PRESQUE ISLE TOWNSHIP
Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge was recited.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Paige Mead, Vice Chair Kelsey Mitchell, Board Liaison Kate Szydlowski and member Karen Torsch.
Absent: None.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Szydlowski, supported by Mitchell, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes (4/27/26)

A motion was made by Szydlowski, supported by Mitchell, to approve the 4/27/26 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

a. Road Cleanup Recap
b. Summer Concerts
c. July 4 Picnic
d. New Walking Trail

Road Cleanup: The Committee reviewed the road cleanup event held on May 16, 2026. Members noted that sections of the roadside cleaned earlier in the season had accumulated a substantial amount of new litter. Members also discussed the potential for increased youth participation in future cleanup efforts.

Summer Concerts: The Committee discussed plans for the upcoming summer concert series. Torsch reported that the Township Board had approved two additional performances in August and confirmed that a complete list of scheduled bands had been included in the meeting packets. It was also noted that concerts will be held every Wednesday from July 1 through August 12.

Szydlowski reported that four of the si~~x~~ **seven** scheduled performers had submitted signed contracts. She further noted that performer payments could be approved at the June Board meetings as contracts are received.

It was suggested that distribution of flyers and posting of the concert schedule on Facebook be delayed until all signed contracts have been submitted. Committee members indicated that they would ask staff to target mid-June for completion and distribution of promotional materials. Mitchell offered to assist with the design, if needed.

July 4 Picnic: The Committee considered plans for the annual Fourth of July picnic scheduled for Saturday, July 4, 2026. Members reviewed menus from previous years and discussed

whether to continue serving only hot dogs or to add an additional entrée option. It was noted that the kitchen at Garrity Hall is certified for food preparation, providing the Committee with greater flexibility in meal planning.

Following discussion, members agreed to continue serving hot dogs and to add pulled pork as a second entrée option this year. Additional menu items will include coleslaw, baked beans, chips, cookies, and beverages. Members further agreed that if a previously requested donation from Pepsi is not received, lemonade and bottled water will be served instead.

The Committee also discussed expected attendance and agreed to plan for approximately 300 attendees. Members also reviewed volunteer availability and determined that serving food directly to attendees would improve efficiency and help with portion control.

With no further discussion, the Committee agreed to revisit budget approval at the next meeting once cost estimates have been finalized.

New Walking Trail: Mead reported that she had met with Township Treasurer and former Parks and Recreation Committee Board Liaison Jennifer Wieczorkowski to discuss the proposed trail development located across from Township Hall. It was noted that the project has a $30,000 budget funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, which must be expended by the end of the year. It was further noted that tree clearing will be completed by Tim Wieczorkowski of Grand Lake Tree Service at the cost of fuel only, and that Amrize will donate fill material for the parking lot.

Members then discussed potential park features beyond the initial trail and parking lot development. Suggestions included a zip line, a climbing structure for older children, nature-themed musical instruments, educational tree signage, art installations, and a wooden “megaphone” feature. The Committee also discussed funding opportunities for future improvements, including fundraising efforts, grants, community involvement, and donations from local businesses such as Home Depot or Ace Hardware.

Members agreed to develop a prioritized list of potential improvements to guide the use of any remaining funds after completion of the parking lot and tree clearing. To assist with

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planning, the Committee scheduled a group site walk for Saturday, May 30, at 10:00 a.m. to review the property, identify boundaries, and begin evaluating potential trail routes and feature locations.

New Business:

a. Christmas Tree Orders

b. Increasing Donations Discussion

Christmas Trees: The Committee discussed Christmas tree orders for the 2026 season. Szydlowski reported that 30 trees were ordered in 2025, of which 18 were sponsored and 12 remained unsold. Based on last year's participation, members considered reducing the number of trees ordered for this year's lighting ceremony. Following discussion, it was agreed to order 20 trees.

Increasing Donations: Members discussed ways to enhance fundraising efforts for the new trail development. Suggestions included developing a visual display of the proposed project to better illustrate how contributions would be utilized. The Committee also discussed implementing electronic donation options, such as Venmo, and agreed to consult with Township Treasurer Jennifer Wieczorkowski on the matter.

Reports:

Board Liaison – K. Szydlowski
Facilities Manager – M. Bedard
Committee Chair – P. Mead
Vice Chair – K. Mitchell
Member – Karen Torsch

a. Szydlowski stated that her report items had already been covered.
b. A written report was submitted by Bedard.
c. No report.
d. No report.
e. Torsch noted that the items in her report had been previously discussed.

Audience Comments

Presque Isle Township Museum Society (PITMS) President Mary Tagliareni reported on recent developments, including:

- The purchase of a new back door for the 1905 Keeper's House.
- An upcoming educational program for third-grade students from Sanborn and Wilson Elementary Schools.
- A new exhibit featuring a 1945 hand-drawn map of Grand Lake.
- An upcoming exhibit on the VRB-25 lighthouse beacon.

Following her report, members responded to questions from attendees interested in serving on the Committee. Discussion included the appointment process, meeting schedule, compensation, and member responsibilities. It was noted that the Committee is seeking up to three new members, and that

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appointment recommendations will be considered at the upcoming Township Board meeting on June 8. With no further discussion, contact information was collected from interested individuals for submission to Township Supervisor Steve Lang, who will be recommending appointments for Township Board approval.

Adjournment: 7:17 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, 6/29/26, at 6:00 p.m.