



Parks & Recreation Office
901 Montana Avenue
May 6, 2025
6:30 pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Gary Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Wendy Taavola called roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Cathy Sjoquist
Gary Stevenson
Bob Bosk
Anne Pfotenhauer
John DeFiore

ABSENT

Roger Aho
Jay Bostwick

STAFF PRESENT

Wendy Taavola, Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Beauvais, representative of Gladstone Area Pickleball, introduced himself.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member DeFiore pointed out the following errors in the minutes.

1. Addition of John DeFiore as PRESENT
2. Addition of "and revisiting rental fees." after "Member DeFiore discussed kayak rentals in the harbor" in the 4th bulleted item under NEW BUSINESS, City Master Plan.
3. Addition of "and stump" after "Member DeFiore also initiated as discussion regarding tree" in the 6th bulleted item under NEW BUSINESS, City Master Plan.
4. Addition of "John DeFiore: No Comment" under BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS.

Motion made to approve minutes of April 4, 2025 meeting with the correction of the four errors, by Stevenson, seconded by Pfotenhauer.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Gladstone Area Pickleball Use Agreement – Member DeFiore initiated discussions on the first section of the document headlined: Under the direction of Gladstone Area Pickleball's Board of Directors, Gladstone Area Pickleball will be responsible for the following:

Item #1: Member DeFiore asked for clarification of the Gladstone Pickleball Courts Maintenance Plan referenced in the use agreement. It was stated that the maintenance plan document was in the agenda packet for this meeting.

Item #4: Member DeFiore asked if there is a set schedule for “organized court play programming and scheduling”. Mr. Beauvais stated that club play is every morning until noon, which is for members of Gladstone Area Pickleball. He also stated that the public is not precluded from playing during these times, but play is organized by court and people who wanted to play are asked to play within these parameters. Member Stephenson inquired about the situation of a tourist or a member of the public showing up during this time, would they have to join the club, or would a court be open for them. Mr. Beauvais stated that there would not be a public court during this time, but there would be a beginners/novice/social court organized by the club. They could join in the club rotations.

Member Stephenson stated that the prime time for play is during the cooler mornings. Mr. Beauvais stated that the wind is usually a bigger issue, but they are installing windscreens soon. Mr. DeFiore inquired, “What prevents the club from freeing up a court for public who do not want to play with the club?” Mr. Beauvais explained that the club could have twenty people waiting to play at a time and leaving one court open would not make sense. Member Sjoquist suggested that the club could use all of the courts, but if someone shows up to play on their own or even volley, open a court up for them.

The discussion moved on to issues that have been brought to the attention of the board and the department of the conduct of some of the players of the club. Mr. Beauvais informed the board that the club now has a Code of Conduct policy and an advisory council to enforce it. It was agreed that all the issues brought to the board members will be brought to the Director, who will take them to the club code of conduct advisory council. Mr. Beauvais offered to give the department the Code of Conduct policy document and contact information of the advisory council. Member Bosk requested the club play rules be posted at the courts.

Director Taavola emphasized the need for one court to be designated, PUBLIC OPEN PLAY COURT, during club play. This should be posted on the court. The board and Mr. Beauvais agreed to this and also that a 30-minute limit should be posted to avoid extended waiting times for groups wanting to use the court.

Item # 5: Member DeFiore stated that a minimum timeframe of when tournament or special event schedule should be submitted to the city. The board and Mr. Beauvais agreed on submitting the scheduled to the city a minimum of two weeks prior to the tournament or special event.

Item #6: Donations made directly to the city would be managed by the city.

Item #8: Mr. Beauvais and the board agreed that the courts should be open from May 1st – September 30th weather permitting. Agreement was made on the courts being open from dawn to dusk during these dates.

PUBLIC FACILITY OPERATION:

Item #3 Annual membership fee of Gladstone Area Pickleball is \$20, no daily fee.

Member DeFiore also stated that this agreement be reviewed on an annual basis. Mr. Beauvais expressed his concern about future use of the courts by the club. The agreement will not be revoked for unsubstantiated reasons.

Member Stephenson requested the club be accommodating to more open public play during baseball tournaments at the Sports Park. A bullet point will be added to the document stating the city shall submit a request to the club during tournaments.

The board thanked Mr. Beauvais for coming to the meeting and for heading up the project. The courts are a great addition to the Sports Park. The changes to the document will be made by Director Taavola for approval at the next meeting.

Pram Shack and Sail School Update – Troy Drebenstedt presented the design plans for the Pram Shack project. The design plans are close to complete with the exception of engineered trusses. All three engineered truss quotes have not been received as of this meeting. The truss documentation is required for the county building permit. The building will have power, no water. The project should be built in June.

Mr. Drebenstedt also updated the board on the 2025 Sail School program. The Sail School board has The program will have 2 one-week classes, and possibly a third week focusing on sail racing partnering with the Escanaba Yacht Club. Week one would be for intermediate/advanced students and the second week for beginners. The program was successful last summer, and it seems to be gaining popularity

Mr. Drebenstedt expressed the desire of the Sail School board to keep the cost low for attending sail school. This creates a need for fundraising for the program. There are plans for fundraising on the 4th of July and in the future each spring.

Member Sjoquist inquired about the plans for land mooring near the pram shack and security. Mr. Drebenstedt stated that the plan is for 5 or 6 land mooring sites. The need for security cameras may come up in the future.

Mr. Drebenstedt thanked the board for their time.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws – Department and Board Responsibilities – Chair Sjoquist made a motion for the board to table this topic for discussion next meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Concessions at the Snack Shack are up and running. The department has 11 seasonal workers assigned to the concessions. A seasonal employee starts tomorrow and will be dedicated to maintenance at the Sports Park. The department continues to receive applications for seasonal employees. The department seasonals in the following areas: 8 in the parks, one sports park maintenance, two for full-time harbor coverage, and 4 for the campground office. There is still a need for campground grounds maintenance.

Fourth of July parade and vendor applications will be on the website soon. The department is working on the planning of the celebration.

Opening the parks this season has brought some plumbing issues to light for future project planning.

The Native American Statue Pavilion project should be starting soon.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Anne Pfotenhauer: No comments

Roger Aho: No comments

Gary Stevenson: Stevenson said that all of the work done this spring at the campground looked nice. He stated that there was an article in the paper about a wilderness trail grant used by the City of Escanaba. Stevenson also inquired about phase 3 in the harbor. Director Taavola stated that the harbor project plans are not complete, and the project will be moved to next spring,

Bob Bosk: Bosk asked if we needed more flower bulbs. Member Sjoquist stated that they can be put on the side of the building.

Cathy Sjoquist: Sjoquist asked if the boat launch tags are the same color each year. Director Taavola stated that they are different each year. Sjoquist also stated that the conservation district has been planting trees in Ludington Park in Escanaba and they would also like to continue the project in Van Cleve. The campground subcommittee (Roger Aho, Cathy Sjoquist, and Kathy Pepin) met. The campground needs a new ice machine. The campground website should include information about the Pepins. They have been hosts at the campground for many years. The “no fishing” signs should be made more visible in the harbor.

John DeFiore: DeFiore inquired about whether there was going to be a meeting on the trees in the park. The dock that is being repaired at the boat launch should be priority, one dock will not be enough all season. He also asked if the transient docks will be reset.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, Pfotenhauer motioned; Aho seconded to adjourned meeting at 8:55 pm.