

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

9:00 A.M.

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

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

Excused: Gene LaFond
Vacancy

Bryan Carpenter, Parks and Recreation Department
Lacey Shoen
Kristi Thompson
Erica Jensen
Mary (Muffy) Hoffman

Chair VanHouse called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda – Motion by Tiboni, second Bjerken to approve the Agenda with addition of Black Beach Parking Gate. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes – Motion by Stadler, second Bjerken to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 special meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS –

Public Comments- None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Arena Update – Carpenter reports staff has been cleaning and painting, new lighting has been installed, new outlet installed in score box with plans to enclose the box in an effort to control heat loss, and no leaks reported in the new roof area.

Spring Programs- Discussion on online registration, combining some youth softball and baseball programs with Two Harbors due to low numbers, collaborating with Cook County, coaching and parent help. The boy's baseball league has joined the Mesabi East league which will provide a better game schedule.

Black Beach Vendor/Event Policy- Discussion regarding who should create the policy, location for vendors to set up while staying off the path to the beach, and finding a designated location for vendors and/or food trucks to set up. Consensus of board is for Carpenter to monitor and bring any issues/concerns to board.

Marina- Mike Ettel of North Shore Boat Works is on site and ready to begin marina management on May 1st. It was noted that anyone who did not receive slip fee renewal letter, they now have until April 24th to get payment submitted. Carpenter met with MN DNR regarding the fuel system update and Dock C. Engineering is almost complete and ready to send out for bids regarding fuel system upgrade, construction will possibly begin late Summer. The temporary fuel system will

continue to be utilized during the Season. Dock C is moving forward, money is available and engineering has begun. Construction will likely take place next season.

Mariner Mtn. Dog Park- Erica Jensen provided an update on the proposed Dog Park. Mariner Mountain area is surrounded by residential and suboptimal so the committee is exploring other areas that would provide 2-3 acres, part sun/shade, non-residential, and walkable. Discussion regarding reaching out to Northshore Mining, Silver Bay Marina, and Lake County for potential sites.

Black Beach Parking Gate- Member Hoff provided an update regarding parking at Black Beach. After reaching out to vendors, his recommendation is Parking Box company who provide everything, including eight remote controls, with the exception of island, cable, and power at a cost of \$40,000. The proposed parking gate would be placed just past the campground office, a fee of \$5.00 would be charged in an effort to generate revenue. Free parking passes would be provided to residents of the city. Motion by Tiboni, second Bjerken to move ahead with Parking Box and Member Hoff gather more information and meet with engineers regarding best location and how to get power to proposed site. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS –

Garden Club- Kristi Thompson, Lacey Shoen, and Mary Hoffman would like to restart the Garden Club. Hoffman provided a brief update on the history of the Garden Club via records/scrapbooks at the Historical Society. The club was active in 1950's and the club not only beautified the city but did other projects such as cookbooks. Discussion regarding volunteers, fundraising, grant requirements, maintenance, and areas the garden club would like to improve, such as Welcome sign, flag area, lounge sign, Outer Drive, City Hall, and info center. Further discussion regarding putting information on social media and newspapers to gather interest and city potentially taking donations similar to fireworks donations. Motion by Bjerken, second Tiboni wo recommend to City Council support of the effort and creation of a Garden Club. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Bjerken, second Stadler to adjourn at 9:55 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson