February 9, 2026

IOSCO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES

Board-In Person

Commissioners Present: Jane Hayward, Bob Leslie, Jim McArdle, Brian Loeffler, Sue Reilly, Jerry Smith, Gary Blaser, Benjamin Brewer, Jennifer Riggs.

Absent: Fred Strauer.

Vacant: None.

Also Present: Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director; **Dan Piorkowski**, Groomer; Joel Foster, Groomer; Ken Foster, Oscoda resident; Mike Hoppe, Groomer

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Secretary/Housing Director, Kathleen Murphy, at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Brewer motions to approve the agenda and McArdle seconds. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: **January 12, 2026**

Blaser motions to approve January 12, 2026, minutes and Hayward seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Matters and Concerns:

None.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Gary Blaser, Chairperson – Purchase Vehicle for Sand Lake Groomer Barn

Blaser and the Sand Lake groomers looked at ATVs. The groomers are using their personal vehicles to clear the trails of any fallen trees and to do signing.

Riggs motions to take purchasing an ATV from Extreme Power Sports in the amount of $13,000.00 from budget line 208 to the Iosco County Board of Commissioners for approval and McArdle seconds.

Carried on the following roll call: Ayes: Leslie, McArdle, Smith, Hayward, Brewer, Reilly, Loeffler, Riggs, Blaser. Nays: None. Absent: Strauer. Vacant: None.

Riggs motions to open the Community Fund Grant to allow equipment purchases for maintenance and Mc Ardle seconds.

Carried on the following roll call: Ayes: Riggs, McArdle, Hayward, Reilly, Brewer. Nays: Loeffler, Leslie, Smith, Blaser. Absent: Strauer. Vacant: None.

Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director – Trail Signs

Eric Strayer, Superintendent of the Charter Township of AuSable, reached out to Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director, about the possibility of having the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission purchasing maps to be placed at the trailheads. A 30x36 aluminum sign would cost $169.00. Fred Lewis, Supervisor of Plainfield Township, suggested a sign near the Footsite Groomer Barn. The current map is not accurate anymore. Blaser will reach out to Denise Cline, NEMCOG representative, to get the map corrected.

Hayward motions to purchase a trail sign and place it near the Footsite Groomer Barn once the map has been updated and Riggs seconds.

Carried on the following roll call: Ayes: Leslie, McArdle, Smith, Hayward, Brewer, Reilly, Loeffler, Riggs, Blaser. Nays: None. Absent: Strauer. Vacant: None.

Committee Reports:

Bike/Hiking Trails

Blaser contacted MDOT about information on the bridge. MDOT informed Blaser that he would have to submit a FOIA request.

Blaser motions to form a committee to work on getting information regarding the historic bridge from MDOT comprising of McArdle and Reilly and Brewer seconds.

Carried on the following roll call: Ayes: Leslie, McArdle, Smith, Hayward, Brewer, Reilly, Loeffler, Riggs, Blaser. Nays: None. Absent: Strauer. Vacant: None.

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

The trails were groomed last week and will not be groomed until it snows again.

Park Development

None.

Dam Prosperity Committee

Richard Castle is taking a new position with Consumers Energy and will work with the new buyer.

Public Comments and Concerns:

None.

Payment of Bills and Per Diems:

Hayward motions to pay the bills and per diems for the month of February and McArdle seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 9, 2026. Motioned by Brewer and seconded by Hayward. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully:

Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director
Iosco County Board of Commissioners

Community	Date Requested	Date Completed	Project	Amount
Plainfield	23-Dec	23-Jul	Pavilion	$25,000.00
Iosco Ag. Society	22-Dec	23-Sep	Campground/Grandstand	$25,000.00
Whittemore	23-Oct	23-Oct	Playground	$25,000.00
Whittemore	24-Oct	24-Oct	Playground Equipment	$25,000.00
Alabaster	24-Sep	24-Dec	Porta Potty Enclosure	$4,744.00
Iosco Ag. Society	24-Sep	25-Jul	Bathroom Livestock Building	$24,700.00
Plainfield	24-Dec	25-Nov	Pickleball	$25,000.00
AuSable	24-Dec	25-Jan	Bike Path	$25,000.00
City of East Tawas	25-Mar	26-Jan	Dog Park	$15,867.72
City of Tawas City	25-May		Music Park	$25,000.00
Oscoda	25-May		Benches for Beach Park	$25,000.00
Baldwin Township	Jun-25	Oct-25	Sidewalk to the Point	$25,000.00
Whittemore	Jul-25	25-Nov	Park Cameras and Fencing	$25,000.00