

# PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

9:00 A.M.

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Present: Steve VanHouse  
Tracy Tiboni  
Shane Hoff  
Jenny Bjerken  
Nathan Stadler  
Dick Stern

Absent: Gene LaFond

Bryan Carpenter, Parks and Recreation Department

VanHouse called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

**Board Chair Appointment-** Motion by Stadler, second Tiboni to appoint Steve VanHouse as Board Chair. MOTION CARRIED.

**Alternate Board Chair Appointment –** Motion by Stadler, second Bjerken to appoint Tracy Tiboni as Alternate Board Chair. MOTION CARRIED.

**Agenda** – Motion by Tiboni, second Bjerken to approve the Agenda with addition of Senior Workshop. MOTION CARRIED.

**Minutes** – Motion by Bjerken, second Stadler to approve the minutes of the December 4th, 2024 regular meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

## **COMMUNICATIONS –**

**Public Comments Guidelines-** Board reviewed public comments guidelines that was approved by City Council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Arena Update** – Outdoor rink project is completed, pleasure skating has ice and improvements planned for next year. Discussion regarding rubber mats, picnic tables, fire ring and outdoor lights for skating area.

**Winter Programs-** Discussion regarding difficulty scheduling practices around programs. Open skate, adult hockey, and learn to skate programs are going well.

**Black Beach Campground-** Reservations opened on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, everything is running smoothly with 300-400 reservations currently booked. Discussion regarding signage, previous employee coming back for summer with possible adjusted hours, and the need for and expectations of a camp host. Consensus of the board is to hire Camp Host if applications are received.

**Youth Hockey Program-** Carpenter reports that teams are playing and doing well, work continues to even out practice times and games in both Two Harbors and Silver Bay areas. Tournaments are scheduled and Thunder Bay is now attending and playing games. VanHouse reported that there was a meeting with the Blue Line Club and he plans to meet with school

superintendent and athletic directors, in Silver Bay and Two Harbors, to promote working together and improve the North Shore Storm hockey program. Discussion regarding parent complaints, players from both schools wearing same uniform, and pushing to become one united team. Consensus of board is to continue working from top down to make improvements.

**5-Year Plan Review-** Discussion regarding prioritizing maintenance on existing buildings before building new ones, budget issues, contacting Lake County Rec Board for project funding. Bryan will update dates and present final copy at next meeting.

**Senior Workshop-** Work continues to finalize proposal thru Community Education, discussion regarding weekend access, security cameras, and old equipment sale/disposal. Cost estimates of fob access (\$800), cameras inside workshop (\$1500), and shelving for storage (\$400) could be paid from funds received in Smach memorial. Motion by Tiboni, second Stadler to recommend using funds from Smach memorial for upgrade expenses. MOTION CARRIED.

### **NEW BUSINESS –**

**Board Renewal- Steve VanHouse-** Motion by Bjerken, second Stadler to refer VanHouse renewal application to City Council for acceptance. MOTION CARRIED.

**Winter Camping-** It has been suggested to allow winter camping at the campground. Discussion regarding plowing the area without damaging sites, costs per night, open field parking with no amenities, generator noise, and additional work for city staff. Consensus of board is for Carpenter to create a survey to obtain potential interest on winter camping.

Motion by Bjerken, second Stadler to adjourn at 10:08 A.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson