

City of Marquette Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday August 18, 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 August 18, 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, Christopher Jason, Michael Potts, Amy Maus, Jon Nebel, Carole Touchinski
Absent: Daniel LaBar, Wendy Hill-Manson (excused), Lori Hauswirth (excused), Sarah Bixby (excused), John Stewart

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Moved by Jamie Glenn, seconded by t to approve the amended agenda of the August 18, 2025 meeting. Motioned carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Edits to July minutes requested: Amy Maus would like additional information added to items regarding Marina proposal. Approval will take place at September meeting.

Announcements: All who are up for renewal should have received email and will need to have completed the renewal application. These will go before the City Commission for approval at their regular meeting on August 25, 2025.

Public Comments:

Sam Beauchamp: Slip holder. Feels there is a lack of communication with public. Only found out about meeting through an email that was sent to boaters by a member of PRAB. Rates go up, but what is being done with the money? Presque Isle Marina still feels unfinished—parking lot issues, no lighting, personal deck box has disappeared from his slip.

Neil Winkler: Slip holder at Cinder Pond: No financials given, no notification of meeting sent to slip holders. Why was no email sent when they could receive emails about other things? Has had past boat damage from a deck post that camp apart.

Alex Hinze: Who is breaking down the allocation of the funding? Why is the marina system operating in the red? A better presentation of the financials would be helpful. Was there any possibility of planning for funding replacement when redone 25 years ago?

Other Reports:

PRAB Director's report August 2025

a. Grants

- Due to a financial discrepancy, the Tourist Park Day-Use Playground final reimbursement was delayed. Staff are still working on finding a date for the ribbon cutting that works for the DNR.

b. Project Update

- Construction of the Tourist Park Day-Use Access Road and Parking Area will begin this month. Smith Paving won the bid.
- Construction is underway and on schedule for the new Peg Hirvonen Bandshell. The Marquette City Band has raised \$1,765,521 so far with a goal of reaching \$2.2 million for this project.
- Construction is underway with the new Cultural Center in the old LSCP building. This project is expected to be completed in July 2027.

c. Marinas:

- No issues to report from the last meeting. Staff are working on installing the new fuel pumps at Cinder Pond Marina.

d. Lakeview Arena:

- The ice will be installed in early September with a start date of September 15th.
- No updates on the potential sale of Lakeview Arena.
- Events at Lakeview Arena:
 - Past events, KBIC Pow Wow, Cherry Creek Family Dance, Superiorland Ski Swap, and UPW Marquette Mania Wrestling, Juneteenth Celebration, UPCHS Community Resource Fair, Vets Fishing Day Banquet, and Ore to Shore.
 - Upcoming events: Derby Bout 8/23

e. Tourist Park:

- All events are complete, and the campground will close on October 19th.

f. Light House Park: No update.

g. Ballfields: No update.

h. Presque Isle:

- Staff are pushing to have the Land Use Plan for the developed area of the park in fiscal year 2026. However, due to the City's financial situation, this plan may be pushed into fiscal year 2027.

Unfinished Business:

Marina Fiscal Policy

Much discussion took place surrounding the fiscal policy and PRAB's recommendation to the City Commission on rates. Financial information was provided to us, including budgets and breakdowns in revenue and expense categories for the last 5 years.

The Presque Isle Marina project was discussed and how it had come out \$1.5 million dollars over budget. Questions were raised as to how that happened, and if there were any funds being set aside for anticipated replacement costs in the future. It was explained that funds are being placed in depreciation holding to fund future replacement there.

In terms of the Cinder Pond Marina, repair costs have been estimated. Questions raised regarding whether enough funds are being budgeted for this project, or it will turn out to be a similar situation to Presque Isle. Questions were also raised about how this project was planned to be funded IF no grant funds were available. Was there a backup plan?

It was stated by most PRAB members that we are not in a place to put forth a recommendation for a full fiscal policy at this time. We need further information and discussion about options and a better plan to get the operation out of the red. It was agreed that we would spend the upcoming months discussing a full fiscal policy, possibly to be revisited on a regular basis (maybe every 5 years) for review.

At this time, it was determined that we would ONLY vote on a recommendation for rates for the upcoming year. Several options were presented and discussed.

Motion: Recommend a 10% rate increase for the 2026 season. That would make the new rate \$98 per foot. Motion was made by Todd Leigh and seconded by Amy Maus. Discussion proceeded to state that something was necessary, and 10% was better than nothing, but that we would definitely need further discussion to support a full fiscal policy. Motion passed with Carole Touchinski abstaining.

New Business:

E-Bike Task Force

Carey Gottlieb is chairing the committee. Currently, the committee is scheduling meetings with stakeholders to gather information and input. This includes engineers, police, bike shop owners, the general public and community business owners. They are looking at all options at the moment, including possibilities for future construction (including wider paths, engineering issues, etc.). There has been some signage that has been put up—signs are small and have been put up by city. Task force will begin looking at all options once they have completed their information gathering sessions.

Public Comment:

Patrick Markey: Slip holder at Cinder Pond. Wonders what similar cities offer in terms of amenities for the cost of slip rental. Taxpayers can fund, but a plan needs to be in place first. Our marina is nice, but it is definitely aging.

Neil Winkler: 10% increase for 4 years is a 48% increase overall. Do other entities pay for themselves, or are they funded by other sources? Also doesn't like hearing members of PRAB stating that they "are not boaters." States shouldn't matter if they are or are not, they are supposed to be representing the public as a whole.

Alex Hinze: Appreciates the thoughtful discussion among our group. Feels that the current slip holders should be a part of the discussion.

Sam Beauchamp: Why are we having budget issues? We knew there were repairs that needed to be done, and why wasn't this calculated? Why are other projects done so far over budget? We can't compare ourselves to everyone else, and the cost shouldn't fall just on the boaters to cover.

Member Comments:

- Todd Leigh did ask for an update on the Kayak signage.
- Andrew Tripp inquired as to whether all waterways grant funding is now completely unavailable, or if it were just

something that could disappear at any time. Andrew MacIver stated that we will keep applying until the time comes when they tell us funds are no longer available.

Chair Comments:

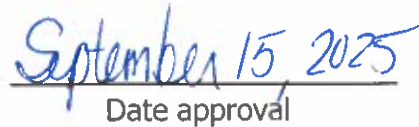
Thanks to everyone for the productive discussion on the Marina Policy. It is not an easy decision to make, and thoughtful discussion is necessary to move us forward.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amanda Gobert", written over a horizontal line.

Amanda Gobert, Chair
PRAB

A handwritten date "September 15, 2025" in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date approval