**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

9:00 A.M. Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Present: Steve VanHouse Absent: Carol Youngberg

 Shane Hoff Vacancy

 Tracy Tiboni

 Jenny Bjerken

 Nathan Stadler

 Bryan Carpenter – Parks and Recreation Department

 Devon Monteith – Confidential Secretary

 Ben Bautch

VanHouse called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

**Board Chair Appointment –** Motion by Tiboni, second Bjerken nominate Steve VanHouse as Chair for the Parks and Recreation Board. MOTION CARRIED.

**Alternate Board Chair Appointment –** Motion by Stadler, second Bjerken to nominate Tracy Tiboni as Alternate Board Chair for the Parks and Recreation Board. MOTION CARRIED.

**Agenda** – Motion by Tiboni, second Bjerken to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

**Minutes** – Motion by Tiboni, second Stadler to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 regular meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS – None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

**Arena Update –** The arena was closed due to the Governors order but reopened January 4th. There was discussion on limited use of the facility, COVID-19 guidelines and mandates, including no congregating, outdoor rink being open with minimal use. There was further discussion on youth and high school hockey programs possibly extended into March and will continue to work with other local arenas for updates.

**Marina Update** – There was discussion of marina operations, a full waiting list for slips, staff is working with the DNR and other funding sources in an effort install an additional dock to accommodate the waiting list, and options for using emergency set-aside slips for rentals. There was additional discussion on the DNR maintenance contract and making amendments to the agreement in 2021.

**Black Beach Campground Update –** There was discussion on the operations of the campground, issues with vandalism, and staff working on improvements such as additional parking, extension of walking and bike paths to connect the campground sections, adding more picnic tables for large groups, recycling bins, dog bag dispensers to help maintain cleanliness, fencing to reduce dust and noise from ATV’s, and additional information/guidance sign installation. There was further review on staffing and advertising for the host and employees for 2021 and that the 2021 reservations started January 4th and have already received over $30,000 in pre-paid reservations.

**Winter Rec Programs –** There was discussion on youth hockey games starting after January 14th, open skate and men’s hockey have limited attendance, COVID-19 mandates for spectators, and staff is working with Amy VanHouse to set up the “Learn to Skate” Program starting next Friday.

**Arena Use this Winter –** The Indoor Arena is open under conditional use, with COVID-19 guidelines in place and staff continue to review for updates.

**Outdoor Rink Use this Winter and Future Plans –** The Board discussed expanding and improving the outdoor rink to include benches, a designated area for congregation, upgrading lighting, speakers, and a warming house or controlled fire pit to encourage winter use. There was further discussion on converting the lower parking lot area into a second outdoor rink to accommodate non-hockey users of all ages. In addition, members discussed additional uses for the indoor rink during the summer months such as roller skating/hockey and what would need to be done to make that an option, grant possibilities, and other funding options.

NEW BUSINESS

**Set 2021 Meeting Dates –** The Board reviewed the meeting dates for the 2021 year. Motion by Bjerken second, Stadler to approve the 2021 regular meeting dates of February 3rd, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th, June 9th, July 7th, August 4th, September 8th, October 6th, November 3rd, and December 8th at 9:00am. MOTION CARRIED.

**Board Vacancy –** There was discussion on the vacant position, advertising on social media and the Northshore Journal, and that it would be nice to find someone with a strong interest in campgrounds.

Motion by Bjerken, second Stadler to adjourn at 9:47 A.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Devon Monteith