PRESQUE ISLE TOWNSHIP
Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge was recited.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Paige Mead, Board Liaison Kate Szydlowski and member Karen Torsch.
Absent: Vice Chair Kelsey Mitchell and Secretary Devon Idalski.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mead, supported by Szydlowski, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approval of Minutes (8/20/26 and 8/24/26)

A motion was made by Szydlowski, supported by Torsch, to approve the meeting minutes for August 20, 2026, and August 24, 2026. The motion was approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business

a. **Labor Day Picnic Recap**
b. **Fall Road Cleanup Recap**
c. **Autumn Lights**
d. **Christmas Tree Sponsors**
e. **Park Development**

Labor Day Picnic Recap: The Committee discussed the Labor Day picnic held on September 5. It was noted that 80 hot dogs were initially prepared for the event, but additional hot dogs had to be purchased due to attendance. Szydlowski reported that the picnic generated $387 in donations against expenses of $265.57. Members agreed to discuss at a future meeting whether to continue the picnic or use the resources for other events.

Fall Road Cleanup Recap: The Committee discussed the fall road cleanup. It was noted that only Committee members participated and that the work was completed in approximately two hours.

Autumn Lights: The Committee discussed preparations for the Autumn Lights Festival and Chili Cook-Off including supplies and event logistics.

A motion was made by Mead, supported by Torsch to approve up to $1,000 for food and supplies. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

Christmas Tree Sponsors: The Committee discussed Christmas tree sponsorships for the upcoming tree lighting. Szydlowski reported that eighteen (18) sponsorships remained available. It was confirmed that any remaining sponsorships would be offered to the public after the deadline for previous sponsors had passed.

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Park Development: Szydlowski recused herself due to a conflict of interest while Mead and Torsch discussed bids for engineering services related to the proposed park development. The members reviewed a proposal from Huron Engineering in the amount of $27,200 for the base scope of work, with additional services available at an additional cost. Mead noted that the bid was significantly higher than the quote received from R.S. Scott. It was further noted that with Szydlowski recused, the Committee did not have a quorum to take action on either proposal.

The Committee discussed options for considering the proposals prior to its next meeting on October 26. Members agreed to schedule a special meeting for Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., pending the availability of the other members.

Presque Isle Township Facilities and Projects Manager Matt Bedard then addressed the Committee and distributed correspondence from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) confirming that no EGLE permit was required for the project. Bedard reported that he reviewed the project site with an EGLE representative, who determined that the project would have no impact on wetlands or other regulated resources.

Mead noted that Township Supervisor and Zoning Administrator Steve Lang planned to contact Huron Pines regarding a site visit to assess plant species and other natural features on the property. She stated that she would follow up with Lang to determine whether the visit had been scheduled.

With no further discussion, the Committee thanked Bedard for the update and his work on the project.

New Business

a. PITMS Event Requests

PITMS Event Requests: The Committee reviewed event requests submitted by Presque Isle Township Museum Society (PITMS) President Mary Tagliareni who indicated that PITMS would provide an additional craft table at the Autumn Lights Festival to offer more activities for children. Tagliareni also provided an October events flyer to the Committee featuring the Autumn Lights Festival, Old Lighthouse Stroll, and Trunk or Treat.

A motion was made by Szydlowski, supported by Mead, to approve the event requests. The motion was approved by consensus.

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The Committee then discussed the removal and disposal of seasonal decorations following the Autumn Lights Festival, including pumpkins, hay bales, and corn stalks.

The Committee also raised concerns about having enough staff to maintain an additional park. Township Facilities and Projects Manager Matt Bedard stated that the additional maintenance would not be excessive and could be handled by current staff.

Reports — No reports.

Audience Comments — No audience comments.

Adjournment — 6:35 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:
Regular Meeting: Mon., Oct. 26, 2026, 6:00 p.m.