

Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2023
Convened at Presque Isle Community Center

Item 1-Call to order—The regular meeting of the Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee was called to order by Chair, Barb Peck, at 10:05 A.M. Wednesday, August 16, 2023. Also present were committee members Al Drum, Rich Schmalzer, Brian Luetzow, Eric Benn, and Liaison Cathy Weber, and later on, Max Wallace.

Item 2-Approval of the minutes of July 17, 2023--- Eric moved to approve the July 17, 2023 minutes, as amended by Eric prior to the meeting, and seconded by Rich. Motion passed.

Item 3-Public Comment---Cathy discussed a current financial report, concentrating on year-to-date invoices from MSquared work on the Pipke Park dam system. Members agreed that the figures made sense.

Item 4-Correspondence---Max Wallace attended later on in the meeting to discuss the following subjects: 1) Max plans to move the six inch PVC pipe for the south pond siphon into the Quonset Hut for safe keeping over the winter; 2) Having heard the discussion in Item 5c below, Max plans also to move picnic tables to Pipke Park from the upper campus; 3) Max feels the skating rink may not work this winter because of the low water level we are trying to achieve to comply with DNR requests.

Item 5-Old Business

Item 5a---Pipke Park Dam Project Update---Members agreed that we should ask Max to place the six-inch PVC pipe in the Quonset hut for safe-keeping. Cathy noted that the north pond level was receding again. It was noted that Max was doing further cleaning of beaver-caused debris at the mouth of the north pond discharge structure, requiring the level to be lower. Members noted also that the siphon should continue until cold weather, and then should be emptied for freeze protection over the winter. Eric and Al updated members about details from the August 11, 2023 virtual meeting between MSquared and the PPRC. The main theme of this meeting was the completion of a first run of the dam failure analysis, indicating that two improved properties downstream of the dam may be subject to flooding during a worst case combined storm and flood event, followed by a dam failure. MSquared agreed to try some further analyses in hopes of adding confidence to the initial results. For a more detailed discussion, see the August 11, 2023 minutes of the Pipke Ponds Restoration Committee on the Town of Presque Isle website (piwi.us).

Item 5b---Band Shell Update---Brian reported that the pontoon boat band shell may be on the south pond by September 1, along with the new fabricated band shell access pier (thirty foot length); additionally the new fabricated pier for Wilderness Park is expected to arrive September 1 as well. This is great work and coordination by the Lions!

Item 5c---Benches at Sensenbrenner Park and Pipke Park---Members discussed two new possible bench positions along the south pond trail in Pipke Park. Members considered moving picnic tables from the upper campus to the Pipke pavilion. Two of these tables could be placed at strategic positions along the south pond trail as discussed just previously, for rest stations along the trail. In discussing materials that new purchased benches could be made of, members acknowledged that recycled plastic seemed the better choice when compared to the bench material known as plastic-coated steel. Among other features, recycled plastic seemed to offer longer life.

When discussing Sensenbrenner, members acknowledged that the existing bench and table were too low. Members also discussed the advantages of placing a new bench up near the car parking pavement for the convenience of visitors stopping for a look at the park. A second new bench placed downhill near the dam would also be a good idea. Members continued discussion, acknowledging that a special investigation should be launched to redesign and revamp the entire Sensenbrenner Park in future.

Eric moved to purchase two recycled plastic benches eight feet in length, for locations to be determined later, seconded by Al. Rich moved to amend Eric's motion, specifying purchasing one bench for Sensenbrenner, eight feet in length, and two benches six feet in length for Pipke Park. Al seconded Rich's amended motion. Amended motion carried. Then, members voted unanimously to carry Eric's original motion as amended by Rich. (*Thus completing an adroitly handled Roberts Rules of Order episode*).

Item 5d---Community Playground Surface Material---Eric reported having looked at new playground surface material in Land 'O Lakes, which seemed to appear artificial. Barb reported that the new prepared wood material is on order, with expected arrival August 24.

Item 5e---Dead Trees at Little Horsehead Landing---Members acknowledged that these dead trees have been removed.

Item 5f---Wilderness Park Gates...Leave Open or Closed?--- Members discussed a proposal to leave the gates normally open, and to establish four parking spaces located just inside the park, just past the gates and entry corridor, set against a line of trees well out of the way of picnickers. These added four parking spaces would alleviate the reported occasional lack of existing parking capacity (currently four spaces on the north end of the paved boat ramp lot) that are now available. In further discussion, members suggested that the new parking area should be graveled to have a more durable surface, and that the gates should remain closed all winter. Eric moved to recommend this proposed Wilderness Park parking area to the Town Board, complete with the graveled surface and possible new signage to guide parkers, and if necessary, soft barriers to remind drivers to remain only in the designated parking area. Al seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Item 6-New Business

Item 6a---Cemetery Entrance---The entry sign has been hit; Carl Wolter is working on resolving the incident.

Item 6b---Next Meeting is September 20, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Drum, Secretary, Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee
Transcribed September 6, 2023

