

***City of Kingsford***  
**CITIZEN'S ADVISORY MEETING**  
MONDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
305 S. CARPENTER AVE. KINGSFORD, MI 49802

Wiltzius called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Olson, Gussert, Wiltzius, Wood, Baldinelli, Trombly, Lewis, Stelmaszek

**Absent:** Freeman

**Also present:** Jeff DeMuri (DPW Superintendent)

**Approval of Minutes:** **Motion** by Wood; **seconded** by Gussert to approve the minutes from the meeting held November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

**Approval of Agenda:** **Motion** by Baldinelli **seconded** Wood to approve the agenda as amended.

**Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

**Old Business:**

- A. City Lots – Gussert brought up a discussion at an earlier citizens advisory meeting regarding the vacant lots the city owns that were previously used for ice rinks and the possibility of selling the lots. He was against selling them.

**New Business:**

- A. Reorganization of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary
  - Nomination by Gussert, seconded by Wood to designate Wiltzius, Chairman
  - Nomination by Wood, seconded by Gussert to designate Freeman, Vice Chair
  - Nomination by Lewis, seconded by Baldinelli to designate Stelmaszek, Secretary

**Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

- B. City Parks and Decorations – Tire Grants – Wood asked if Stelmaszek he had any information on the Tire Grant. Stelmaszek went over the State Tire Grant and stated that the only municipality involved in the State Tire Grant is currently Breitung Township and stated they have been having a lot of difficulty with it, and it may not continue. Kingsford and Iron Mountain used to take part in it. Wood said the most recent grant period for the state closed at the end of the year but that he's seen a lot of tires sitting in yards year after year throughout the city. He wondered if there is a grant for it, if we should apply. No more discussion on Tire Grant. Stelmaszek moved on to give updates on various parks throughout the city.

1. Parks

- Lodal Park – The city has committed to putting crosswalks on Breitung Avenue at both entrances to the park. They will also remove the tires at the park. The DPW has been tasked with site preparation on the seven acres to complete this calendar year.
- Cowboy Lake – The city has committed to removing or covering the concrete circle that is sticking up above the ground. Jeff has already ordered replacement buoys for the swimming area at \$1,700.00.
- Menominee River Park – The city has committed to normal maintenance of the park along with a floating dock. The floating dock was not budgeted for in the current budget but the plan is to include it in the upcoming budget starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.
- Breen Avenue/Terrace Park – The normal maintenance is planned along with removal of the old stairs.

- For all the parks the city will has committed to updating the signage.

2. Decorations

- The City's DPW is committed to hanging the Hometown Heroes Banners.
- Stelmaszek mentioned that at the last meeting there was a discussion regarding replacing the snowflake lights on Carpenter Avenue. Stelmaszek said that at this time instead of replacing those lights, which would be more costly, he would like to purchase a new set of banners for Carpenter Avenue in conjunction with the Hometown Heroes banners & the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States. Stelmaszek passed around a flyer with banner options and asked the committee to pick one that they liked to bring as a recommendation for the city council.

Wood asked to continue the discussion on the parks, specifically Menominee River Park – mentioning that there is an old gate that is rusted at the end of the parking lot that does not appear to be used for anything and suggested that it be removed. He asked if it might be a good idea to put a baseball field there. The DPW Superintendent stated that a representative from SAY Soccer had approached him about the fields available in Kingsford for them to use and that Menominee River Park was given as one of the options. The SAY Soccer board was going to meet and let them know their thoughts. Wood brought up Commemorative Field and would like to have the fee associated to use it removed. Wiltzius interjected that because the council had recently revised the rules and fees, the committee should allow for at least one year of use before asking to make any more changes. Wood brought up the parking issue that was discussed previously at Ford Park. Stelmaszek explained that the issue has been going on for a while and that the city has allowed it and has set a precedent to make it hard to enforce. They have addressed some of the concerns by placing rocks to prevent vehicles from parking farther into the park.

**Motion** by Stelmaszek, **seconded by** Trombly to recommend the patriotic banner BS166 with “Welcome to Kingsford” on it, if possible.

**Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

- C. Update on Kingsford's Curbside Recycling Enrollment Drive – The city has an opportunity to apply for a cart grant for curbside recycling and if the receives the grant, they could reduce the pending monthly cost per household by almost a dollar. The city had tried for a year to offer curbside recycling on a volunteer basis but did not receive enough volunteers and due to the requirements to provide it, the city was forced to impose mandatory curbside recycling on all residents. A brief discussion took place.
- D. City Council Lodal Park New Property Development Directive (Best Three Alternative Uses with Pros and Cons for each) – Stelmaszek explained that at the previous city council meeting it several council members stated that they would like to involve the Citizens Advisory committee in determining the best three alternative uses for the property purchased adding to Lodal Park that includes the pros and cons for each idea. Trombly asked if the committee would meet more than times already designated for the Citizens Advisory Committee. Stelmaszek explained that would be up to the committee to decide. Wiltzius questioned the location of the property. Stelmaszek will provide the location in question to the committee members so they have a guide to work from. He added that one comment he has received over the years regarding Lodal Park is that there is not enough parking at Lodal Park. The department of public works was tasked with leveling the property to prepare it for construction. Stelmaszek would like the committee to have concrete ideas available to be reviewed by Fall of 2026. He asked that the committee look into the overall needs of the community. Baldinelli suggested that the committee look into something that can have multiple purposes for each season. Trombly asked if the park should remain “Lodal Park” or if the city might consider renaming – suggesting Kingsford's Sports Complex or Veteran's Sports Complex. Stelmaszek said he was not aware of the history of how Lodal Park was named and if the parks land was donated by Lodal. Wood looked into that and determined part of the property was donated by Lodal but

that part of it was purchased by the city later. Stelmaszek stated that part of the proposed idea could be a name change for the park.

E. Hometown Heroes Program – Wood provided an update. So far, the committee has received about 5 applications for Hometown Heroes, noting that 2 of the applicants are Kingsford residents, and the rest consider Kingsford their home or are in the community, which is one of the requirements listed on the application. Wood asked Stelmaszek to put the Hometown Heroes committee on the agenda for the next city council meeting to hopefully generate some publicity in the newspaper and receive more applications without having to pay for an ad.

**Public Comment:** - Trombly thanked Olson, for joining the committee and Baldinelli for taking the open seat on the committee noting that it would be the first time they had a full committee since he joined.

**Adjournment:** **Motion** by Baldinelli; **seconded** by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm.

**Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.**

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Secretary, Michael Stelmaszek