

Crosslake Park, Recreation, and Library Commission Minutes
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Crosslake Community Center 9 a.m.

Present: Joe Albrecht, Mary Jo Fritsvold, David Rogers, Kera Porter, Ann Schrupp, Peter Graves, Heather Jones, Park and Recreation Director TJ Graumann and City Council liaison Mayor Jackson Purfeerst. Absent: Charlee Genz.

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Heather Jones.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda Mary Jo/Kera Favor: All Opposed: None

Approval of March 25, 2026 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes Joe/Peter Favor: All Opposed: None

Old Business:

Park Master Plan Phase 2A:

The meeting focused on discussing the Park Master Plan Phase 2A project level scope. TJ presented the updated plan, which included three major projects:

1. Relocating the softball field and adding a parking lot. The new field will be constructed to support softball and minor league baseball with standard amenities. Park staff can remove the current fencing and do some preliminary grading.
2. Warming House/Park Hub. Peter suggested combining the Park Hub building and skating area into one project to potentially reduce costs and increase functionality. The group agreed this approach made sense, particularly as it would bring the skating area to a central location and provide a warming house for winter activities. We agreed we need to get pricing information before presenting a proposal to the community and City Council. We also agreed the need to hold an Open House to gather input from the community on priorities and future phases once we have more details and costs. We would like to be able to provide some cost estimates to the City so a preliminary budget could be considered for 2027.
3. Hockey and Leisure Skating Rinks. We discussed plans for the ice rinks considering different options for building a regulation sized hockey rink and a general skating rink for families. We understand a major hockey facility development may be pushed out to 2029-2030 due to other City initiatives. We need committed funding and community support for this type of facility. TJ is going to set up several site visits so we can learn what other communities provide for skating and Park Hub buildings. We all agreed a recreational rink is desirable. Discussion will continue on skating rink priorities.

As we discussed our Phase 2 plans, Joe introduced an idea for a dedicated children's room in the library that could provide a separate play area as well as the book collection appropriate for the children's ages. He noted that this proposal may better serve the community needs and align with the

library's role as a cultural and intellectual center. We discussed space requirements and location options and how this proposal might attract community support and funding. We agreed this idea was worth investigating but our focus now is our Park Master Plan. We will however add the Pequot Library to our site visits to see their Children's Room.

New Business:

Transient Merchant Policy Discussion: TJ raised concerns about the current policy regarding transient merchants at the community center, highlighting a "gray area" in the existing city ordinance that prohibits merchants from using the facility. The discussion focused on distinguishing between activities where selling goods is the sole purpose versus those where it's part of an event or service offering. The group agreed that TJ would research how other facilities handle similar situations, with plans to discuss potential policy changes at the next meeting, including possibly modifying the "sole purpose" language and implementing a prior approval process.

Prime Time Pickleball Hours: TJ proposed changing prime time from 8 AM to 1 PM to 8-11 AM to better utilize the courts and accommodate different player groups. The group agreed to implement this change and discussed potentially setting aside two courts in the afternoon for organized activities like drills or round robins. TJ will put up new signs with the new times posted. We will hold off on adding more Prime Time hours in the afternoon.

Motion to change Prime Time Pickleball hours from 8 am to 1 pm to 8 am to 11 am.

Mary Jo/Ann Favor: All Opposed: None

Other Business:

Updates:

April Council Actions: The City Council approved a Resolution to apply for Community Benefit Funds to make improvements to the Lions Picnic Shelter. They also approved a Resolution to support the continued planning, design and development of a regional trail connection, and hereby encourage Crow Wing County, other relevant agencies and project partners to coordinate and collaborate in the use of the County Road 16 corridor for the purpose of advancing and completing this project.

Robert Street Access: The Public Safety Committee made a recommendation to make the entire west side of Robert Street a no parking zone. Additionally, chief Maier made a recommendation to make the hill just south of the access on the east side of Robert Street a no parking zone. City Council approved both recommendations.

Trail Projects: The Brainerd Lakes Area Vulnerable Users Plan will have its Kick-Off meeting on May 5th. No other updates.

Resurfaced Courts: Cracks are visible on our newly resurfaced courts. There is no warranty for cracks that appear within a year of resurfacing. We will continue to monitor the situation and may need to fill larger cracks before our next rotation of resurfacing.

Recreation Update: We have enough registrations for a T-Ball team.

Library Update: Karen received funding from the PAL Foundation to provide a Summer Reading Program for area youth.

Comments from the Commission: Peter plans to send a “Thank You” recognition to the Crosslake Community School for allowing folks to play pickleball in their gym, after school hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m. **Peter/MaryJo Favor: All Opposed: None**

Next Meeting: May 27, 2026 **Crosslake Community Center** at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Schrupp