



GLADSTONE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Parks & Recreation Office - 901 Montana Avenue

March 03, 2026

6:30 PM

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [1.](#) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 11.11.25 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
- [2.](#) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 1.6.26 WORK SESSION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- [3.](#) 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

NEW BUSINESS

- [4.](#) RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER EXPIRATIONS - ROGER AHO, GARY STEVENSON
- [5.](#) FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE - USA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY
- [6.](#) BRUCE MOVALSON SLIP LEASE
- [7.](#) METAL DETECTION POLICY REVIEW
- [8.](#) 2026 FEE SCHEDULE REVIEW

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BOARD COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT



Parks & Recreation Office
901 Montana Avenue
November 11, 2025
6:30 pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Cathy Sjoquist called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Wendy Taavola called roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Gary Stevenson
Bob Bosk
Cathy Sjoquist
Roger Aho
Cathy Sjoquist
John DeFiore
Jay Bostwick

ABSENT

Anne Pfothenauer

STAFF PRESENT

Wendy Taavola, Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve minutes of August 5, 2025, meeting by Bosk seconded by Bostwick.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

The board discussed the Sports Park Pickleball Courts Use Agreement final draft. A motion was made to approve the Sports Park Pickleball Courts Use Agreement by DeFiore seconded by Stevenson.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Rick Elrod of the DCN Trails presented the Gladstone Sports Park Bike Park Proposal to the board. A motion to support the DCN Trails Proposal for the Gladstone Community Bike Park to further develop this project was made by Bostwick seconded by Aho.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Taavola updated the board on the exterior and interior painting completed at the ski chalet, the successful year at the campground, the closing of the harbor and department's plans to move on to the winter season.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Gary Stephenson: Mr. Stephenson inquired about the DDA tree project on Delta Avenue and if the department would be compensated for the extra work, including equipment costs.

Bob Bosk: Mr. Bosk inquired about the status of the Harbor Project. Director Taavola informed the group that we are still on track for the Spring of 2026. A conversation was held regarding the status of the Yacht Club lease. Mr. Bosk also questioned whether the department had started to prepare the ski chalet for opening, if there had been any movement on the Jones Property lease, and if the bike path fountain was repaired. Director Taavola stated that the department will be setting up the chalet in the coming week, there were no updates on the Jones Property lease, and the bike bath fountain was repaired. Mr. Bosk also asked to invite Public Safety to a future meeting to talk about E-bikes.

Cathy Sjoquist: Ms. Sjoquist inquired about a possible partnership with Norway Mountain for the ski season. Director Taavola stated that she reached out to Norway Mountain staff but have not heard back. Ms. Sjoquist also initiated a discussion with the board regarding a letter received by the City from David Fairbanks.

Roger Aho: Mr. Aho inquired about the barrier wall at the beach and whether the department was planning to extend the wall further. Director Taavola informed the board that the department plans to continue the wall project next summer with another section.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, Stevenson motioned; Bosk seconded to adjourned meeting at 7:32 pm.



Parks & Recreation Office
901 Montana Avenue
January 6, 2026
6:30 pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Cathy Sjoquist called the work session to order at 6:30pm. Wendy Taavola called roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Gary Stevenson
Bob Bosk
Cathy Sjoquist
Anne Pfothhauer
Cathy Sjoquist
John DeFiore
Jay Bostwick

ABSENT

Roger Aho

STAFF PRESENT

Wendy Taavola, Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WORK SESSION

Director Taavola reviewed the department's plans for upcoming budget season with the board followed by a back-and-forth discussion gathering input from the group. Director Taavola also updated the board of a new meeting schedule to be implemented by the department after discussions with the interim city manager. The board meeting schedule will be changed to bimonthly meetings moving forward in efforts to increase efficiency for the department. The next meeting will be on March 3, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, Bostwick motioned; Stevenson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meetings2025 Meeting Dates

January 6th

March 3th

May 5th

July 7th

September 1st

November 3rd

All meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of every other month at
6:30 PM in the Parks & Rec Building.

Board Members:

Gary Stevenson (2026)

John DeFiore (2027)

Anne Pfothenhauer (2028)

Jay Bostwick (2027)

Bob Bosk (2028)

Cathy Sjoquist (2028)

Roger Aho (2026)



Board:	Recreation Advisory Board
Agenda Date:	March 3, 2026
Department:	Recreation
Presenter:	Wendy Taavola, Director

Staff Report

Agenda Item Title:

Fourth of July Committee – USA's 250th Birthday

Background:

This year is the 25th Birthday of the country and it was recommended that we create a committee for the planning.

Fiscal Effect:

Unknown

Supporting Documentation:

None

Recommendation:

The department recommends that the Recreation Advisory Board take an active role in the planning of this year's celebration. A committee of board members, city commission members and members of the community should be created.



Board:	Recreation Advisory Board
Agenda Date:	March 3, 2026
Department:	Recreation
Presenter:	Wendy Taavola, Director

Staff Report

Agenda Item Title:

Bruce Movalson Request

Background:

See attached email from Bruce Movalson.

Fiscal Effect:

None

Supporting Documentation:

Bruce Movalson Email to Director Taavola

Recommendation:

The department would like to work with Mr. Movalson to reserve his boat slip in the harbor for next year and recommends the board approve his request. The department is requesting input from the board on the special lease terms.

Marina Slip 2026

From Bruce Movolson <bmovalson@acrisure.com>
Date Wed 2/25/2026 9:33 AM
To Wendy Taavola <wtaavola@gladstonemi.gov>

Good morning, Wendy and thank you for returning my call late yesterday. As discussed, I am being advised the earliest arrival for our new boat would be November. We do not want to lose our slip for next year and wondering: 1) can we take a 1 year leave of absence and then retain for next year 2027? Or 2) Is it possible to share the slip cost for this year with the city, or another boater and retain for renewal in 2027? Or 3) must we renew for this year but knowing our boat will not be available for this season?

It is my understanding that I am the longest tenured slip holder in the marina.....back to 1987.....hoping we can retain our slip and willing to do whatever you require. Thanks!

Bruce Movolson, CPCU
Client Advisor, Shareholder
Midwest Division

-
601 Ludington Street
Escanaba, MI 49829
Direct: 906-428-4516



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Board:	Recreation Advisory Board
Agenda Date:	March 3, 2026
Department:	Recreation
Presenter:	Wendy Taavola, Director

Staff Report

Agenda Item Title:

Metal Detection Policy Review

Background:

At the 1/26/26 Commission Meeting, Mr. Kelly King requested the following modifications to the metal detection policy: 1. Clarification of penalty for failure to obtain a permit. 2. Expand allowable areas to all grassy areas of Gladstone public properties, 3. Clarification of penalty for failure to fill in holes.

Mr. King has stated that people have lost interest in the hobby due to the requirements of the permit and that Escanaba only requires that holes are filled in.

Commissioner Maloney would like the board to make a recommendation to the commission on the modifications.

Fiscal Effect:

None

Supporting Documentation:

Current Metal Detection Policy

Recommendation:

It is requested that the board revisit the policy and reduce the location restrictions, although city boulevards should only be allowed with consent of the nearest property owner.

City of Gladstone Use of Metal Detectors Policy

The City of Gladstone has recognized metal detecting as a legitimate recreation activity when it is conducted in ways that do not damage the natural and cultural resources in the City of Gladstone nor violate applicable state laws. The use of electronic metal detectors to find lost coins, rings, watches or other valuables is a popular activity. The following is an attempt to ensure that the grounds within the City of Gladstone are maintained to a safe standard for the public's enjoyment.

Definitions:

The following words and phrases when used in this policy shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

Metal detector shall mean a device operated by one or more persons and utilizing magnetic, chemical, and electronic or any other means to locate coins and other metal objects.

Person shall mean an individual, partnership, firm corporation, association or other entity; provided, however, that the city and any other political subdivision of the state, or any board, commission, or agency thereof shall not be considered a person under this article.

License Required

No person shall operate or possess a metal detector in any public park or on any public property in the city unless such person shall first apply for and obtain a license from the City Clerk. A licensee under this article shall carry such license on his or her person at all times while operating or possessing a metal detector in a public park or on public property.

Administration

The application, issuance, denial, renewal, expiration, transfer, revocation, suspension and fees required for the metal detector's license shall be administered by the City Clerk. The fee will be set by the City Commission as published in the City of Gladstone Fee Schedule.

Destruction of Property

No person shall dig up, pull, rake, trample, disturb, or damage any turf, flower, tree, bush, or plant in any public park or on any public property through the use of a metal detector, rake, shovel, spade or any other device or by hand. **Turf plugs must be neat, replaced immediately, and left level with surrounding ground.** It is the responsibility of the person issued a permit that all property disturbed by the use of a metal detector and not returned to its original state will result in revocation of current and any possibly any future metal detecting permit to that subject.

Intent

This policy is not intended to repeal or amend any other policy or ordinance. This policy shall be construed whenever possible, to be complementary to and consistent with all other city ordinances and state statutes.

Allowed Areas

This policy shall allow the use of metal detectors on public property with surfaces that are made up of woodchips, gravel, grass and sand.

Examples of these areas would be found within the City limits but not limited to:

1. Shorelines
2. Playgrounds with woodchip surfacing
3. Graveled roads and pathways
4. Parking lots
5. Graveled campsites
6. Open grassy areas not designated as athletic fields
7. City parks and beaches outside of landscaped area

Prohibited Areas

Metal detecting is **not permitted** in:

- Cemeteries
- Athletic fields during the active season
- Areas containing historical markers, archaeological sites, or protected natural features
- Landscaped areas, flower beds, or restored habitats
- Any area posted as “No Metal Detecting”

Recovered Property

All recovered items removed from public property that have ~~has~~ been recorded lost to Gladstone Public Safety are required to be returned to the rightful owner.

Recreation Board Approval: 04/01/2014

City Commission Approval: 04/28/2014

Effective Date: 04/28/2014

Updated: 00/00/0000



Board:	Recreation Advisory Board
Agenda Date:	March 3, 2026
Department:	Recreation
Presenter:	Wendy Taavola, Director

Staff Report

Agenda Item Title:

2026 Fee Schedule Review

Background:

It is the responsibility of the Recreation Advisory Board to review the department fee schedule each year and make recommendations to the City Commissions.

Fiscal Effect:

None

Supporting Documentation:

Current Fee Schedule
 Fee Schedule vs. Ordinance
 Ski Hill Rate Study

Recommendation:

These are the issues to discuss:

1. The facility rental fees in the current fee schedule do not align with the city ordinance per the attached documentation.
2. Current Security Deposit for the Ski Chalet should be the same for all rentals
3. We need to add the Boat House as a rental facility with a rate.
4. Attached Ski Hill Rate Study for skiing and tubing fees for rate increase consideration. Wages for seasonals have increased in the last few years.
5. Missing from the fee schedule as talked about in previous meetings:
 - a. Group camping rates at the Campground
 - b. Besse Complex Concession Season Rate
 - c. Harbor Kayak Rental Fees
 - d. Park memorials
 - e. Tubing Birthday Parties

PARKS AND RECREATION
2025-2026

Item 8.

	Fee Item	Resident	Non Resident	Notes
Facility Rentals	Kids Kingdom Pavilion	\$ 50.00	\$ 80.00	per day
	Large Pavilion	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00	per day
	Beach House	\$ 70.00	\$ 120.00	per day
	Gazebo	\$ 25.00	\$ 40.00	per day
	Ski Chalet	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	Mon-Thur
		\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	1-day (Fri, Sat or Sun)
		\$ 700.00	\$ 800.00	2-day (Fri & Sat or Sat & Sun)
		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	3-hour block Grad week-end only
		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	Weekday Security Deposit
		\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	Weekend Security Deposit
Ballfields	Bayshore Ballfield	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00	Per reserved day of the week for season
	Bayshore Ballfield	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	Per season for football
	Besse Complex Ballfield	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	Per 1-1/2 hours for non-contract holders games and practices
	Besse Complex Tournaments	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	per week-end tournament (Fri,Sat,Sun)
	Besse Complex Concession	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	per single day event
Ski & Tubing	Skiing	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	per day
	Preschool Skiing	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	per day
	Combo	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	Skiing & 1/2 day tubing per day
	Tubing	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	1/2 day
	Skiing Membership	\$ 150.00	\$ 175.00	Single
		\$ 250.00	\$ 290.00	Family
	Tubing Membership	\$ 110.00	\$ 135.00	Single
		\$ 170.00	\$ 205.00	Family
	Combo Membership	\$ 220.00	\$ 265.00	Single
		\$ 380.00	\$ 450.00	Family
Private Tubing Parties	Less than 50 people	\$	105.00	per hour
	50-75 people	\$	130.00	per hour
	76-100 people	\$	155.00	per hour
	101-150 people	\$	180.00	per hour
	151-200 people	\$	250.00	per hour
	over 200 people	\$	350.00	per hour
	tow attendant	\$	70.00	per hour
Harbor	North Wall 25'	\$	1,525.00	
	East Wall 30' Pier	\$	1,830.00	
	East Wall 45' Pier	\$	2,745.00	
	West End	\$	800.00	build your own dock
	Transient	25' and less = \$25.00/day >25' = \$1.00/foot/day		Variable rate set by MI State Waterways Commission

PARKS AND RECREATION
2025-2026

Item 8.

	Fee Item	Resident	Non Resident	
Boat Ramp	Daily	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	
	Seasonal	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00	
	Senior Seasonal	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00	over 62 years old

	Fee Item	Daily	Weekly	Monthly*
Campground	Tent Site	\$ 20.00	\$ 120.00	NA
	Electric	\$ 30.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 690.00
	Water & Electric	\$ 35.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 805.00
	Full	\$ 40.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 920.00

*Campground monthly rates reflect 7 free days

Code of Ordinances:**Sec. 38-2. - Fees.**

- (a) *Adopted annually; publication.* The parks and recreation commission shall recommend to the city commission the adoption of an annual fee schedule for permits and activities sponsored by or made available through the parks and recreation department. The city commission, on an annual basis as part of its budget process, shall adopt by resolution a fee schedule for permits and activities within the parks and recreation program. Such fee schedule shall be published upon adoption, and a copy of the fee schedule shall be made available at the city clerk's office. Fees for activities in the special activities parks shall be posted at such parks.
- (b) *Resident rebate.* The city commission, in setting its annual fee schedule for parks and recreation, has **authority to establish a rebate of up to 20 percent for residents of the city.** The rebate to be paid to city residents shall be determined annually by resolution of the city commission, which shall set the time for the rebate to be exercised, the amount and the manner of application for such rebate.

(Ord. No. 486, § 1(91.63, 91.64), 9-26-1994)

Current Fee Schedule:

Table shows Fee Items with resident discounts only.

Facility	Non-Resident	Resident	% discount	20% discounted fees
KK Pavilion	\$80.00	\$50.00	38%	\$64.00
Big Pavilion	\$120.00	\$80.00	33%	\$96.00
Beach House	\$120.00	\$70.00	42%	\$96.00
Gazebo	\$40.00	\$25.00	38%	\$32.00
Chalet - Weekday	\$150.00	\$100.00	33%	\$120.00
Weekend	\$500.00	\$400.00	20%	\$400.00
2-day Weekend	\$800.00	\$700.00	13%	\$640.00
Memberships				
Skiing - Single	\$175.00	\$150.00	14%	\$140.00
Family	\$290.00	\$250.00	14%	\$232.00
Tubing - Single	\$135.00	\$110.00	19%	\$108.00
Family	\$205.00	\$170.00	17%	\$164.00
Combo - Single	\$265.00	\$220.00	17%	\$212.00
Family	\$450.00	\$380.00	16%	\$360.00

Tubing Price Rate Study

	Cost	Duration	per hour
Gladstone	\$10.00	3	\$3.33
Norway	\$20.00	2	\$10.00
Ski Brule	\$10.00	5 lift rides up the hill	

Skiing Price Rate Study

	Adult	Other	Other Description
Gladstone	\$12.00	\$4.00	All ages, preschool
Norway	\$74.00	\$54.00	Adult and 8 - 17, 8 and under free,
Ski Brule	\$74.00	\$61.00	Adult and 10-17, 9 and under free
Pine Mountain	\$62.00	\$42.00	Adult/Student & Senior, 8 and under
Marquette	\$85.00	\$66.00	Adult, 13 to 17, 6 to 12 \$55, 6 and

Ski Season Pass Rate Study

	Cost	Pass Type	Family minus Discount	Savings	Discount
Gladstone	\$150.00	Resident Single			
	\$250.00	Resident Family 2 Adults 4 children	\$900.00	\$650.00	72%
	\$175.00	Non Resident Single			
	\$290.00	Non Resident Family	\$1,050.00	\$760.00	72%
Norway	\$289.00	Adult			
	\$249.00	9 to 17			
	\$249.00	65 to 740			
	\$989.00	Family - 2 adults 3 jur	\$1,325.00	\$336.00	25%
	\$5.00	8 & under			
	\$5.00	75 +			
Ski Brule	\$510.00	Adult (18 - 59)			
	\$440.00	Junior (10-17			
	\$0.00	0 to 9			
	\$440.00	60 +			
	\$1,900.00	Family 2 Adults 4 children	\$2,780.00	\$880.00	32%
Pine Mountain	\$449.00	Adult			
	\$399.00	9 to 17			
	\$5.00	8 and under			
	\$1,299.00	Family 2 Adults 2 children	\$1,696.00	\$397.00	23%
Marquette	\$499.00	Adult			
	\$430.00	12 to 17			
	\$356.00	6 to 12			
	\$435.00	Senior (65 - 79)			
	\$1,458.00	Family 1 Adult 3 dependents	\$1,858.00	\$400.00	22%
	\$248.00	Family Add on			
	\$20.00	5 and under, 80 and older			