

(For August 2019)

Around the City with City Manager David Thayer

In order to apply for grants from the State (including Federal pass through grants) and quite often Foundations, you must have a State approved Five-Year Community Recreation Plan (CRP). The subject matter for the grant must be included in your five-year CRP. Otherwise, you must amend your plan to include the new subject matter before submitting a grant. Regardless of grant opportunities, the City needs a plan going forward to guide us on how we spend our own resources to meet our recreational and park needs.

The City's last plan expired December 31, 2016. Since then, Council adopted an ordinance creating a Parks and Recreation standing committee. The Committee has been meeting monthly since September 2018 with the focus on writing a new CRP. They have conducted a survey of assets, compiled a list of needs, and have tried to visualize the direction for expansion of future recreational opportunities.

The CRP is a listing of needs and dreams. It is not the purpose of the CRP to plan how we are going to pay for the projects at this time. Planning is targeted proportionately to the City's level of population and realistic financial means. Early this month, the Committee posted on the City's web page a draft section of the CRP listing goals and objectives. Please feel free go to our web page at www.ironriver.org to get a feel for where the Committee is at.

Now, we are at that stage in the process where we need public input. At the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 10 a.m., they are going to hold a public hearing seeking comments on our recreational and park needs. At the next City Council meeting, on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 2 p.m., they will also hold a public hearing seeking comments on our recreational and park needs.

On October 3, 2019 the Committee will post the draft CRP on our City web page and City Facebook page and place a copy of the plan at the City Clerk's office and West Iron County District Library for public review and comment.

On Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 10 a.m., the Park and Recreation Committee will hold a public hearing seeking comments on the draft CRP before considering adoption of the plan. Later the same day at 2 p.m., the City Council will hold a public hearing on the plan, before consideration to adopt the plan and submitting it to the State. At all times and at all stages, written comments can be made by submitting them to the City Clerk at City Hall, 106 W. Genesee, Iron River, Michigan 49935 or by E-mail to clerk@ironriver.org.

The next Biannual Large Item Clean Up program will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 8 a.m. to noon. This program will **not** be accepting tires and the size of the loads being dropped off will be limited to eight cubic yards. The large item collection program is having an impact on blight and is addressing a need in our community. We have tried to tailor the program to meet your needs and within our financial resources. I have been told we are doing a good job. Thank you.

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