PRESQUE ISLE TOWNSHIP
Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
June 29, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

Change in Membership

Devon Idalski was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee at the Presque Isle Township Board of Trustees meeting on June 8, 2026.

Call to Order

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge was recited.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Paige Mead, Board Liaison Kate Szydlowski and members Karen Torsch and Devon Idalski.
Absent: Vice Chair Kelsey Mitchell (arrived 6:03 p.m.)

Election of Secretary

Following a brief discussion of the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary position, a motion was made by Szydlowski, supported by Torsch, to appoint Devon Idalski as Secretary of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes (5/26/26)

Torsch requested a correction to the minutes under **Unfinished Business – Summer Concerts**, changing "four of the six scheduled performers" to "four of the seven scheduled performers."

A motion was made by Szydlowski, supported by Mead, to approve the May 26, 2026, meeting minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

a. **Summer Concerts**
b. **July 4 Picnic**
c. **New Walking Trail**

Summer Concerts: Torsch reported that preparations for the concert were complete and noted that she would be unavailable for the July 8 concert. She requested that another committee member deliver the payment and sponsor list to performer Steve Rea on her behalf. Mitchell and Idalski both volunteered to do so.

Torsch also presented a photo of the newly designed concert banner to the Committee. Members expressed their approval of the banner's design.

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July 4 Picnic: The committee discussed plans for the Fourth of July picnic scheduled for Saturday, July 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the New Lighthouse. Szydlowski reported that food and supplies had been ordered through Gordon Food Service and provided an overview of the estimated costs.

Members also discussed food warming options. Based on prior experience and cost considerations, the committee agreed to use disposable Sterno chafing units for this year's event and to consider reusable warming equipment for future events.

The committee further discussed the possibility of hiring a food truck for future picnics to reduce volunteer workload and agreed to revisit the idea at a later meeting.

The committee also reviewed activities for the picnic, including a horse-drawn wagon ride. Following discussion, members agreed to offer the wagon ride for this year's event and to explore additional family activities, such as an inflatable bounce house, when planning next year's picnic.

Event logistics were then reviewed, and it was agreed that available members would meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 4, at the New Lighthouse to assist with setup.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Mead, supported by Mitchell, to approve a budget not to exceed $1,700 for the Fourth of July picnic. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Walking Trail: The Committee continued discussion regarding the proposed trail system with Mark Straley of R.S. Scott Engineering and Matt Bedard, Township Facilities and Projects Manager. Members reaffirmed their vision of developing a family-friendly, educational, nature-based trail system that preserves the site's natural features and allows for future expansion.

Mr. Straley and Mr. Bedard advised the Committee to first develop a clear project concept before proceeding and emphasized the importance of beginning with the desired end result in mind to avoid costly design changes later in the process. They also recommended considering the following during project planning:

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1. Completing an environmental review through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) before construction.
2. Defining the anticipated trail uses.
3. Evaluating parking needs.
4. Assessing driveway placement and construction costs.
5. Addressing ADA accessibility requirements.

The Committee reviewed a preliminary conceptual drawing submitted by Mead and discussed revisions, including relocating the play area away from the parking lot and reducing the number of trail connections leading into the parking area.

Mitchell reported that the local high school had expressed interest in assisting with the construction of a nature megaphone. She also advised the Committee that Home Depot had indicated it had made scrap wood donations in the past and that she had already obtained the design plans for the megaphone.

As a result of the discussion, the Committee agreed to develop a vision board, further refine the project concept, conduct a public hearing after the concept has been established, and then submit the finalized concept to an engineering firm for preparation of a conceptual site plan to be presented to the Township Board of Trustees.

The Committee concluded the agenda item by thanking Mr. Straley and Mr. Bedard for their guidance and recommendations.

New Business

None.

Reports

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

a. No report.
b. A written report was submitted by Bedard.
c. No report.
d. No report.
e. No report.

Audience Comments

The Committee heard comments from two (2) audience members.

1. Presque Isle Township Planning Commission Vice Chair and Tree Committee member Stacy Holmén informed members that the Tree Committee will host a booth at

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the Fourth of July picnic featuring activities and prizes for children.

2. Staff informed the Committee that a resident survey used to inform the Township Master Plan is available on the Township website under the Planning Commission page.

Adjournment: 7:46 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, 7/27/26, at 6:00 p.m.