

City Of Marquette

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Monday April 21, 2024 5:45pm

Citizens Forum at Lakeview Arena 401 E. Fair Ave

1. Call to Order at 5:45pm
2. Roll Call: Present—Amanda Gobert (chair), Andrew MacIver (city liaison), Todd Leigh (vice-chair), Andrew Tripp, John Stewart, Jamie Glenn, Michael Potts, Sarah Bixby, Daniel LaBar, Wendy Hill Manson, Christopher Jason, Amy Maus, Carol Touchinski (late arrival); Not Present—Lori Hauswirth (excused), Jon Nebel
3. Approval of Agenda:
 - a. Motion to approve agenda made by Jaime Glenn, seconded by Todd Leigh; motion approved unanimously
4. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Todd Leigh requested addition of “to dos” at the end of the sentence in section regarding time capsule list
 - b. Motion to approve minutes as amended made by Amy Maus, seconded by Jamie Glenn; motion passed unanimously
5. Announcements:
 - a. Waterways grant was not approved. Plans for Cinder Pond Docks will be postponed. The city staff are concerned about the aging state of the current docks. This will be on future agendas for PRAB to discuss.
 - i. City staff will be looking at options for financing repairs, which have now increased in cost from \$3.1 million to \$3.4 million
6. Public Comment
 - a. Ray Guzowski—slip holder of B-11 at Presque Isle Marina
 - i. Concerns expressed regarding marina, including lack of internet, no clubhouse, issues with parking during concert events at Presque Isle
 - b. Kurt Peterson—Slip owner and Negaunee resident
 - i. Expressed concern for lack of internet, no ice machine, and the difficult parking situation
7. Presentation
 - a. None
8. Old Business:
 - a. Use of non-motorized trails
 - i. Discussion involving e-bike usage on multi-use path and other areas in the city with Captain Jim Finkbeiner
 1. Motorized vehicles are prohibited from being used on non-motorized paths
 2. E-bikes are classified into three different classes. Class 1 does not have a throttle, Classes 2 and 3 do possess one. This information was provided by the police captain, but contradicts the state regulations on the classification, which states that only class 2 e-bikes possess a throttle.
 3. Only class 1 are allowed on multi-use path OR city sidewalk
 4. Bike patrol officers are out as weather allows, but with colder weather, they are not active. There are also issues with staffing, so sometimes resources are limited.
 5. Current procedure involves more education than citation. Cards are given with rules to those in violation. School resource officer presents at the middle school level to kids to help with understanding. Some local bike shops also partner with department for education opportunities. Bike Rodeo is making a return with additional opportunity for education.

b. Time Capsule

- i. Participation is currently very low. Working to get word out to public in regard to getting additional items for time capsule
- ii. Local school system may have participation. Wendy Hill Manson will reach out again for status.
- iii. Amanda Gobert will reach out again to local media to attempt to get additional promotion.
- iv. Request for all board members to “talk it up” with those that they know, groups they are a part of to encourage additional participation.

9. New Business:

- a. None

10. Director’s Report

a. Grants

- i. The Cinder Pond Marina Waterways Grant application was reviewed by the Managers Office and the Finance Department. A recommendation to not submit the application was made based on the current financial situation the City is facing. Additionally, the marina fund is much lower than expected due to shortfalls in revenue due to Covid, unforeseen capital expenses for major ice repairs, and additional capital expenses for the rehabilitation of Presque Isle Marina. Staff are looking to submit this application for the 2026 grand cycle and the City will be in a better financial position for bonding.
- ii. Due to the shortfall in revenue, Parks Staff will be directed to enact new fiscal policy that will need to be discussed and approved by PRAB. This will involve a rate evaluation and plan that will need to be approved by the City Commission. Ultimately, this policy will help the City in acquiring grants as well as making the marinas more self-sufficient

b. Project Update

- i. Kids Cove: Staff are waiting on the final checks and invoices to clear before a final reimbursement can be requested from the MDNR Trust Fund for \$300,000
- ii. The Tourist Park Day-Use Playground is nearly complete. Once the weather allows, the final parts will be completed, and staff will submit for reimbursement from the MDNR Passport program for \$45,000
- iii. The Tourist Park Day-Use Access Road and Parking Area have been designated, and a bid request will be released before the end of April. Staff are hopeful of having this project completed before the fall.
- iv. Presque Isle Bandshell—Fundraising for the new Peg Hirvonen Bandshell is underway. \$1,351,971 has been raised so far with a goal of reaching \$2.1 million. Miron Construction has been awarded the bid, and they will start in late April.
- v. Cultural Trail/Center: The Land Use Plan for the Cultural Trail is complete. Staff are currently working on an agreement with Premeau Construction for the Cultural Center/Trailhead.

c. Marinas:

- i. Both marinas and the Founders Landing floating piers have sustained ice damage this winter. The extended winter weather has delayed repairs, but staff are looking to have both marinas ready for May 1st.
- ii. Slip renewal deadline was April 15th. Staff are working on placing people and working through the waitlist.

d. Lakeview Arena:

- i. The Russell Arena ice was removed on March 24th and the Olson Arena ice will continue through June 2nd. Staff have been discussing potentially leaving ice in longer if there is enough demand, but the ice will need to be removed for at least 2 months to mitigate frost buildup or the floor could heave and crack.

- ii. The KBIC Pow Wow was April 18th-20th in the Russell Arena. We will also host the Circus on May 12th and the UP Pro Wrestling on May 17th.
 - iii. There is a proposal from a local developer to purchase and operate Lakeview Arena. The current deed restricts the use of the property as an ice arena or convention center only for public use. This will likely be an ongoing agenda item as more information becomes available.
 - e. Tourist Park:
 - i. Staff are preparing to reopen the campground on May 23rd, or earlier if weather and construction allows. DPW will be adding parking near the tent area to make up for the parking that was lost in the playground project.
 - f. Light House Park:
 - i. No update
 - g. Ballfields:
 - i. The athletic fields are still closed, and staff are monitoring conditions daily. We encourage people to stay off the grass until it comes out of dormancy
 - h. Presque Isle:
 - i. The salamander migration has started, and the road has been closed at night in coordination with Moosewood, Superior Watershed Partnership and City Staff
11. Public Comment
- a. None
12. Board Member Comment
- a. None
13. Adjournment
- a. Motion to adjourn made at 7:03pm by Jamie Glenn; seconded by Amy Maus. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Hill Manson



Wendy Hill Manson

June 16, 2025

Date of Approval