

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
OF MAY 10, 2016**

The Tuesday, May 10, 2016 Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Haeussler at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with the following members present: Ron Studer, Kevin Kalenic, Jason Parker, Bill Marlor, John Haeussler, John Diebel, John Slivon, Mary Tuisku and Glenn Anderson.

Absent: Mary Pekkala

Guests: Rick Freeman and Steve Palosaari

It was moved by Tuisku and seconded by Diebel to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Tuisku and seconded by Kalenic to approve the March 8, 2016 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

The Commission was notified that the City & WUPPDR successfully submitted to the DNR the 2016-2020 City's Recreation Plan on March 8, 2016.

The Commission heard the city submitted the \$294,000 MNRTF grant to the DNR for the Hancock Waterfront Recreational pier project which would include a \$106,000 local match.

The Commission heard that the baseball fields were being utilized more this season with the Portage Lake Little League, American Legion Hardball baseball, Twilight hardball baseball, Hancock H.S. Women's softball and boys hardball and Major and Minor softball leagues.

Heard the hard ball field was budgeted for \$400 of weed and feed work, and that the City agreed to hire Siler Contracting to final shape the Little League infield for \$500.

The Commission was briefed on the Houghton County Arena fund raising efforts to raise up to \$510,000 to install a new ice refrigeration plant, a commercial dehumidification system, and install new bleachers including an ADA section.

John Diebel gave the KNSC update that the club saw a 14% membership increase and was hoping to purchase a new snowmobile, and the club is applying for small foundation grants.

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John Slivon expressed concern about jet skis coming to close to the beach area.

The new color campground brochure was distributed to members to review.

John Haeussler volunteered to write up a short bio on Gordy Schaaf.

John Haeussler relayed a message from the Portage Lake Little League Board of Directors opposing moving the perimeter fence or approving a temporary perimeter cyclone fence by the Little League field.

John Haeussler suggested the Commission consider recommending a .8 millage increase to fund capital expenditures for city parks for a 5 year period, to be placed on the November election ballot. If approved by voters, it would raise about \$86,000 the first year.

It was moved by Tuisku and seconded by Kalenic to recommend to the City Council that they add the .8 millage rate for parks and recreation capital expenditures on the November ballot.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Rick Freeman and Steve Palosaari were present representing the Houghton County Fair Board to discuss four requests:

1. Purchase or long-term lease for 2.51 acres of the event arena area.
2. Request the installation, at their expense, a removal perimeter fence along the existing little league perimeter fence to allow for additional carnival rides.
3. long term lease for use of the horse event area
4. long term lease to use the 70' wide city property on the East side of Birch St. for parking

The City would like to enter into a long term lease to use the fair board owned parking lot for winter snow storage. The City has historically used this property as a snow holding area.

It was moved by Marlor and seconded by Diebel to approve the installation of a removal perimeter fence at the existing Little League location of the perimeter fence so that the fence could be removed during the August fair week only.

AYES: Diebel and Marlor

NAYES: Studer, Kalenic, Haeussler, Anderson, Slivon, Parker, Tuisku

Motion failed

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Discussion continued on various options to increase area for the growth of the carnival on the North end of the carnival promenade, and centered on the option to relocate the horse arena warming up corral from the West side to the North side of the horse arena, thereby creating more room and allowing the City to remove more pit run gravel.

It was moved by Kalenic and seconded by Tuisku to recommend to the City to excavate the North end of the horse arena to relocate the horse warming corral to that area to free up carnival ride space.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Diebel and seconded by Kalenic to recommend to the City Council to enter negotiations with the Houghton County Fair Board to address the 2.51 acre event arena, the horse event area, the City 70' wide Birch St. property, and the City's use of the Fair Board property for snow storage.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Tuisku and seconded by Parker to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson  
Secretary