



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Fernandes, Masi, Johnson, O'Rourke

ABSENT: Palmer, Robertson

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Ackley, Captain Kolke, DPW Team Lead Ladd, Recording Secretary Gross, Confidential Assistant Jaquays

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

P&R 04-01-21 APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 8, 2021, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Johnson, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:** To approve the March 8, 2021 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resignation of Commissioner Cheney

Recording secretary Gross said she received an email from Commissioner Cheney. Ms. Gross read the email aloud to the commission:

"I would like to offer my resignation from the Parks and Rec Committee. It has been my pleasure to volunteer my time these last 15ish years, but it is time for me to move on. My new house in Southfield is nearly complete and with all the stuff that goes with moving, I do not have the time to commit to the committee. I want to thank you for allowing me to be a part of the Walled Lake Family and wish all of you the best in the future."

Chairman O'Rourke thanked Mr. Cheney for his involvement with the Parks & Recreation Commission and for all his great ideas over the years.

DISCUSSION:

1. Parks & Recreation Commission 2022 & 2023 Budget Wrap Up

Chairman O'Rourke said we have a significant amount of money that was allocated to the Parks & Recreation Commission that didn't get used this past year because of COVID-19. Mr. O'Rourke said he understands that if that money is not used, it is rolled back into the general fund. Mr. O'Rourke said he thinks there is some opportunity to talk to city council and see if we can take some of the budget that wasn't utilized last year and increase the 2022 & 2023 budget. Mr. O'Rourke said we need to allocate more money towards the needs for the parks this year.

2. Park Walk Through

Chairman O'Rourke said he sent out a spreadsheet to the commissioners earlier with a list of repairs and improvements for each park in Walled Lake. Mr. O'Rourke said the list is made up of items he noticed as well as other commissioners while walking through the parks. Mr. O'Rourke said some items that need to be addressed at Hiram Sims Park are the benches need to be repainted, the grills need to be cleaned, the basketball & tennis court fences need to be repaired, and they would like to see some more picnic tables.

DPW Team Lead Ladd said that the DPW crew painted the benches last year.

Chairman O'Rourke said maybe we need to replace the benches with new ones that require less upkeep.

Commissioner Fernandes said that the Rotary purchased some for Commerce Township last year and she could look into what kind they got and how much they were.

Commissioner Masi suggested that maybe DPW remove the fencing around the basketball court and tennis court since it doesn't look very appealing.

The commission agreed the fencing does serve a purpose and should not be removed.

Commissioner Masi suggested that maybe it be painted with metallic spray paint to make it look nicer.

DPW Team Lead Ladd agreed that the fence should stay up. Mr. Ladd said he could look into the metallic paint idea. Mr. Ladd said before we move on to the next park, I would like to discuss removing the baseball fencing in the back corner of the park and the message board in the middle of the park. Mr. Ladd said the baseball field isn't utilized and the fencing is falling apart. Mr. Ladd said the message board can not be opened therefore the information inside cannot be changed. Mr. Ladd said also it is no longer sturdy and needs to be removed.

The commissions agreed to allow Mr. Ladd to remove these items.

Chairman O'Rourke said some items that need to be addressed at Marshall Taylor Park include the driveway, picnic tables need to be painted, playground equipment needs to be painted, the park needs to be weeded and mulched, and we would like to add more picnic tables.

DPW Team Lead Ladd said the plan is to actually create a parking lot for the park when we repave Gamma road this upcoming year. This will provide about 7 defined parking spaces. Mr. Ladd said there are several projects as far as parks, roads, and sidewalks coming up. Mr. Ladd said it is going to be a great year for Walled Lake.

Chairman O'Rourke said we will wrap up with Mercer Beach and go over the last three parks next meeting. Mr. O'Rourke said some items that need to be addressed at Mercer beach are the fence, light post, and benches all need to be repainted. Mr. O'Rourke said also we would like to add some no smoking signs and some more picnic tables.

3. 2021 Memorial Day Ceremony

Recording secretary Gross said in place of a Memorial Day Parade this year the city is planning on having a socially distanced Memorial Day Ceremony. Ms. Gross said the parade usually brings in a large crowd of people. Ms. Gross said with this event, it would be extremely challenging to enforce social distancing and safety precautions. The decision has been made with the community's best interest in mind. Ms. Gross said she doesn't have any details on the ceremony yet, but as soon as she does, she will either email the commission or report back at the next meeting.

4. 2021 Summer Concerts

Recording secretary Gross said all the summer concerts for 2021 are booked. Ms. Gross said she asked the bands back from last year first. Ms. Gross said all the bands were available again this year. Ms. Gross said we added two additional concerts this year. Which were chosen based on a first come first serve basis. Ms. Gross said one band offered to do two free concerts. Ms. Gross said they performed at the Trunk-or-Treat event last year and they approached the Mayor about performing at our summer concerts. Ms. Gross said this brings us to a total of 10 concerts this year. Ms. Gross screen shared the flyer for the 2021 summer concerts. Ms. Gross said she is waiting to post the flyer because of the uncertainty of COVID-19. Ms. Gross said as long as gathering restrictions don't change, we should be able to comply with social distancing and mask requirements for these concerts.

Commissioner Johnson said he is excited for what is to come with the public safety campus expansion, it is going to look absolutely beautiful. Mr. Johnson said he has reached out several times to the city offices about enacting some events at the public safety campus. Mr. Johnson said he understands that it is not possible right now with the construction going on, but he thinks the best way to kick off the opening of the facility would be having a big event like a concert. Mr. Johnson said he just wants to mention

that he would like his entertainment company to be a part of hosting a concert at the public safety campus as soon as the construction over there is finished. Mr. Johnson said it is an awesome location and he really sees it becoming a jewel for the city. Mr. Johnson said who does he need to contact to get an event out there.

Recording secretary Gross said we haven't started planning any events at the public safety campus yet because we don't have an exact date of when the constructions is going to be complete. Ms. Gross said we will keep you updated.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Neal Wolfson, 565 Winwood Court- Mr. Wolfson thanked Mr. Johnson for his feedback on the public safety campus expansion project. Mr. Wolfson said it is going to be a fantastic area and agreed with Mr. Johnson that it is going to be a jewel for Walled Lake. Mr. Wolfson said he will stay in contact with Mr. Johnson about planning any kind of event over there after it opens. Mr. Wolfson said we have a great Parks & Recreation Commission, DDA board, Planning Commission, City Council, and staff. Mr. Wolfson said they are short handed but really stepped up to the plate and have done a fantastic job. Mr. Wolfson said they don't always get the kudos they deserve, so I like to give it to them. Mr. Wolfson said great things are happening.

P&R 04-02-21 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Miranda Gross
Deputy Clerk

Dennis O'Rourke
Chairman