PRESQUE ISLE TOWNSHIP
Parks and Recreation Minutes – Draft
October 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, Secretary Devon Idalski, Board Liaison Kate Szydlowski, and member Karen Torsch.

Absent: Vice Chair Kelsey Mitchell (arrived 6:04 p.m.)

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mead, supported by Idalski, to add **Christmas in Presque Isle** to New Business. A motion was made by Mead, supported by Idalski, to add **Park Engineering** to New Business. A motion was made by Idalski, supported by Mead, to add **Bike Path** to New Business. The agenda, as amended, was approved by consensus.

Approval of September 28, 2026, and October 6, 2026, Minutes

A motion was made by Szydlowski, supported by Mead, to approve the September 28, 2026, and October 6, 2026, meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Unfinished Business

a. **Autumn Lights Festival and Chili Cook-Off Recap**

   The Committee reviewed the Autumn Lights Festival and Chili Cook-Off held on Saturday, October 10, 2026. Eight contestants participated in the cook-off, fewer than the previous year. It was also noted that all donuts, cider, and chili were consumed before the event ended. Szydlowski reported that donations totaled $249.

   Mitchell identified cups, knives, and chips as supplies that will need to be replenished. She also reported that sufficient spoons and Styrofoam cups remained in stock for next year.

   The Committee also discussed suggestions for improving next year's event, including live music, face painting, a raffle, a question-and-answer table, and the promotion of tree sponsorships. The Committee considered offering larger prizes, such as gift cards or donated gift baskets, to encourage participation. Additional fundraising suggestions included placing donation boxes in more locations and offering electronic donation options, although limited Wi-Fi access was noted as a concern. The possibility of eliminating the Labor Day picnic and reallocating those funds toward expanding the

festival was also discussed. Szydlowski agreed to provide an update on the remaining Parks and Recreation budget at the next meeting.

The Committee also considered ways to improve event advertising. Torsch reported contacting a local radio station, while members noted limited sharing of the Township's Facebook announcement. Szydlowski suggested recruiting a new Committee member with advertising experience. The Committee also discussed assigning specific responsibilities among members going forward. Mead suggested addressing assignments at the next meeting, and Idalski encouraged members to consider what roles and responsibilities would be needed.

b. Christmas Tree Sponsors

Szydlowski reported that approximately ten Christmas tree sponsorships had been purchased, with ten remaining. She stated that 21 trees had been ordered and were expected to arrive on November 18. Maintenance staff had been notified of the reduced number of trees expected this year.

The Committee discussed strategies to encourage additional sponsorships, including approaching local businesses. Members also discussed difficulties sponsors experienced reaching the trees for decorating due to heavy snowfall the previous year and suggested consulting with maintenance staff about placing trees closer to the road.

c. Park Development

Szydlowski reported that, at its October 12, 2026, meeting, the Board of Trustees approved R.S. Scott Engineering to perform work on the park development. Mead inquired whether Township Supervisor Steve Lang had contacted Huron Pines regarding an environmental study of the property. Szydlowski was unable to confirm whether contact had been made but agreed to follow up.

A motion was made by Mead, supported by Szydlowski, to recommend that the Board of Trustees allocate the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds toward an environmental study to be conducted by Huron Pines. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

a. November Meeting Rescheduling

The Committee discussed changing the date and time of its next meeting but decided to maintain the regular schedule. Members agreed to meet at the New Lighthouse Park on Sunday, November 29, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. to decorate the Township Christmas tree.

b. Christmas in Presque Isle

Presque Isle Township Museum Society President Mary Tagliareni discussed plans for the festivities preceding the Christmas Tree Lighting scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2026.

A motion was made by Mead, supported by Szydlowski, to approve the Presque Isle Women's Club's use of Garrity Hall on Saturday, December 5, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mead, supported by Torsch, to approve an expenditure of up to $300 for a horse-drawn carriage rental for the holiday festivities on Saturday, December 5, 2026. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Park Engineering

Mead noted that the item had already been discussed during Unfinished Business.

d. Bike Path

The Committee discussed potential improvements for the proposed park, including an extension of the existing Township bike path to connect with the new park and a small recreational biking area for children. Mead noted that grant funding may be available through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Idalski reported that discussions with the Department of Natural Resources identified no restrictions on developing the proposed park near hunting areas. However, the Committee recommended closing the park during hunting season as a safety precaution.

Idalski also reported that Dan Perrault of Michigan Recreational Construction had agreed to assess the property. Mead requested conceptual plans outlining potential development options at estimated budgets of $200,000 and $300,000. The Committee also discussed seeking community contributions once preliminary plans are available to present to residents.

Reports

No reports.

Adjournment

7:34 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, November 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.