

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

9:00 A.M.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Present:

Steve VanHouse

Tracy Tiboni

Nathan Stadler

Shane Hoff

Jenny Bjerken

Gene LaFond

Albertjan Plauten Van Afton

Excused:

Bryan Carpenter, Parks and Recreation Department

Alex Burcum

Phil Huston

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

Agenda – Motion by Bjerken, second by Tiboni to approve the agenda with the following changes: Removal of 5C Black Beacher Vendor/Events and the addition of 6E Flag and Display Lighting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Minutes – Motion by Tiboni, second by Bjerken to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2026 regular meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMUNICATIONS –

Public Comments- None

OLD BUSINESS

Arena Update – Carpenter reported that arena is being prepared for spring activities and programs. He also informed the board that there has been an inquiry received from North Shore Federal Credit Union to renew their advertisement on the arena Zamboni. There were some questions about the renewal process and it was decided to discuss the matter further at the next regular board meeting.

Spring Programs- Carpenter reported that spring programming was off to a good start, and there has been a strong interest in tee-ball, baseball, and softball. There was some discussion about how to handle registrations and payments in the future.

Marina- Carpenter reported that there have been some bumps with the transition to new marina management. Hoff commented on some of the observations he has made when visiting the arena and talking with Mike, the new manager. Carpenter will continue to follow up, but expressed confidence that the issues will get figured out.

Mariner Mtn. Dog Park- Burcum spoke about where the dog park project stood at this time. He explained that Cleveland Cliffs had been contacted about providing land for use, and they indicated they were not interested at this time. Burcum then discussed how he and his associates have identified Lot 4 Block 7 of the Industrial Park as a potential area of interest. The land is currently vacant and there are no known plans for the space in the immediate future. Burcum

indicated that the lot itself is approximately 7.8 acres in size, but a dog park would only use between two and three acres. Discussion was held on future possibilities for the lot, primarily centered around potential future campground expansion. It was also noted that the lot does have several areas that may be considered wetlands, which would need to be addressed before any future development could occur. Chair VanHouse suggested that Burcum contact Lake County Environmental Services regarding the wetlands question, once that is clarified, further discussion could be held.

Black Beach Parking Gate- Hoff commented that quotes had been received on installing a credit card capable parking gate, and that it appeared the cost of installing the gate would be \$50,000. Carpenter commented that the potential fees collected by the parking gate would likely off set the costs of installation within the first full year. LaFond asked if the gate could potentially help alleviate the congestion around the Black Beach Parking Lot, and improve the ability of emergency vehicles to reach the area when needed. The response was that it would generally aide with congestion, and also provide revenues to improve the parking situation as a whole. Carpenter did mention that initial conversations did seem to be pointing to Silver Bay residents being able to have parking permit at little or no cost, with the overwhelming bulk of the fees being assessed to people who reside outside of the area. Further discussion on the topic will be held at the next regular board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS –

Meeting Attendance- Members of the board were reminded that if they are unable to attend a meeting, that they should contact city staff. Several members noted that in general, attendance for the Parks and Recreation Board membership was quite good.

New Board Member- Van Afton took a few moments to introduce himself and what led him to apply for the board. Brief discussion was held on the application process change, but it was noted that it was at the direction of the City Attorney that board membership applications should be routed to the full city council and not through the impacted board.

Multi-Modal Trailhead Operations Policy and Rental Use Form- Members briefly reviewed the policy drafts that they had just received. There were several comments regarding the conflicts for use section. While it is understood that no one person or group should be allowed to monopolize use of the facility, cancelling the reservation for a private event to allow a community event instead, may create greater issues. Board members agreed to review the policies further and provide feedback and suggestions to city staff by Monday May 11th. It was also mentioned that there will likely need to be a special meeting of the board to approve policies for city council review if policies are to be in place by Memorial Day Weekend.

Flag and Display Lighting- Carpenter informed the board that he has obtained quotes for replacing flag lighting and lighting around the Rocky Taconite Statue, from Holden Electric. The cost for replacing the flag lights would be \$1,980 and the Rocky Taconite Statue lighting would be \$550. Carpenter indicated that the Rocky Taconite Statue lighting might be covered by insurance. Motion by Bjerken, second by Stadler to recommend council approval of the replacement of the flag lighting for the amount of \$1,980. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Bjerken, second by LaFond to adjourn at 10:10 a.m. MOTION CARRIED.