

City of Marquette
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday June 16, 2025
5:45pm
Citizen's Forum inside Lakeview Arena

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held in The Citizen's Forum inside Lakeview Arena, Marquette, MI on Monday June 16, 2025. The meeting was convened at 5:45pm.

Roll Call:

Present: Amanda Gobert (chair), Todd Leigh (vice chair), Andrew Maciver (city liaison), Jamie Glenn, Andrew Tripp (late arrival), John Stewart, Lori Hauswirth, Christopher Jason, Michael Potts, Amy Maus, Jon Nebel, Carole Touchinski

Absent: Daniel LaBar (excused), Wendy Hill-Manson (excused), Sarah Bixby (excused)

Approval of the Agenda:

Addition to agenda to add discussion on a task force formation recommendation for e-bike/multiuse path rules & regulations from the city manager/commission

Motion: Moved by Jamie Glenn, seconded by John Stewart to approve the amended agenda of the June 16, 2025 meeting.

Motioned carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Edits to May minutes requested: Amy Maus would like board comments corrected to reflect correct wording and proper person.

Motion: Motion to approve April minutes was made by Todd Leigh, seconded by Jamie Glenn. Motion passed unanimously.

May Minutes will be corrected and voted on at next meeting.

Announcements: None

Public Comments:

Barbara Owdziej—1324 N Front St: advocates for E-bike use in Marquette in general, not by class. Behaviors are the concern, not the class of E-bike. Dangerous behaviors are present not only on multi-use path, but on streets and sidewalks. In support of Ad-Hoc committee, and feels that law enforcement, public works, local shop owners and citizens be a part of the conversation. The goal should be safety for all users, not just bike riders.

Nancy Henderson: Original founder (with husband) of DownWind Sports. E-bikes of all types have allowed older riders to get back out there. Throttles are often used by them only to help with hills or crossing busy intersections. Younger users are treating E-bikes more as "mopeds" or "scooters." Tourists are often unaware of "rules of the road" here.

Dan DiLoreto: Focus should be on irresponsible behavior, not the type of bike. Any type of bike can be a danger if the rider is not responsible. Tickets should be issued to irresponsible users of

all bike types.

Dennis Henderson: Original founder of DownWind Sports in 1976. Explained how Class 1 and Class 2 bikes differ but stated they both have max speed of 20mph.

Julie Benda—123 Rock St: Hoping the committee will propose usage rules and regulations to mitigate risk for all users of the multi-use path.

Christine Corkin: Agreement with other statements. Has stopped coming to Marquette on bikes because of the regulation not allowing Class 2 bikes to be used. They now stay in the Negaunee area and spend money there because they are able to use their bikes there. Stated that other places (Houghton) have posted speed limits, and some use painted lines on paths. Not allowing Class 2 bikes is discriminatory.

Eugene Virta: Bought Class 2 bikes to be able to see the views and ride the trails and enjoy the exercise. Does not want to ride in the road, because it puts them in harm's way.

Neil Winkler: Sent email but would also like to comment on it. As a physician, he feels safety should be a top priority. People on bikes of any kind don't feel safe with vehicle traffic. Mentioned several incidents of accidents regarding speeds and carelessness. Also spoke of ordinances within the city, and how there is a lack of enforcement.

Other Reports:

PRAB Director's report June 2025

a. Grants

- Staff are working on reimbursements for open grants as well as compliance review. o Kids Cove: Final reimbursement underway for the **MDNR** Trust Fund for \$300,000.

b. Project Update

- The Tourist Park Day-Use Playground will be completed in June. Staff will submit for final reimbursement from the **MDNR** Passport program for \$45,000.
- The Tourist Park Day-Use Access Road and Parking Area have been designed, and a bid request will be released in June once the DNR approves the plans. Construction is expected to start in July, and this project will not affect Hiawatha or GUTS.
- Presque Isle Bandshell - Fundraising for the new Peg Hirvonen Bandshell is underway. \$1,508,808 has been raised so far with a goal of reaching \$2.1 million. Miron Construction has started construction.
- Cultural Trail/Center: Premeau Construction has been awarded the contract for the Cultural Center, and they have started construction.

c. Marinas:

- No issues to report. Both marinas and the mooring field are full.

d. Lakeview Arena:

- The Olson Arena ice was removed at the end of May. Zamboni breakdowns and staffing did not allow for the ice to continue into June.
- The City Commission will authorize an order to proceed with an appraisal of Lakeview Arena. The potential buyer will then be able to determine the feasibility to purchase the facility and develop a business plan.
- Events at Lakeview Arena:

- o Past events, KBIC Pow Wow, Cherry Creek Family Dance, Superiorland Ski Swap, and UPW Marquette Mania Wrestling.
- o Upcoming events: Juneteenth Celebration 6/19, UPCHS Community Resource Fair 6/26.

e. Tourist Park:

- The campground opened on May 23rd. No issues to report.

f. Light House Park: No update.

g. Ballfields: The athletic fields are open for the season. No issues to report and Little League will continue work on their improvements at Kaufman.

h. Presque Isle: One incident to report, an accident occurred where a vehicle lost control and hit some trees near Blackrocks. Speed and distracted driving were a factor and injuries were reported. This happened after hours, and it was determined that the gate was not closed on time. Corrective action has been taken to ensure the road is closed on time and cleared.

i. Regarding signage at the island, Staff will be hiring a consultant to conduct a study and make recommendations for the developed area of the park. This will require heavy input from PRAB, and it will encompass park usage, asset replacement, parking, controls or enforcement, sign standards, and placement.

Unfinished Business:

Time Capsule

We reviewed the items that have been collected to date. A wider variety of items have come in, and there are still a few more items to be added. Although collection date has passed, if anyone still has items to add into the time capsule, they can still get them to the office prior to the July 4th holiday. Andrew is working with the city to finalize the date and time for the burial at Presque Isle Park.

New Business:

Ad-Hoc Committee

City of Marquette is looking for support to form a committee to review current e-bike ordinance and to recommend updates and additional items to offer better information to the community. The original ordinance was based on state laws, and it needs to be updated to meet the needs of our community.

Members of the PRAB have offered to volunteer for the committee, including Lori Hauswirth, Andrew Tripp, Jamie Glenn, and Amy Maus. IOHT should also be a part of the conversation. Language in whatever final produce needs to be clear and concise, to allow for general public understanding, while still ensuring it covers all necessary laws.

PRAB has voted unanimously to recommend to the city commission that this committee be formed. Appropriate paperwork has been completed and will be filed with the City Manager

Public Comment:

Neil Winkler: Continued discussion on e-bike regulations. Discussed speed limits and the difficulty with enforcement. Also talked about how e-bikes are considered vehicles for parks purposes, so why are

there no posted speed limits for them to attempt to abide by?

Doug Garrison: Asked if there was to be any discussion at this meeting about dog park

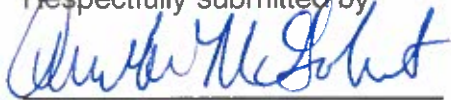
Member Comments:

- Todd Leigh did ask for an update on the Kayak signage.

Chair Comments: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm

Respectfully submitted by



Amanda Gobert, Chair
PRAB

July 21, 2025
Date approved