PRESQUE ISLE TOWNSHIP
Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
August 24, 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, Secretary Devon Idalski, Board Liaison Kate Szydlowski and member Karen Torsch.
Absent: None.

Approval of Agenda:

Torsch requested that **Summer Concerts** be added to the agenda under Unfinished Business. A motion was made by Szydlowski, supported by Idalski, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approval of Minutes (7/27/26 and 8/20/26)

A motion was made by Mead, supported by Szydlowski, to postpone approval of the August 20, 2026, meeting minutes until the next meeting scheduled for September 28. The motion was approved by consensus.

A motion was made by Mead, supported by Mitchell, to approve the July 27, 2026, meeting minutes. The motion was approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business:

a. Special Meeting Recap
b. Labor Day Picnic
c. Summer Concerts

Special Meeting Recap: The Committee reviewed the special meeting held on August 20, 2026, to receive public input regarding the proposed park development. Mead noted that the meeting generated substantial community feedback and identified potential options and resources for moving forward. The Committee agreed that further discussion of fundraising opportunities and grants for the park would take place later in the agenda.

Idalski reported contacting Huron Engineering to obtain a second estimate for engineering services for the proposed park, in addition to the estimate Supervisor Steve Lang requested from R.S. Scott. The Committee agreed that Lang would be informed of the inquiry.

Labor Day Picnic: The Committee discussed plans for the Labor Day Picnic scheduled for Saturday, September 5, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Members reviewed the food and supplies needed for the event and agreed on a menu of hot dogs, chips, cookies, bottled water, and baked beans. Following

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discussion, the Committee determined that 80 hot dogs would be appropriate for this year's event.

A motion was made by Mead, supported by Idalski, to approve a budget of up to $600 for food and supplies for the Labor Day Picnic. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Summer Concerts: The Committee discussed the 2026 summer concert series and conveyed its appreciation for Torsch's efforts in organizing the event. The Committee also voiced support for Torsch continuing to coordinate the concert series next year.

New Business:

a. Fall Road Cleanup
b. Fundraising and Grants
c. Autumn Lights Festival and Chili Cook-off
d. Christmas Tree Sponsors

Fall Road Cleanup: The Committee confirmed member availability for the fall road cleanup scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Fundraising and Grants: The Committee discussed potential fundraising and grant opportunities for the proposed park. Mead reported meeting with a representative involved in the Rogers City Art Walk to discuss potential funding sources, artists, and other resources for incorporating art into the park. She noted that Rogers City has utilized Patronicity, a civic crowdfunding program that may provide State matching funds of up to $50,000, and suggested it as a potential funding source for art and educational components of the park.

Mead also reported receiving recommendations for potential artists, including Michigan artist Ivan Eiler, who creates interactive metal sculptures, and local artist Brady Myers, whose work could depict local birds, plants, trees, and other natural features as part of educational signage or displays.

Idalski reported speaking with Dan Perreault, a Licensed Landscape Architect and Certified Inclusive Play Specialist with Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc. She stated that while nature-play playgrounds can cost up to $250,000, Perreault indicated that his company could work within the Township's available budget and incorporate natural materials donated or available on or near the property. Idalski also noted that Perreault had offered to visit the property to provide further input.

The Committee also discussed a preliminary fundraising goal of $75,000 to $100,000 and agreed that the range appeared

feasible, subject to adjustment based on available grants, donations, project costs, and community interest. Mitchell also noted the possibility of obtaining donated cedar trees for the project.

Mead emphasized the importance of developing a clear vision for the park and using informational materials and visual aids at Township events and fundraising activities to better explain the proposed park concept and encourage community support. She further suggested having a Committee representative stationed at such events to answer questions and engage with residents.

No formal action was taken.

Autumn Lights Festival: The Committee discussed plans for the Autumn Lights Festival and Chili Cook-Off scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., including children's crafts, games, and a menu of chili, cider, and donuts. It was agreed that Mitchell would coordinate the children's crafts, and Szydlowski would obtain prizes for the chili cook-off, as they had done the previous year. Mitchell also agreed to provide craft options for consideration at the September 28 meeting.

Christmas Tree Sponsors: The Committee next discussed plans for the annual Christmas tree sponsorship program and lighting ceremony, including a proposed sponsorship letter and flyer submitted by staff. Members noted that the letter and flyer would be sent to previous sponsors as an invitation to renew their sponsorship.

The Committee also discussed the number of trees available for sponsorship and agreed to reduce the number from 30 to 20 based on participation the previous year. The Committee considered increasing the $60 sponsorship fee but agreed to maintain the current cost and revisit the topic next year.

Members also discussed ways to increase participation in tree decorating, including a possible competition, and agreed to consider the matter at a future meeting.

Reports:

None.

Audience Comments

The Committee next heard comments from two (2) audience members, including former Township Parks and Recreation Committee member Lynn Morrison, regarding the proposed park development. The issues raised included traffic on Dault Road,

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noise, parking, and potential risks related to the site's topography and hunting on surrounding properties. Morrison also recommended pursuing an extension of the Township's existing bike path due to bicycle safety concerns along East Grand Lake Road. He noted that approximately $9,000 may remain in an existing bike-path fund and encouraged the Committee to explore available funding opportunities. Morrison also commended Karen Torsch for her work on the summer concert series.

Following discussion, Mead thanked the audience members for their comments and noted that their concerns would be considered as the planning process continues.

Adjournment: 7:25 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:
Regular Meeting: Mon., Sep. 28, 2026, 6:00 p.m.