

Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021

Call to order—The regular meeting of the Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee was called to order by Chair, Barb Peck, at 10:02 A.M., March 17, 2021, in the Presque Isle town office large meeting room. Also present were committee members Al Drum, Eric Benn, Liaison Cathy Weber, New Committee member Brian Luetzow, and Lions President Steve Dimig as a member of the public. Rich Schmalzer did not attend. Welcome to Brian, attending his first Parks and Rec meeting.

Item 1-Approval of the minutes of February 17, 2021—Eric moved to approve the 02/17/2021 minutes, seconded by Al. Motion carried.

Item 2-Public Comment—None

Item 3-Correspondence

- Al mentioned that the Town Board accepted a bid totaling \$102,000 for the rebuilding of the Little Horsehead Lake boat landing.
- Eric reported that he has not heard further from Niccole Smith, of the DNR, who is coordinating a land use agreement between the DNR and the Town of Presque Isle for the Town's use of NHAL properties in Pipke Park.

Item 4-Old Business

Item a) Maintenance Projects---Eric distributed an updated table of maintenance projects to be managed by the Committee, having added a new column for "Status" of each project. Discussion then followed focusing on staining of the Pipke Park pavilion, and on the electric power capacity available at the pavilion. There are appliances and other equipment used at public gatherings requiring more amperage than is available at the pavilion. Electric power amperage capacity was also discussed at the softball diamond pavilion building. Higher voltage capacity, perhaps 220 volts, may be desirable. Eric continued discussing the table, pointing out that for Item 5, signage for the Community Center trail system, he had entered his name as Project Lead/Coordinator. Other items in the Table were discussed. For Number 11, the Annabelle Lake kiosk repair, Eric reported that he has discussed this item with Annabelle Lake Association, and that they are interested in pursuing this item. Further discussion followed regarding the maintenance projects table.

Item b) Main Street Development---The State Department of Transportation issued plans for the project last week. Bids have been opened. Only the center twenty-two feet of pavement will be rebuilt, thus leaving nine feet of original pavement along each edge of the road. The work will include a new gutter system with stormwater flow directed to a system of storm drains. Some electric poles have already been moved. A stormwater treatment station will be installed on vacant property on the westerly side of the road. The large culvert adjacent to the old dam on the Little Horsehead Lake outflow will close for one week this summer for replacement. Barb pointed out that lighting for the downtown area is still desired by many residents. Cathy suggested that the Chamber and Economic Development Committee develop and present to the Town Board any additional work they would like on Main Street. Eric suggested that the group may need help in developing this plan; Cathy followed by suggesting that the group should begin the initiative by developing a list of amenities and features desired, and recording and organizing them for presentation to the Town Board.

Item c) Pipke Park Beavers---A DNR forester visited Pipke Park and reported suggestions for dealing with beavers in a general, non-detailed fashion. Fencing for tree protection was discussed. In a following discussion, the nature of beaver activity and the types of trees favored by beavers was

discussed. Grass mowing along the impoundment berms to discourage bank infestation by critters was also talked about.

Item d) Pipke Park north pond muddy trail correction---Al reported that we have a proposed design sketch for a high groundwater drainage system to deal with the muddy trail problem. We'll send it to Quita Sheehan, County Lakes Specialist, for her comments. The cost for materials is estimated to be \$2600, with a total cost, including labor, likely to be over \$5000. We will ask Quita for leads to possible grant funding sources for the project. Steve Dimig suggested that we try to determine if a bypass trail to avoid the muddy portion could be developed instead of the drainage system. Al and Eric will look into this bypass idea.

Item e) Log pavilion repair job---Al reported that the engineer, Chuck Hunter, and the contractor, NASI, have been discussing the project between the two of them. Chuck has revised his plans to show three changes: 1) A two inch styrofoam pad will be placed under the overhanging portions of the twelve new pedestals to eliminate ground contact and possible frost heave damage; 2) Two existing 5/8 inch threaded rods will be left in place on the existing foundations to lock securely to the new pedestals; 3) The welded fixture joining the cut-off log columns to the new pedestals has been re-dimensioned for a better fit to the existing log columns. NASI plans to begin the project as soon as possible in April. This is important, so that the NASI work can be completed before a planned re-build of the upper Community Center parking lot begins. Cathy pointed out that we need to specify to the contractor, NASI, what stone style and size that we prefer for lining the new pedestals. Al and Cathy will follow up on this stonework question.

Item f) Stage for Music and other Programs---Many town groups are interested in this idea. Steve reported that the Lions are very interested; the band shelter is the Lions' #1 priority for offering monetary and other assistance to the town. Steve hopes that the Parks and Rec Committee can be an active player in fund raising and other factors leading to a successful effort. The Lions are putting together a list of design and usage features for this installation. The Lions have a sophisticated proposed rendering for the structure. Barb wondered whether or not Pipke Park, as a possible site, can provide the necessary parking capacity, and whether or not the structure can be positioned in the park without excessive tree cutting. Discussion followed, including the possibility of placing the structure along Main Street, near the former antique store.

Item g) Joint meeting with organizations/committees---The joint meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23, at 3:00 P.M., at the Presque Isle Community Building, large meeting room. Participants are expected to include the Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Committee, the Lions, Parks and Recreation Committee, the Heritage Foundation and the American Legion. Minutes will be recorded by the Parks and Recreation secretary.

Item 5-New Business

Item a) Peace Ordinance---Eric opened discussion by listing behavior that is criminal in nature that probably needs to be removed from municipal ordinances because the Town cannot effectively enforce against criminal behavior. Things like disorderly conduct, excessive noise are difficult to deal with in an ordinance. A major question is, "How do we write an ordinance so musical events can be held and not run afoul of excessive noise requirements?" Discussion followed, including the subject of reserving town facilities for private gatherings and events. Park rules and the reservation form were distributed for consideration, with further discussion. Eric discussed the process of ordinance creation principles and intent, adding comments about existing town ordinances and how those ordinances define and try to regulate nuisance sounds. Cathy discussed the permitting process for planned performances. Eric added that town ordinances dealing with "peace" need to be updated so public musical performances can be held. Further discussion regarding peace and noise, and regulation, followed. Barb suggested that we discuss town park rules and regulations on a future agenda.

Item b) Next Meeting---The next meeting will change from the usual pattern of "third

Wednesday”, and instead will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Item 6 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Drum

Secretary, Presque Isle Parks and Recreation Committee

Transcribed March 19, 2021

