

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, November 6, 2019
10 AM
Minutes**

Chairman Craig Richardson called the hearing to order at 10 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall.

Roll Call: Keith Hamel, Dan Hinch, Phyllis Mangone, Rick Sheltrou, Terry Tarsi and Richardson.
Absent: None.
Also present: City Manager David Thayer and City Clerk Rachel Andreski.

Public in attendance:
Dennis Powell.

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING: To receive public comment on the Adoption of the Community Recreation Plan.

Richardson said a letter was received by Christine Makuck with comments.

There being no further comment, Mangone moved, Sheltrou seconded, to close the Public Hearing at 10:01 a.m. All were in favor; Motion carried.

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, November 6, 2019
10 AM
Minutes**

Chairman Craig Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall.

Roll Call: Keith Hamel, Dan Hinch, Phyllis Mangone, Rick Sheltrou, Terry Tarsi and Richardson.
Absent: None.
Also present: City Manager David Thayer and City Clerk Rachel Andreski.

Public in attendance:
Dennis Powell.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mangone moved, with support from Tarsi, to approve the Agenda as presented. All were in favor; Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES

Hinch moved, with support from Mangone, to approve the October 2, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as written. All were in favor; Motion carried.

REPORTS

Manager's Report:

Thayer reported the DPW has completed winterization of the facilities in our parks. All other activities are on hold until spring. Tarsi asked if the water accumulation at Nanaimo Park seems more than usual. Richardson said with all the rain we have received the ground is saturated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Community Recreation Plan Adoption: Richardson said a letter was received by Christine Makuck, who resides at 1033 Lalley Road, providing comments and suggestions regarding the Plan. Mangone said she has some good ideas. Richardson said many of her ideas pertaining to Ice Lake Park were addressed with the Recreation Grant that the City was not successful in obtaining.

One of Makuck's comments was increasing winter activities such as Apple Blossom Trail. Hinch said either plow the trail for walkers or leave it go for snowshoes. Sheltrou added the DPW plows the trail as time allows.

Hamel asked if the Trail could be split for winter use, half of it plowed and the other half for cross country skiing/snowshoeing. Hinch said with cross country skiing, it would be difficult with the boardwalk, especially grooming. Hinch added there are trails available at George Young's and Ottawa Lake. Richardson raised concern with the road crossings.

Thayer asked the group if there was interest in opening access to Ice Lake through the Park for snowmobile access. Richardson stated it's better to keep snowmobilers out of the Park and let them access where they currently are. The consensus of the group was to include "increase opportunities in Ice Lake Park" in the Plan. Thayer will incorporate it.

Thayer said Makuck also suggested plowing the Klint Safford Memorial RV Park for pedestrian and dog walking. Thayer fears having a mess once the snow thaws. Richardson suggested adding to the plan "increase winter opportunities".

Tarsi went on record to thank Makuck for her comments and suggestions. Mangone moved to have Thayer address a letter to Makuck thanking her for her ideas and to explain that at this time, the City doesn't have finances to move forward, but if and when we do, we will go back and look at her suggestions again. Tarsi seconded. All were in favor; Motion carried.

Hamel asked if the basketball court at Bachman Park can also be used for pickleball like Nelson Field. Thayer said the two sports are not really compatible uses and basketball at Nelson Field has basically been abandoned for pickle ball.

Tarsi moved to adopt the Community Recreation Plan with the amendments as discussed to be forwarded to Council for consideration. Mangone supported. All were in favor; Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Improvements Projects for FY20: Thayer explained money that was earmarked for the roof at the pavilion and Nanaimo Park lapsed back into the general fund balance. There is approximately \$10,000 budgeted and is requesting the group prioritize projects if monies are identified. Currently, the pavilion is top of list. Richardson said realistically, we should ask for what we need, take what Council gives us, then prioritize what we have once we know what funding is available. Tarsi said the bathhouse at Ice Lake Park and the pavilion roof at Nanaimo Park need to be completed. Hamel asked if we can ask for a special millage for recreation. Thayer responded that an election would need to be held and one mill would generate approximately \$54,000. Hamel said it's a look of good faith to the DNR that we are working hard for consideration for grants and this is a way to generate matching funds. The group agreed to request the Council's consideration of a recreation millage.

Richardson suggested spending the additional \$10,000 to maintain playground safety such as the incorporation of soft-landing material in the parks.

Thayer will take these comments discussed and incorporate them into the Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Hinch asked seeing as this is our last meeting of the year, what is our new schedule? Thayer said January's meeting is the organizational meeting which is when this will be discussed. He added historically the same schedule is followed. The Organizational Meeting will be held January 8th at 10 a.m.

Tarsi thanked everyone for coming and getting involved and for doing a good job putting this plan together.

ADJOURNMENT

Tarsi moved to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. Hamel seconded. All in favor; Motion carried.



Rachel Andreski, City Clerk