

## **Parks & Recreation/Library Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** October 22, 2025

**Location:** Crosslake Community Center

**Called to Order:** 8:58 AM by Peter

### **1. Approval of August Meeting Minutes**

Joe moved to approve the minutes with one correction on Page 2: Change to: *"Joe and Jan run the best book fair."*

Seconded by David. **All in favor.** Motion passed.

### **2. Old Business**

There were no updates.

### **3. New Business**

#### **A. Pickleball Advisory Committee Discussion**

Peter: As four additional courts are completed, questions arose about whether a formal board is needed.

Consensus: No board, but an advisory committee should be formed to communicate needs and ideas to Parks & Rec and City Council.

Joe suggested a Parks & Rec/Library liaison — Mary Jo was mentioned as a possible volunteer representative.

TJ asked if it should be an *official subcommittee* of Parks & Rec or at minimum a volunteer group with an appointed liaison.

Kera emphasized a formal structure for continuity and stability given pickleball's major role at the Community Center.

Joe noted this could bring younger leaders into community involvement.

Peter encouraged the group to meet monthly.

**Motion:** Kera moved to form a formal advisory committee for pickleball with a designated Parks & Rec liaison.

Seconded by Joe. **All in favor.** Motion passed.

#### **B. Park Master Plan — Phase II**

TJ has been working with Sourcewell and the Gordian process, which would provide real cost estimates, avoid a binding contract through the RFP process which would allow the ability to revise plans.

**Motion:** Joe moved to recommend pursuing using the Gordian process for Phase II

Seconded by David. **All in favor.** Motion passed.

### C. Robert Street ROW Concerns

Resident concerns about increased commercial traffic:

- difficulty accessing the water with personal watercraft
- increased wear on road recently improved and partially funded with assessments
- heightened risk of invasive species

Prior permitting (2018) showed only 5 users — but traffic is clearly higher.

Enforcement of permitting is ineffective.

Joe: Can we track % of commercial use and shift them to other access points?

Peter: Consider time limits and caps on commercial launches.

TJ: Will consult with WAPOA, Water Quality Group, Public Works and City Council for solutions.

Questions raised:

- Remote parking?
- City investment into the ROW road condition?

**Action:** TJ will return to the next meeting with potential options and additional information.

### D. Sundance Ridge Homes — Park Dedication

Location: Behind the fire station / city hall area.

Current evaluation shows no useful trail or recreation potential.

**Motion:** Joe moved to collect park dedication funds in lieu of land.

David seconded. **All in favor.** Motion passed.

### E. 2026 Goals & Areas of Focus (PAL Alignment)

PAL identified three priorities for 2026:

1. Phase II of the Parks Master Plan
2. Nature Playground
3. South Bay Park

South Bay Park needs signage — and could benefit from seasonal activation (kayak route/trail experience).

Review next month after Phase II plan distribution.

Crosslakers may provide partnership/funding opportunities.

### F. Trail Connectivity Discussion

Jim Anderson (recently passed) began efforts with Widseth to create safe walkability connecting: Mad Rabbits - Barstow - Loon Center - County Rd 3 - Campground

Effort slowed since his passing; Jackie has resurfaced the initiative.

Question: Who develops and who funds?

Loon Center has grant opportunities.

**Motion:** David moved to pursue planning efforts and explore easements options.  
Kera seconded. **All in favor.** Motion passed.

## **G. Kiosk & Bench Program**

Community members can purchase a bench for \$900 with engraved slats at \$80/slat; the fee includes labor and concrete.

Bench with Kiosks are now an opportunity.

Existing example in front of the school.

Need to plan potential kiosk locations + areas to avoid.

**Motion:** Joe moved to develop a kiosk placement map.

Seconded by David. **All in favor.** Motion passed.

## **4. Other Business / Updates**

### **A. Family Fest / Events**

~200 attendees

Bounce house, Babinski Foundation, WonderTrek, games, face painting

Will host again next year.

### **B. Brainerd Lakes Area Vulnerable Users Plan**

Informational kickoff held two weeks ago

Frustration: 7 of 9 invited municipalities did not attend

Will move forward with RFP for professional services by January

Plan approval targeted for October 2026

Participation cost: **None** for surrounding communities

### **C. CSAH 3 Trail Development**

Highway Safety Improvement Plan aims to move pedestrians/bikes off the shoulder of the road

Widseth recently met with representatives from CWC to discuss project specifics

Construction expected in 2027

### **D. Trail Feasibility Plan**

Ideas gathered at kickoff

Next meeting in one month with recommendations

InputID platform will be made public in November to gather feedback from patrons

## **Comments from Commission Members**

Joe suggested reconsidering the meeting time — possibly returning to 2:00 PM if more accessible.

Peter noted TJ added additional evening pickleball gym time and continues to search for more indoor/winter options.

TJ noted that Heidi will be added to a future agenda to provide updates on the Crosslake Community School, when available.

Peter added that additional evening indoor pickleball opportunities continue to be offered.

## **Open Forum**

### **Joelle – School District Update**

Entering playoff season:

- Tennis team is going to State

- Football playoff game is Saturday

- Boys and Girls Cross Country were both Conference Champions

- Debate team has experienced great success this year

- First volleyball playoff game is tonight

Community Education updates:

- Auditions will be held for *The Tin Woodmen of Oz* — written by a Pine River resident inspired by *The Wizard of Oz*

- February: Little Tykes programs begin

- Men's basketball league for all ages

- Adult pickleball offered on Sundays

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 10:05 AM by Kera Porter.

Seconded by David. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

END OF MINUTES