

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 4, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Phil Bontrager, Victor Senk, Christine Lundquist, Rod Lowe, Walt Mixon, & Paul Williams

**AGENDA:** The agenda was approved on a motion by Christine with support by Phil.

**MINUTES:** The October 21, 2025 minutes were approved on a motion by Victor with support by Paul.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None at this time.

**BURT TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN DRAFT:** The Commission reviewed the draft recreation plan for 2026 - 2031 provided by CUPPAD. Rod noted that the appendices received from CUPPAD earlier today had very small printing and is difficult to read. Rod also reviewed the timing required to complete the plan. He suggested that each of us list our issues/concerns and volunteered to start.

### **ROD'S LIST:**

1. Bay Shore Park stairs need to be fixed. Easier access to the park is needed, and the stairs are a liability issue, too.
2. Pursuing more properties to provide public access to desired locations and to protect some areas.
3. Pave marina parking lot.
4. Bike path along H-58 both east and west of town. He noted going west might be easier due to wet ditches on east end.
5. Pave Community Center parking lot.
6. Keep harbor dredged and find long-term solution.

### **PAUL'S LIST:**

1. Harbor dredging and long-term solution.
2. Bay Shore Park bathhouse and stairs
3. Marina parking lot drainage and paving.
4. Pursue more public properties for recreation.
5. H-58 bike path east and west.
6. Pave Community Center parking lot.

### **PHIL'S LIST:**

1. In discussion of bike paths, add walking, hiking, biking & cross country skiing.
2. Vehicle parking needed in recreation areas.
3. Fitness center that is handicap accessible and provides area for winter walking.
4. Trails both east and west along H-58.

#### VICTOR'S LIST:

1. Dredging of harbor.
2. Bay Shore Park stairs - may want to consider ramp with switchbacks.
3. Bath house at Bay Shore Park.
4. Multi-use bike bath on H-58 east and west.
5. Handicap accessible gym
6. Beach mats to make getting to water easier.

#### CHRISTINE'S LIST:

1. Long-term solution to harbor filling in.
2. H-58 multi purpose bike path
3. Number all pages in the document.
4. Maps on multiple pages are hard to read. More contrasting colors are needed. See pages 15,17,18 & 23.
5. Page 8 - add snowmobiling & skiing to 2nd paragraph and reference historic importance of fishing industry along with logging in 5th paragraph.
6. Page 10 - bottom of page is cut off. Administrative structure references a "recreation committee" which does not exist. Phil asked about the information in the yellow boxes. Rod indicated it relates to NRPA findings nationwide.
7. Page 12 - should "Recreation Fund" in title be changed to "Park Fund"?
8. Why is page 13 blank?
9. Page 14 - Phil asked why pasture land is included as we don't really have it.
10. Page 15 - Victor questioned red coloring near airport.
11. Page 19 - add biking and cross country skiing to 3rd paragraph.
12. Page 22 - add need for bike trail from town to School Forrest on last box under "location/description". Phil suggests crossing out "east side of Grand Marais harbor" after Coast Guard Point.
13. Page 24 - Blue box info is hard to read and not well defined.
14. Page 25- expand board walks and/or mobby mats.
15. Page 26- increase handicap accessibility at Bay Shore Park.
16. Page 32 - Phil suggests ADA launch sites needed for canoes & kayaks.
17. Page 34 - year should be 2025 and remove "16".
18. Page 39 - Phil noted under Motivators, "metal" should be corrected to "mental"
19. Page 40 - change "Existent" to "existing". Add bike/multi-use path to key objectives,
20. Page 41- Phil would like "dark ski" added to goal 2
21. Page 42 - Add moving exercise room to handicap accessible space. Why is there a reference to "Marquette County"? Should reference to "senior center" be changed to "Community Center" since we do most have a senior center?
22. Page 43 - another reference to non-existent senior center needs to be changed. Delete "skate park" from goal 3. Noted that "wayfinding" refers to need for more signage.

#### WALT'S LIST:

1. Page 43 reference to "enhance camping facilities" - need to make sure it is allowed in proposed zoning.

2. Need more public bathrooms in town.
3. Purchase properties when available to increase public access.
4. More multi-purpose trails including along H-58.
5. Better signage in parks currently existing. Need a map of parks and if/where parking is available.
6. Accessible fitness center is needed.
7. Kayak docks on Bay. Christine suggested putting them on the point by the old Coast Guard garage.

On page 3, Phil suggests adding page number references to table of contents.

Page 16 - Rod would like gray wolf removed under "wildlife".

Rod suggested we review our lists and agree to a "priority ranking". After significant discussion, the following was decided:

1. Harbor of refuge - dredging and long-term solution to issues.
2. Bay Shore Park development including bathrooms.
3. Multi-purpose trails along H-58 east and west.
4. Pursue properties for public recreation/access.
5. Accessible fitness center.
6. Marina parking lot drainage and paving.
7. Kayak/canoe launching at old Coast Guard Garage area.

**OTHER:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Tim Jenkins noted that page 10 references a 7 member Township Board, but there are only 5 members on that board. He noted that the page 12 reference in the 2nd paragraph to a \$1.6 million annual campground revenue is incorrect. On page 6, Tim suggested dates be put in the boxes as he is concerned the plan may not be completed in time to provide it to the State for the upcoming year. Rod indicated we would be revising the next draft at our November 18 meeting and will announce the public hearing for December. Tim still has concerns, so Rod will visit the Township office to confirm timing and schedule special meetings if they feel it is needed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Christine with support by Rod.