

City Of Marquette

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Monday December 16, 2024 5:30pm

Citizens Forum at Lakeview Arena 401 E. Fair Ave

1. Call to Order at 5:30pm
2. Roll Call: Present—Amanda Gobert (chair), Andrew MacIver (city liaison), Todd Leigh (vice chair), Jamie Glenn, John Stewart, Jon Nebel, Andrew Tripp, Lori Hauswirth, Sarah Bixby, Daniel LeBar, Christopher Jason, Michael Potts, Wendy Hill-Manson; Not present—Amy Maus, Wallace Pearson, Carole Touchinski
3. Approval of Agenda:
  - a. Motion to approve agenda made by Jaime Glenn, seconded by Christopher Jason; motion approved unanimously
4. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. Requests for edits to November 18, 2024 meeting minutes
    - i. Designate Todd Leigh as current PRAB vice chair
    - ii. Request made by Lori Hauswirth to correct NTN trail rerouting description
  - b. Motion to approve minutes with amendments made by Jamie Glenn, seconded by Andrew Tripp; motion passes
5. Announcements:
  - a. No announcements
6. Public Comment:
  - a. Margaret Brumm, 440 E. Magnetic St.
    - i. Suggested a compromise in the ordinance that allows dogs in city parks before 9am and after 8pm.
    - ii. Requested better enforcement of city dog ordinances for beaches, Presque Isle, and other areas where dogs (pets, not working animals) are prohibited
  - b. Rob Sved, 1420 Cox Ave.
    - i. Requested no dogs in parks
    - ii. Noted disregard for leash laws is spreading to new NTN site off of Wells
    - iii. Suggested the need for more enforcement of ordinance.
7. Presentation
  - a. Cultural Trail and Center Update
    - i. Presentation by Tina Morin about the interpretive signs that would be posted along the proposed Cultural Trail along the lakeshore.
      1. Signs would include historical images, word interpretations, maps, QR codes for further information and links to curriculum.
      2. Sign would include multiple languages as well.
    - ii. Minnesota company is designing signage
      1. Company chosen on reputation of work across country and their tribal relationships.
    - iii. Arts and Culture meetings on second Wednesday of month at 6:30pm to get continued updates.
    - iv. Jamie Glenn suggested audio-visual and braille options for accessibility
    - v. Concerns voiced about the color scheme being potentially confusing to some by Daniel LaBar, Wendy Hill-Manson, and Michael Potts
    - vi. Todd Leigh wondered if materials would be weather and graffiti proof for our area.
    - vii. John Stewart expressed ethic of using local builders/artists for project; Tina expressed the level of expertise necessary for this project because of funding being provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

8. Old Business
  - a. None
9. New Business:
  - a. Dogs at Playgrounds
    - i. Previous month discussion on dogs in playgrounds ballooned into a discussion about dogs in city parks.
      1. Amanda Gobert made a statement about misinformation being spread and that the intention of the discussion within PRAB was NOT to ban dogs from city parks.
    - ii. Discussion focused on where dogs should and shouldn't be allowed for the health and safety of the community
    - iii. Motion made to recommend to the city commission to "disallow dogs from safety surfaces (pour in place or woodchipped playground areas)" by Daniel LeBar, seconded. Motion passed, with John Stewart opposing.
    - iv. Lori Hauswirth expressed concern with unclear playground boundaries and weak ordinance enforcement.
  - b. Time Capsule
    - i. Discussion on WHAT gets put in and WHO gets to contribute tabled until January meeting to allow PRAB members to consider options and bring ideas to the table at that time.
10. Director's Report
  - a. Grants
    - i. Waterways Cinder Pond Marina Pier Replacement: Staff are updating last year's application for new application in March 2025. This project will include replacement of the existing wooden piers and offshore utilities, including fuel pumps. This project is estimated to be just over \$3 million. Funding would be comprised of 50% matching funds from the DNR Waterways, the marina enterprise fund, and bonding
  - b. Project Update
    - i. Kids Cove: The playground is complete, and staff will begin working on the reimbursement from the DNR Trust Fund.
    - ii. The Tourist Park Day-Use Playground is nearly complete. Staff have started the reimbursement process and a ribbon cutting will be held in the spring.
    - iii. Presque Isle Bandshell: Final conceptual media is being provided to help with additional fundraising by the Marquette City Band. Construction is anticipated to start in 2025.
    - iv. Cultural Trail/Center: The Land Use Plan for the Cultural Trail and bid package for the new Cultural Center is nearly complete. Arts and Culture Staff will provide a presentation in the meeting to update the board.
    - v. The Tourist Park Day-Use Access Road and Parking Area is currently being designed by City Engineers. Staff are hopeful to start construction in the summer of 2025.
  - c. Marinas: Winter maintenance and ice mitigation efforts have begun. Staff will monitor the docks and make repairs as needed.
  - d. Lakeview Arena: Operations have been running smoothly despite staffing issues and a few Zamboni issues. Plans to extend the ice season through May have been confirmed.
  - e. Tourist Park: The first day of online reservations will be January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Campground will open May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, depending on the weather and on-going projects.
  - f. Light House Park: Staff will revisit the Land Use Plan in 2025 to determine if any capital improvements need to be made in the immediate future.
  - g. Ballfields: The fields are closed for the season.
  - h. Presque Isle: No issues to report at this time. Staff are continuing to work with Travel Marquette and NMU to spread awareness about rules and dangers of the park, especially as the shelf ice starts to develop.

11. Public Comment

- a. Margaret Brumm, 440 E. Magnetic St.
  - i. Thanked PRAB for opportunity to speak
  - ii. Addressed the need for an all-season dog park
  - iii. Suggested signage with color coding for dog/child areas
  - iv. Requested additional park patrol to enforce ordinances
- b. Rob Sved, 1420 Cox Ave.
  - i. Warned about the rampant misinformation from housing development to dog laws.
  - ii. Suggested that signage be fun, humorous, to engage people.

12. Board Member Comment

- a. Todd Leigh
  - i. Requested timeline to receive copy of revisions on the five-year plan
- b. Michael Potts
  - i. Requested portable restroom at the Mooring Field

13. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn made at 7:00pm by Daniel LeBar; seconded by Jamie Glenn. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Bixby



2-10-2025

Sarah Bixby

Date of Approval