



Saint Ignace Area Recreation Advisory Committee
 Meeting Agenda *May 11, 2022*
 6:00 PM City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

1. **Call to Order** by Craig Therrian at 6:00 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	<u>X</u>	Quincy Ranville, Visitors Bureau Rep.	<u>X</u>
Robert St. Louis, City Council Member	<u>X</u>	Tammy Shepard, SIHA Rep.	_____
Willie LaLonde, City Council Member	_____	Bridgett Sorenson, Sault Tribe Rep. (Vice Chair)	<u>X</u>
Martha Sjogren, St. Ignace Area Schools Rep.	<u>X</u>	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>

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

a. **CT:** Adding an announcement to the top of the agenda

5. **Approval of the April Minutes** by Bridgett Sorenson, seconded by Ed Paquin

6. **New Business**

1. **CT:** This will be Craig’s last meeting as part of the Recreation Advisory Committee. He has been on the committee for 35 years and believes that “new blood” is needed on the committee, someone with children and community ties who will continue to benefit from recreational opportunities. Austin Kimberling will be taking over for Craig Therrian as the Moran Township Representative starting by the next Rec. Board meeting.

a. Bridgett Sorenson was nominated to be the new Chair of the Recreation Advisory Committee. It was put up to vote, 8 yes’, 1 abstaining (Bridgett). Bridgett was elected the new chair beginning the next Rec. Board meeting. A new Vice Chair will be voted on at the June meeting.

2. 509 Budget

a. Overall Budget Overview

i. Revenue

ii. Expenditures

1. **A brief overview of the budget was first discussed. At the start of 2020 there was a change with account 508. It was closed and the line items for recreation and facility were all combined into account 509 instead. Due to hockey season being split between two different fiscal years, running LBE on a different budget cycle**

was briefly discussed. It is set in the charter, however, that it must follow the same budget cycle as the rest of the city (start and end with the calendar year) and so it cannot be changed. Concerns were brought up regarding certain line items (payroll, utilities, gas) being split equally across LBE rather than separating between Fitness Center usage vs. Arena usage.

b. Arena Expenses & Revenue

i. Ice Comparison

ii. How are we doing and ways we can grow

1. MM screenshared the budget for Arena revenue/expenditure breakdown. Please email sbarr@cityofstignace.com for access to the zoom recording to see the line items and numbers discussed.

2. In 2017 the biggest contributor (income) for the full year in the arena was the hockey association. Hockey Tournaments was second and the Visitor's Bureau was third. For the last several years, the Visitor's Bureau has continually given \$35,000 to LBE, asking that the majority of those funds go towards ice. In 2019 SIHA was still the biggest contributor of revenue (due to scheduled ice time for practices and games) followed by the Visitor's Bureau and then Tournaments.

In 2021 the Visitor's Bureau was the biggest contributor, then tournaments, and third was SIHA. It is important to note that at the beginning of 2021 there were still COVID regulations in place. Social distancing and capacity limitations did not begin to loosen until May of 2021.

3. For Expenditures:

In 2017 the largest expenditure was wages, which coincides with the amount of upkeep that the arena and tournaments require. In 2017, LBE also had a larger staff than is currently employed in 2022. The second largest expenditure was utilities, and the third was tournaments (purchasing of banners, trophies, etc.). In 2019 wages were the leading expenditure, followed by utilities and tournaments again.

In 2021, the significant note is wages. There was less going on in the arena (COVID) which meant fewer staffing requirements. Therefore, those wages were re-allocated to the Fitness Center rather than the Arena expenditures. For the arena, utilities were the highest, followed by tournaments and wages in third.

4. Other recreational ways to bring money into the arena were discussed, such as curling and broomball during the winter and basketball and floorball during the summer.

3. Next Year's Tournaments

a. Visitor's Bureau Idea

i. QR has had several conversations with both DL and MM regarding a new partnership between the Visitor's Bureau and the LBE Arena. The Visitor's Bureau has proposed to hire a tournament coordinator to take over all tournaments run out of LBE. This would give the Recreation Department more time to focus on recreational opportunities rather than scheduling/running hockey tournaments all winter. The Visitor's Bureau would still agree to \$10,000 to LBE for advertising purposes and would then agree to pay for 7-8 weekends of tournaments (rented ice). MM and VB are still negotiating hourly ice

rental prices to make it beneficial to both parties. This was only an introduction to the board of the changing proposal on the table, not a finalized agreement. MM will continue to meet with the Visitor's Bureau and once both parties are satisfied, DL suggested she bring the finalized agreement back to the Recreation Advisory Committee for an update and then share any changes with City Council.

4. Fitness Center Suggestion Box

- a. After hearing that Fitness Center members were having frustrations and not knowing how to have them heard, the LBE staff decided to implement the use of a suggestion box on the front counter of the Fitness Center. It has been a success thus far, with many suggestions coming in about future equipment preferences. Other suggestions included having more staffing in the Fitness Center, utilizing the TVs again, and extending gym hours.

7. Public Comment

- a. Comments by the board were given thanking Craig for all of his years of service on the Recreation Advisory Committee.
- b. Austin Kimberling had additional questions regarding the Little Bear budget.

8. Next Meeting Date –June 8, 2022 @ 6:00 pm (Any excused absences for next meeting?)
Merlin Doran is excused.

9. Motion to adjourn by Merlin Doran, seconded by Darcy Long, at 8:05 PM.

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