

City of Marquette Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Monday April 20, 2026
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 April 20, 2026. The meeting was convened at 5:46pm.

Roll Call:

Present: Amanda Gobert (chair), Andrew MacIver (city liaison), Jamie Glenn, Sarah Bixby, Amy Maus, Andrew Tripp, Christopher Jason, Carol Touchinski, Wendy Hill Manson, Michael Potts

Absent: Lori Hauswirth (excused), Jon Nebel (excused), Todd Leigh (vice chair) (excused), John Stewart (unexcused)

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Moved by Carol Touchinski, seconded by Sarah Bixby to approve the agenda of the April 20, 2026 meeting.

Motioned carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Jamie Glenn, seconded by Sarah Bixby to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements: None

Presentations:

Arts & Culture:

- Tina Morin gave Arts and Culture update on parks collaborations - 7 story markers in ground. First phase of the cultural trail story telling project. Invited public to sites determined by grant. The project does not use general fund dollars; all private grants were used for these artistic trail marker stories. There will be 16 sites during expansion of Cultural trail circular gathering spaces. The center of the 7 grandfathers' site will be completed by September.
- Marquette Lions Lakeside Park will have a sign added on road in front of Lions Park viewable while coming into Marquette.
- There will be a Cultural Trailhead public gathering space inside and out. It will have public art. This space can be used by the public inside and out. Multipurpose classroom and deck all usable by the public. This renovation is all privately funded. Like the Presque Isle pavilion this can be used by the public for parties and gatherings.
- Renew the view - Trees will be thinned out to allow for better viewing of the lake at the Cultural trail head arts and culture center.

Public Comments:

Tom Tarkleson - Marquette resident

Commercial rates for Cinder Pond- Hooked up charters have high slip fees. Price hike will make it difficult for fishing businesses. These fishing guests are a tourism benefit to the city. Will have to move or go out of business with the proposed slip fee pricing increase. Not sure that the city needs to charge double for commercial boats.

Other Reports:**PRAB Director's report April 2026****a. Grants**

- Staff submitted the Waterways application to replace Cinder Pond Marina. Initial response from Waterways is that we may receive full funding immediately to replace all piers next spring.
- Staff are evaluating funding options for a new restroom at Presque Isle Park. This restroom is required by code for the new Bandshell.

b. Project Update

- Construction on the Tourist Park Day-Use Access Road and Parking Area will restart as soon as the snow melts at the park. The remaining items include a fence along the bike pump track, site remediation, and signage.
- Presque Isle Bandshell – Construction and fundraising for the new Peg Hirvonen Bandshell is nearly complete. Some minor exterior work and site work will begin this spring. The roof was damaged by young urban skiing enthusiasts who managed to climb the snowbanks on the back of the bandshell and walked up to the top of the roof. They proceeded to ski down the metal roof, damaging the metal seams and paint. Staff caught them, and the Police are pursuing felony charges as the damage will be about \$40,000.
- Cultural Trail/Center: Additional scope items, such as a deck, garden, and signage has been added with generous donations from community members. Arts & Culture staff are hopeful of being in the new space in June or July.

c. Marinas:

- Staff are meeting with the dock manufacturer, marine contractors, electricians, and our insurance rep to determine a plan for repairs and funding for the season. Staff are hopeful that repairs can begin right away with only a minor delay to the season. As of this report, the majority of the ice has cleared from the marina. Presque Isle Marina will open on time with no damage to report.

d. Lakeview Arena:

- The Olson ice will remain through Memorial Day weekend. The Russell was removed April 1st for dry floor events.

e. Tourist Park:

- The dog park will close on April 30th to allow crews to safely clear hazard trees and debris from the blizzards this winter.
- The Campground will open May 22nd.

f. Light House Park:

- No update.

g. Ballfields:

- The ballfields will open as weather allows and the grass returns from dormancy. A proposal for pickleball courts is being floated around at Kaufman Sports Complex that contradicts previously approved plans to add a soccer field and parking.

h. Presque Isle:

- The road closure for the salamander migration has begun and will run through May 15th.
- City Staff will need to evaluate the trees and clean up debris around the park as weather allows. This may affect the road opening in the spring.

Unfinished Business:

- The Dog Park Friends group is gathering funding for the new dog park. They are looking for a maintenance fund (city staff clean up) and an alternate parking lot on the back side of the site. This would keep dog and disc parks further apart.
- Never found the founder's landing pier that was lost to the lake during the winter. It is assumed they were destroyed by the lake. Insurance will recover that repair as well.
- The proposal for a 15% Marina slip increase did go to the city and they accepted it, but it is not official yet. They will approve it in August for 2027 price increases. There will be a one-year review by PRAB after adoption
- Request to investigate a price increase for businesses for slip price variances in pricing. Andrew will investigate it for commercial slips. There are 4-6 commercial slips that need approval from the waterways / DNR.

New Business:

Rowing Club Beach Lease Extension:

- Rowing club beach expansion - area by Gaines's rock. They lease the area on the beach. With the NMU rowing group they need additional space on the beach. \$1500 in rent paid to the city.
 - Todd Leigh comments-. UP rowing is a non-profit rowing club that provides support to all ages in the Marquette (full letter attached at end of minutes)
 - A motion to support the renewal of the lease for the Marquette rowing club was made by Wendy Hill Manson, Jamie Glenn seconded the motion. Motion passed with Christopher Jason and Sarah Bixby abstaining

Rotary Club Grant-Bog Walk Remediation:

- Rotary club grant request - applying for a grant to repair the Bog walk. They will know by fall if they get the grant. This will be a program that they will work with Superior Watershed to make sure there is no more encroachment and may reduce the footprint in the habitat and to insure people don't walk in areas they shouldn't in the Bog.
- A motion was made to support the rotary club application for a grant to repair the bog walk Wendy Hill Manson Jamie Glenn seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Public Comment:

Tom Tarkleson - Marquette resident

Thank you for expressing support for the variance. He will get letters from other charter fishing companies in the city to support the variance. A request was made for a commercial slip letter or presentation of benefits of having charters in the city marina.

Todd Beauchamp Marquette resident

He has been in the upper harbor for a long time. Voted on rate increase in the past. Rates are higher than Traverse city and they have more amenities. More money should be saved.

Member Comments:

The Knuckman family would like to donate a new Webber gas grill to Lower Harbor Cinder Pond Marina for all to use. They will maintain the propane tank. Andrew MacIver will check on fire code for that.

There is a shipwreck on the dingy beach that needs to be cleared up. There is dangerous metal in the debris

Request to share financials on the marina repairs costs so that the public can know the financials behind the marinas.

Andrew MacIver spoke about the city financials to the group to help with understanding.

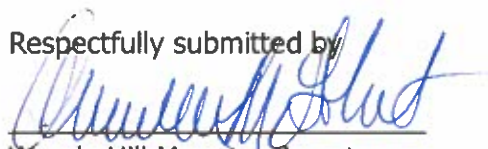
Waterways grants will not be there forever, so the price increases are due to the depletion of this potential funding source.

Chair Comments:

Amanda Gobert said she feels the pain for the members of the public who have financial concerns. This is why we are looking at a 5-year review as a requirement and as a group we will review it each year. If costs stabilize then we could possibly change the original proposal which will be adjusted.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted by



Wendy Hill Manson, Secretary

PRAB

June 15, 2026

Date approved