two spots which would be ideal for the containers.

R. Andreski noted that all the trash cans throughout the City parks utilize the same style and they are durable.

Garcia moved with support from J. Andreski to purchase two plastic trash cans from the Parks and Recreation Fund Balance in the amount of \$666.83.

Roll Call: Ayes – 6: A. Richardson, Hinch, Hamel, Garcia, J. Andreski and C. Richardson. Nays – 0. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Nelson Field Lighting

Ronjo Leonoff, representing the West Iron County School Booster Club, stated that he has obtained a quote to replace the lights at Nelson Field. The quote has both the football field and the tennis court lights.

Leonoff stated that he has collected sponsorship from Shamco, the Nelson Family, the Booster Club and from Greg Lovejoy.

R. Andreski stated that in the past, crowd funding was used. A committee was formed, and they went to each municipality to ask for donations. It was a community effort for upgrades in the past.

Leonoff stated that he was told that the school was unsure if they could donate because it's City owned property. He was also under the impression that the Township's and other municipalities would not donate to it as well, because it is City owned.

R. Andreski added that there is a contract between the City and the School regarding Nelson Field. In the contract, it states that the school is responsible for all upgrades to the football field and football field lights. She stated that in the past, the school had paid to lease Nelson Field and received exclusive rights. Now we have an agreement for shared labor. She stated that it might not be in the best interest to fund the football field, especially since the school obtains exclusive rights.

Hamel moved with support from A. Richardson to fund the Nelson Field Lighting in that amount of \$13,000.

Roll Call: Ayes- 5: Hinch, Garcia, A. Richardson, Hamel and C. Richardson. Nays – 1: J. Andreski. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Ice Lake Park Restroom/ Changing House Facility Paint

R. Andreski stated that she put this on the agenda after some Facebook postings from residents. The posts stated that the restrooms and changing house look terrible, and paint could greatly improve the appearance of the Park. She noted that the bathrooms have been locked because they have been vandalized beyond repair, specifically the plumbing.

J. Andreski stated that he and the DPW pressure washed the building, and most of the paint had been removed. He added that the roof is bad, and he felt that making improvements would make it look better but not really accomplish anything else.

C. Richardson stated we could investigate the Sheriff's Work Van, community service programs and local contractors to see what an estimate on painting the restroom and changing house.

Garcia stated that it is the duty of the Parks and Recreation Committee to at least investigate painting the restroom and changing house. He suggested getting in touch with local contractors to get an estimate of cost to repaint.

C. Richardson moved with the support from Garcia, to table the Ice Lake Park Restroom and Changing House Facility painting until more information can be presented. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Dog Waste Station Request

R. Andreski stated that DDA Chairperson Kelly Dvorak requested the Parks and Recreation Committee investigate dog waste stations for the Apple Blossom Trail.

Hamel asked if we have cameras on the trail to prevent vandalism? Currently, there are no cameras on the trail.

Hamel moved with support from Hinch to purchase two dog waste stations for approximately \$250 per waste station, to be placed on the Apple Blossom Trail.

Roll Call: Ayes – 6: A. Richardson, Garcia, J. Andreski, Hinch, Hamel and C. Richardson. Nays – 0. All in favor; Motion Carried.

Public Comment


None.

Member Comments

None.

Adjournment

C. Richardson moved with support from J. Andreski to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. All in favor. Motion carried.



Tyana Elenbaas, City Clerk