



Saint Ignace Area Recreation Advisory Committee  
Meeting Agenda *April 13th, 2022*  
6:00 PM City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

1. **Call to Order** by Craig Therrian at 6:03 PM.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call- Voting Members** (*Need 6 for a Quorum*)

	Present		Present
Ed Paquin, St. Ignace Citizen at Large	<u>X</u>	Craig Therrian, Moran TWP Rep. (Chair)	<u>X</u>
Emily Fullerton, St. Ignace Citizen at Large	___	Quincy Ranville, Visitors Bureau Rep.	<u>X</u>
Robert St. Louis, City Council Member	<u>X</u>	Tammy Shepard, SIHA Rep.	<u>X</u>
Willie LaLonde, City Council Member	___	Bridgett Sorenson, Sault Tribe Rep. (Vice Chair)	<u>X*</u>
Martha Sjogren, St. Ignace Area Schools Rep.	___	Darcy Long, City Manager	<u>X*</u>
Merlin Doran, Moran Township Rep.	<u>X</u>	Morgan Mills, Recreation Director (No Vote)	<u>X</u>
		Hannah Tropiano, Events & Program Coordinator (No Vote)	<u>X</u>

*\*Darcy Long motioned to allow Bridgett to partake via zoom due to medical reasons. Ed Paquin seconded.*

4. **Corrections, Deletions or Additions to the Agenda** (Board & Staff Only)

5. **Approval of the February Minutes** by Robert St. Louis, seconded by Merlin Doran

6. **New Business**

1. Little Bear Update

a. Home Show

i. First Home Show in three years went well!

1. **MM: Little Bear hosted its first Home Show in three years. There were less vendors present (45-50) than in past years, likely due to staff & equipment shortages. Roughly 1,000 members of the public attended over the course of the weekend. Glad to see people having a good experience at Little Bear.**

b. Little League

i. Board Meetings/Scheduling

ii. Clinics have started

iii. Batting Cages are up

iv. Little Bear Fields

1. **MM: The Little League Board holds meetings every few weeks at LBE. Lots of talks about chartering and coaches. We had our district game scheduling meeting in Pellston on April 10. Little League Clinics are currently underway**

(April 16 and April 23 clinics remaining). There are different times for each age group to attend and see if they would like to participate in Little League this summer. The batting cage is up from shortly after Home Show ended through end of April/beginning of May. Registration forms are out and the Recreation Department will be accepting them through May 7.

2. DL went out with QR, CT, EP, Billy Fraser and others to the LBE fields. They are measuring correctly. Everyone except baseball juniors can play on them. The juniors will have to use the high school baseball field.

EP: How many teams are there in our district?

MM: There are teams out the Soo, Rudyard, Pickford, Harbor Springs, Tri Rivers, Petoskey, Cheboygan, Mackinaw City, Onaway, Rogers City, etc.

EP: Billy Fraser has a good plan for how to level out the fields and the field closest to I-75 will be fixed with the outfield measurements.

c. Fitness Center Agreements

- i. Met with St. Ignace Township & Moran Township

- ii. Need a new contact for Sault Tribe

1. MM: Have met with St. Ignace Township and Moran Township regarding the FC agreements. St. Ignace Township has requested to renew their agreement, but the Recreation Department is asking for a little more money. They want to hold a public meeting in August to talk about a possible millage. With Moran, we've discussed renewing their membership but talked about raising the rates to at least half of the cost of all the Moran members. The Township will discuss the agreement at their May meeting and then get back with LBE.

BS will get MM a couple of contacts for the Tribe.

CT: Moran would possibly be interested in providing a new piece of equipment for the Fitness Center every year in lieu of increasing the agreement cost.

d. Staffing changes

- i. MM: Recently lost one of our parttime staff due to lack of housing. LBE is currently looking for a new parttime worker to replace him in the Fitness Center and arena for closing shifts.

MD: Approximately how many hours are you looking at for this position?

MM: Roughly 30/week.

e. Budget

- i. What does the cost of ice look like?

- ii. More ideas for Winter

- iii. Budget review in May

1. MM: Last meeting there were a lot of questions about the cost of ice going on the arena this winter. MM proposes a budget review meeting in May to go more in depth at these costs. Will look at utilities and staffing needs.

Another way that the Recreation Department plans to compensate for the cost of the arena is by possibly introducing curling to our facility. There are teams in the surrounding areas and St. Ignace could have their own. In a couple of years, LBE could even put on a tournament or two.

BS: The Visitor's Bureau still plan on pushing forward with hockey and plan to help put ice on. Before the May meeting, can MM provide financials for the last

**four years?**

**MM: Yes. Everyone will be provided paperwork before the May meeting.**

**2. Recreation**

**a. Game Nights**

- i. Alternating Tuesdays from April 5<sup>th</sup>-May 31<sup>st</sup> from 5pm-8pm; except for May 3 (will be moved to Friday May 6)**

**b. Community Hikes**

**c. Cheer**

**d. Little League Registration: Open through May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**e. More Roller Fridays in May**

- i. MM: The current focus has been on community game nights as of late. We plan to continue them through May on alternating Tuesdays. Community hikes are also happening through May on Saturdays at 2pm. We will have a Saturday Earth Day hike on the Narnia trail in Cedarville on April 23. Aerobics will also be starting next Monday. Renee plans on doing a 6-week course for the spring. \$6 Roller Fab Fridays will be Friday, May 13 and 20 from 5pm-7pm.**

**CT: Why does the Recreation Department conduct hikes in Cedarville? Especially since Cedarville doesn't pay into the St. Ignace Recreation Department (like the agreements we're trying to get with our townships)?**

**MM: There are a couple of ladies in Cedarville that are regulars on our hikes so we like to go between the greater St. Ignace and Cedarville areas in order to best accommodate everyone. The Cedarville area also offers new hike locations to our list and we would like to expand where we offer opportunities.**

**CT: I would consider expanding where people put money into our Recreation Department. There are trails in Moran Township that can be used. People from Cedarville are welcome to join the hikes, but they should be travelling here, not the other way around.**

**BS: Can the Recreation Department schedule the hikes one month at a time to give people more notice to make travel plans?**

- ii. TS: The Hockey Association has bought all the equipment for floorball. Can the Recreation Department do something with that this summer in the arena?**

**MM: We would need to look into what time of year would work best to plan that.**

**TS: Probably the middle of summer after baseball finishes.**

**BS: I think that is key to getting more players. Floorball should be a priority this summer for our kids. Taryn may have started it as drop-in, but SIHA could get some parents involved to do a clinic-type of program in the arena.**

**3. Staff Letter to City Manager**

- a. A letter written by the Little Bear Arena staff (intentionally excluding MM) was received by DL and then passed on to the RAC. It was determined by the committee that liability within the arena (specifically regarding the use of alcohol) needs to be better addressed to those wanting to rent the facility, along with a waiver regarding the rules.**

**7. Public Comment**

**8. Next Meeting Date –May 11, 2022 @ 6:00 pm (Any excused absences for next meeting?)**

**9. Motion to adjourn by Merlin Doran, seconded by Darcy Long, at 7:10 PM.**