



# *City of Presque Isle, Maine*

## *Planning Board Minutes*

City of Presque Isle, 12 Second Street, Presque Isle, Maine 04769  
Administrative Staff:

Galen Weibley, Director Tel: (207)-760-2727, E-mail: [gweibley@presqueisleme.us](mailto:gweibley@presqueisleme.us)

Tim St. Peter, Tel: (207) 760-2770, E-mail: [tstpeter@presqueisleme.us](mailto:tstpeter@presqueisleme.us)

Penny Anderson, Tel: (207) 760-2703, E-mail: [panderson@presqueisleme.us](mailto:panderson@presqueisleme.us)

FAX: (207) 764-2501

---

### *Presque Isle City Hall- Council Chambers*

*June 1, 2023 @ 6:00 PM*

**Planning Board Members Present:** Bruce Roope (Chairman), Ward Gerow (Vice-Chairman), Rachel Murchison, Sean Nordenhold, David Perry, & Richard Engels (Alternate)

**Planning Board Members Absent:** Jayne Farrin, & Stacey Walton

**Others Present:** Galen Weibley, Director of Economic & Community Development; Tim St. Peter, Code Officer; Martin Puckett, City Manager; Gene Cronin, Director of Recreation; Tom Powers, Director for Industrial Council; Maren Moir, DECD Intern; & Tim Roix, BRSA.

#### **1. Call to Order**

*Chairman Roope* called the meeting to order at 5:58 PM. *Richard Engels* was made a voting member for the meeting given the absence of two members. Total members present six voting members.

#### **2. Citizen Comments:**

Galen Weibley introduced Maren Moir to the Planning Board as the City's DECD intern for the summer. Ms. Moir is currently attending UMPI as a upcoming senior majoring in Political Science. She recently completed her internship with Senator Susan Collin's District Office and found Economic Development of interest for her next work experience. During her internship, Ms. Moir will be working closely with city departments and committees on various projects to learn about ways to promote economic development and quality of life for residents.

*Chairman Roope* addressed the board regarding his idea for improving recreation access within Presque Isle by exploring the possibility of a kayak lift for seniors or ADA individuals along the Presque Isle Stream. Gene Cronin with Parks and Recreation mentioned this type of project is being explored with the Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife for funding however the cost for such a project will require significant capital raising in the future.

### 3. **Site Plan Review for Peace Park Dog Park Project- State Street Ext a/k/a Loop Road & Central Drive**

Galen Weibley introduced Tom Powers and Gene Cronin to the Planning Board for helping to organize and manage this project during the planning phase. Tim Roix with BRSA addressed the Board with an overview of the project which is being developed in phases since funding is not available for all parts of development. Peace Park is located on the Industrial Park's stormwater permit so plans were made for much more impervious surface than may be developed in the future to allow for greater flexibility in development as the site plan is modified in the future.

The plan calls for a new fenced in large and small dog areas for dogs to play and explore unleashed within the gated area. Vegetation is not being proposed on the site and building structure of the gazebo will remain under 15 feet to not impact the Presque Isle Airport operations or flightpath. Galen Weibley stated to the Planning Board that the Airport Director, City Assessor, City Engineer, Fire Chief and Police Chiefs have been consulted regarding this proposed project and have no outstanding issues with the proposed site plan.

**Chairman Roope** opened the floor for questions from the Board.

**Ward Gerow** inquired if funding has been obtained for all improvements. Gene Cronin responded all funding for phase one which is voluntary manpower from the National Guard and material paid for by the City for the parking lot. Funds are being accepted for the fence park of the dog park which is over \$30,000.00.

**Rachel Murchison** inquired will snowmobile access remain? Tom Powers stated that the access will remain as it is a major economic benefit for Ferris BBQ.

**Chairman Roope** asked for a point of clarification regarding the letter from the Utilities District Superintendent Mr. Roix clarified that the letter supported the proposed project which has access to water lines currently but not sewer. This will need to be explored further as the site is developed.

**Sean Nordenhold** and **Rachel Murchison** both had questions regarding the City's liability coverage for incidents that happen on the dog park and policing of waste pickup. Mr. Powers responded that liability should be limited since it is a recreational use and that the idea of a membership program may help police dog pick up waste.

**Rachel Murchison** asked if there are proposed plans for a crosswalk across Parsons Street to Central Drive for the neighborhood to the east of the park. Tim Roix stated this was not in the plans as it did not trigger a traffic study by a Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) roadway. City Manager Martin Puckett also clarified that there would need to be major improvements in the current sidewalk standards on Parsons including pedestrian bump out, possible signaling, paint stripping, etc. before MDOT will allow a pedestrian crossing. Mr. Weibley also highlighted to the Planning Board that many of the residential communities are not connected to the downtown or recreational amenities which may be a project for the Planning Board to develop a strategic plan to start connection of our pedestrian infrastructure.

Site Plan for Peace Park (Cont.)

No more questions were received.

A motion by *Rachel Murchison*, second by *Dave Perry* to approve the proposed site plan for the Peace Park Dog Park Project as presented. **Vote – unanimous 6-0.**

**4. Adjournment of the Planning Board Meeting**

A motion by *Sean Nordenhold*, second by *Ward Gerow* to adjourn the Planning Board Meeting at 6:35 PM. **Vote – unanimous 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Galen Weibley

---

**Planning Board Members**  
**Bruce Roope (Chair), Ward Gerow (Vice-Chair),**  
**Jayne Farrin, Rachel Murchison, Sean Nordenhold,**  
**Dave Perry, Stacey Walton, & Richard Engels (Alternate)**