

Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 17, 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 10:00 A.M. Monday, July 17, 2023. Also present were committee members Al Drum, Rich Schmalzer, Brian Luetzow, Eric Benn, and Liaison Cathy Weber.

Item 2-Approval of the minutes of June 21, 2023--- Eric moved to approve the June 21, 2023 minutes, seconded by Brian. Motion passed.

Item 3-Public Comment---None

Item 4-Correspondence-Rich reported that the pier for Wilderness Park could be ready to install within a couple of weeks.

Item 5-Old Business

Item 5a---Pipke Park Dam Project Update---Al briefly reported that elevations measured by the land surveyor on July 14 were sent to MSquared and a copy to DNR, Forrest Van Asten. MSquared will then submit to Forrest the property elevation data along with their Dam Failure findings, to determine whether or not the failure analysis is complete and MSquared can then move on to the preparation of final design and construction plans.

Item 5b---Band Shell Update---The new buried electric power conductors and associated components have been completed in Pipke Park, thereby bringing enhanced power availability to the proposed location of the pontoon boat. The boat will then become a handicapped fishing pier and a “bandshell” for tunes on the water concerts in Pipke Park. Discussion followed regarding other entities using the pontoon boat circuitry. Lions will discuss this. Members discussed also whether or not a Memorandum of Understanding should be prepared between the Town and the Lions regarding the new circuitry and the pontoon boat installation. Again, Brian and Rich will discuss this question at a Lions meeting.

Item 5c---Benches at Sensenbrenner and Pipke Parks---Barb distributed bench data (product sheets). Discussion followed. Members acknowledged that our parks are not easily accessible for handicapped individuals. Plastic material is more expensive than wood or steel for benches. Steel, of course, is heavier and wood is less durable. Barb suggested that members all visit our parks to come up with specific positions in the parks suitable for benches (in particular Pipke and Sensenbrenner). Members should make note of numbers of benches and suggested bench material for each park.

Item 5d---Community Playground Surface Material---Barb referenced American Disabilities Act rules, year 2010 version. As handout sheets show, to be acceptable, the surface materials and layers below the surface materials must be considered as a unit. The Town’s playground equipment itself is not even compliant. Discussion followed. The question is, should we still put in place soft material on the ground to improve safety conditions, even though the remainder of the playground components are not compliant? Perhaps we should make the paths compliant, gradually upgrading our compliance features over time, while acknowledging that we are overall not yet compliant. Further discussion followed. Eric moved to purchase one hundred cubic yards of special chips, to be placed mostly surrounding play equipment near the Town offices. Excess chips can be stockpiled for future use. Rich seconded the motion. Motion carried. Cathy will discuss with Max, to determine a storage location, possible near the Town garage.

Item 6-New Business

Item 6a---Dead Trees at Little Horsehead Landing---Trees leaning over at the Little Horsehead landing need to be removed. They can be dealt with at the fall work day.

Item 6b---Wilderness Park Gate at Alternate Utility Entrance---The question has been raised whether or not to keep mostly closed the gates leading to Wilderness Park, which are accessed from Bayview Road. Generally, these gates are opened for access by maintenance equipment, and kept closed otherwise. The reason to leave gates always-

open presumably would be to offer access by vehicles owned by park visitors. Discussion followed focused upon whether or not to move, or remove, the boulders now preventing vehicle access from the main parking lot/boat launch maintaining a narrow access corridor through the gates, and considering whether or not to allow any visitor parking at all that would be accessed through the opened gates. If visitors were to enter the park, where would they go? Anywhere they felt like? Perhaps just to a small grass parking area in the park but located in the area just adjacent to the gates? Why would visitors need to drive into the park at all? Some observers claim that they have never seen the boat landing parking area completely full, and that walk-in visitors generally always can find room to park at the end of the launch parking area. Members are urged to visit Wilderness Park and report their findings at the August Parks and Rec meeting.

Item 6c---Annabelle Lake Landing Directional Sign---The Economic Development Committee is designing a directional sign helping to direct boaters to the Annabelle Lake boat landing. Discussion followed. Eric offered to report to members of the Presque Isle Town Lakes Committee (PITLC) that Parks and Rec is also discussing this directional sign.

Item 6d---Use of Mosquito Control Chemicals in Town Parks---Eric reported that many citizens have become concerned after seeing signs on lake shores of private properties that are advertising the application of mosquito treatments on those properties. The questions are, do these treatments put unwanted chemicals in lakewaters, and, if so, should affected lakes be sampled and tested? Eric mentioned some of the chemicals involved. They are highly effective in dilute doses, successful as pest control agents. The downside is that more creatures than mosquitoes are killed. Eric wondered if the Town should consider the question whether or not these substances should be used on Town properties. PITLC is currently considering the question of testing lake waters in the Town for presence of these substances. Discussion followed. Eric suggested that the Town should not yet be asked to consider the questions of chemical treatment on Town lands and lakewater testing. Rather, Eric will research this practice further. Perhaps, ultimately, PITLC would bring these questions to the Town Board.

Item 6e---Next Meeting is August 16, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Item 7-Meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Alan Drum
Secretary, Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee
Transcribed August 4, 2023

Between-Meeting Assignments Reminder

* Footnote Reminder Item 5c-Members visit Sensenbrenner and Pipke Parks-Note how many benches needed each park and what materials

* Footnote Reminder Item 6b-Members visit Wilderness Park-Suggest what to do about the open gate question