

**Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20, 2022, 10:00 A.M.**

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 10:00 A.M., July 20, 2022, at Wilderness Park. Also present were committee members Al Drum, Rich Schmalzer, Eric Benn and Brian Luetzow. Board Liaison Cathy Weber was present. Members of the public attending were Pat Barofsky, Town Chair John MacLean, Cathy Curtis, Sarah Sisbach and Jorja Burke.

Item 2-Approval of the minutes of June 15, 2022-Because of the outdoor venue, the June 15, 2022 minutes were not considered for approval, and will need to be considered at the August 17, 2022 meeting.

Item 3-Public Comment—Comments from the public were entertained during subsequent Agenda items, as noted below.

Item 4-Correspondence-None

Item 5-Old Business

Item 5a.-Update on Community Center Campus Trails—Eric showed members the most recent draft prepared by the Vilas County Mapping Department. Members agreed informally that the map looked good. These maps will appear at the various Presque Isle Upper Campus trail system intersection points to guide visitors walking the trails. Eric will see about having 11 inch by 14 inch samples printed on paper for members to look over for final approval.

Item 6-New Business

Item 6a-Tree cutting/trimming at Wilderness Park--Reference was made to the Town cleanup day of July 11, 2022, and how that day's schedule was developed. The group decided to look over the work done in Wilderness Park, beginning at the viewing corridor to the west of the bench. Sarah Sisbach highlighted advantages of this clear view corridor, pointing out that County Conservation Specialist Quita Sheehan has indicated that much can be done easily to help control any erosion of the corridor ground surface. Questions about small trees cut in this region led to the answer that they were dead and dying. The pruning of branches on several trees was discussed, as were several other small stumps at the crest of the slope to the lake.

Barb asked for further comments. Cathy Curtis asked if cleanup schedules were discussed with the Parks and Rec Committee. Ms. Curtis was concerned that Wilderness park did not seem attractive. Sarah suggested that playground equipment perhaps would improve both Wilderness and Pipke Parks, and that the wading area in Pipke Park might benefit from enlarging it.

Jorja suggested that it would be good to have semi-formal plans when considering pruning type work.

Barb gave a wrap-up summary, pointing out that Deputy Zoning Administrator Jim Janet had no objections to the actual work completed in Wilderness Park. However, the Town did not consult with County Zoning, presenting no plan prior to the pruning and clearing activity. Town and County need to consult and work together.

Cathy Curtis felt that the vault toilets in the park need improvement, leading Barb to suggest that perhaps we need to consider a semi-formal planning program to improve or develop Wilderness Park in general.

Item 6b-Playground equipment at Wilderness Park-Rich Schmalzer suggested installing playground equipment in the Park. Discussion then followed to consider re-activating the hand pump in the Park, not so much for access to potable water, but as a playground “toy” for kids. Al Drum will contact the Vilas County Health Department for access to historic water sample test results from this pump. Returning to the play equipment subject, attendees discussed what strategy to employ to develop a potential playground program. Brian followed by suggesting that a fishing pier at the base of the in-ground stairs would be good for kids. Perhaps the old pier removed from the County Highway P boat ramp could be placed here.

During one side discussion, the need for a safety handrail on the in-ground stairs was pointed out.

Sarah Sisbach will solicit suggestion from Presque Isle Lake Association members for park improvements.

Barb concluded by agreeing that we need to develop a “vision” for Wilderness Park.

Item 6c-Next Meeting—August 17, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Item 7-Adjournment-Meeting adjourned at 11:28 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Drum  
Secretary, Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee  
Transcribed on August 1, 2022