

Powell Township Parks & Recreation

PO Box 319
Big Bay, MI 49808

Date: 10/14/2025

Time: 6:30 PM

Members:

Sven Gonstead - Present

Darlene Turner (treasurer) – Present

Heidi Shatz (chair) - Present

Kelli Santilli (secretary) – Present

Kelly Cain – Present

Coty Sorby (vice chair) – Present

Linda Ludwig – Excused

1. Approval of Agenda. **MOTION** to approve agenda with addition of #11 new business and move #6 new business to presentations made by Darlene/supported by Kelli (6 aye; 0 nay).
2. Approval of Minutes. **MOTION** made to approve minutes made by Sven/supported by Darlene (6 aye; 0 nay).
3. Financial Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Red – Sign at beach missing shipwreck at Huron Mountain Island, but upgrade done very nicely.

Heidi – People came to her house discussing how much they liked the changes with Burns and the upgrades to Big Bay.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. April Schluender – Proposal for a little library at Draver Park. **MOTION** made to allow April to apply for grant to build Little Library by Kelli/supported by Darlene (6 aye; 0 nay).
2. 5-year rec plan – Went through list from Dotty. Mike Springer working with Dotty.

GRANTS:

1. SPARK – Draver park update. All elements are in and spray foam is done. Currently \$14,000 over budget.

2. Safe Routes to School – Sven and Mike will be meeting with school board meeting before next school board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Accept Linda Ludwig resignation. Heidi wishes to thank Linda for her years of service and wish her the best in the future. **MOTION** made to accept Linda Ludwig resignation made by Sven/supported by Heidi (6 aye; 0 nay).
2. Newsletter for Big Bay. **MOTION** made to allow BBSC to take over newsletter made by Kelli/supported by Coty (6 aye; 0 nay). Heidi suggests newsletter recipients need to be notified that BBSC will be taking it over.
3. Ginzu Groomer for PTRAs trails \$5500 through NTN Powell Trails Budget. **MOTION** made to buy the Ginzu groomer through the NTN equity fund for Powell Township made by Heidi/supported by Kelli (6 aye; 0 nay).
4. Poison Ivy at Burns Landing – In need of a plan, signage, and abatement. **MOTION** made for signage to warn of poison ivy up to \$150 made by Heidi/supported by Coty (6 aye; 0 nay). Coty will order signs.
5. Halloween/Trick-or-Treat Times – Bay Cliff opening up for Halloween trick or treat 4 to 6pm.
6. 5-Year Recreation plan updates and questions from Dotty. As above.
7. Plaiderday Event next year. October 2. Will discuss at a later date.
8. Needs and budget for finishing Draver Park Concession Stand. Countertop, ventilation, shelving. Coty and Darlene to discuss and work out a budget. Coty to get measurements.
9. PA Cabling system \$813.82 per Sven. **MOTION** made to reimburse Sven \$813.82 from the parks and rec township fund made by Darlene/supported by Heidi (6 aye; 0 nay).
10. Draver Park ribbon cutting. June 6, 2026. Need to invite state representatives, DNR, Eagle Mine, donors, media, contractors.
11. Honey Bear. Marcia applied for grant. Thunder Bay Inn available. Would like to use concession building at Draver. February 14, 2026. Questions if there should be merchandise and live music. Need volunteers.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Copy of the NTN MOU agreement to sign and give to Levi Ellis. Township board passed. Heidi to ask Lauri (NTN) for final copy.
2. Sign for the PTRA pavilion. Coty picked it up.
3. Draver Park Sign. Heidi to discuss with township clerk.
4. Draver Park flag pole – Priced by Coty. Passed township board. Location to be decided. Coty to look at locations.
5. NTN maps. Pending.

6. SPARK funding assistance with CUPPAD. Grant writing assistance available. Heidi to discuss with Dotty to decide which grant would work best.
7. Potential MDARD grant application for the fall – Possible BBSC collaboration. No news.
8. Historical trail from Burns Landing to Perkins Park (Darlene) – Research for grand funding. Pending.

REPORTS

1. Parks and Rec Trail Manager (Coty) – Focusing on preparing ski trail and bridge work.
2. BBSC Liaison (Kelsey) – Thank you to Parks and Rec for helping with FallFest. Trunk or treat at McWebb building. Season of sharing fundraiser coming up. Michigan funding hub available for consolidating grant seeking.
3. Trails Sustainability Coalition Representative (Sven) – No report.
4. Burns Landing (Darlene) – Sign by road needs to be painted. Darlene suggests township refinish both Burns sign and Powell township sign.
5. Draver Park (Committee) – As above.
6. Thomas Rock (Committee) – Lots of foot traffic. Coty would like to take out part of fencing to make plowing easier and possible future parking.
7. Concert series (Sven) – Sven floats ideas to change date and/or time. Survey monkey to ask public opinion, Kelsey will help.
8. Native Garden – September 17 at 5 pm work bee. Please see attachment for pricing new tree cages (to protect the trees from bunnies and deer).
9. Fundraising – Heidi will check out bingo.
10. Big Bay Newsletter – As above.
11. Parks and Recreation Community Outreach – Heidi using Facebook. Heidi asks to send any pictures to be posted. Heidi to do tree lighting.

ACTION LIST: Kelly Cain – Went through pending items and completed items.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Red – Will flag pole be done before ribbon cutting? Yes. Invite national guard? Yes

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn made by Heidi/supported by Kelly (6 aye, 0 nay) at 8:32 pm.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – November 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kelli Santilli

Powell Township Annual Programming/Events

last edited 03/12/2024

Thomas Rock Showshoe Event (third Saturday of January)

Fishing Derby (second weekend in February)

Honey Bear Classic (second weekend in February)

Easter Egg Hunt (first Saturday before Easter)

Thomas Rock Spring Clean-up and Potluck (first week of May)

Burns Landing Spring Clean-up (first week of May)

Big Bay Relay (third Saturday of May)

First Summer Concert (second or third Saturday in June)

PTRN Volunteer Picnic (second or third Saturday in June)

July 4th Parade (July 4)

July 4th Softball Tournament (weekend after July 4)

Fire on the Bay (2nd Saturday in July)

2nd Summer Concert Series TBD

3rd Summer Concert Series TBD

Labor Day Softball Tournament (Labor Day weekend)

Harvest Festival (third weekend in September)

4th Summer Concert Series TBD

Christmas Tree Lighting (first Saturday in December)