



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020**

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

**ROLL CALL:** Cheney, Hecht, Johnson, O'Rourke

**ABSENT:** Loch, Palmer, Robertson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Manager Whitt, DPW Leader Ladd, Recording Secretary Gross, Confidential Assistant Jaquays

**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:**

Chairman O'Rourke requested that discussion on the paddle board rental business be added under new business item number 3.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**P&R 07-01-20 APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 8, 2020, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Hecht, seconded by Cheney, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the June 8, 2020 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Update on 2020 Farmers Market

Confidential Assistant Jaquays said the Walled Lake Farmers Market is held on Wednesdays from 7am – 1pm at the Public Safety Campus. Ms. Jaquays said opening day was on June 17 and that the market is going on its 5<sup>th</sup> week. Ms. Jaquays explained that there has been good turnout and compliance with the safety precautions implemented due to COVID-19. Ms. Jaquays encouraged folks to follow the Walled Lake Farmers Market on social media for updates and changes throughout the season.

2. Update on Riley Park Rehabilitation

DPW Leader Ladd said the parking lot was totally re-done at Riley Park, the farmhouse was power washed and re-painted. Mr. Ladd said this is just the beginning, there is more to come.

Chairman O'Rourke said he would like to thank the Green House for the contribution to Riley Park. Mr. O'Rourke said he walked the park today and he said the park is looking great. Mr. O'Rourke said the farmhouse has not looked this good in quite a while.

Commissioner Hecht asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission should do an article in the spinal column or get a plaque made to show their appreciation for the contribution. Mr. Hecht said this might help motivate other businesses to make contributions to our city parks. Mr. Hecht asked what percentage came from the Green House.

City Manager Whitt said yes, the commission should thank the business in some way. Mr. Whitt said the Green House has committed ten thousand dollars to Riley Park. Mr. Whitt said next, there are plans to rehabilitate the farmhouse on the inside and make it more presentable on the outside. Mr. Whitt said a big issue for Riley Park is the playground equipment. Mr. Whitt said research is being done for replacement of the playground equipment entirely. Mr. Whitt said he believes Mr. Ladd agrees that the equipment is not in great shape and needs to be replaced soon. Mr. Whitt said there will be a lot more manicuring of Riley Park to come.

### 3. Update on Mercer Beach Rehabilitation

DPW Leader Ladd said the increase in people that are utilizing the beach has created more cleanup for the city. Mr. Ladd said he and the other DPW workers have to come in on the weekends to do cleanup now. Mr. Ladd said the first hot day of the season they came in on Monday and every garbage can at Mercer Beach was overflowing with garbage. Mr. Ladd said the amount of garbage has tripled. Mr. Ladd said it took 6 hours for him and two other guys to cleanup the beach area. Mr. Ladd said it is great that the beach is being utilized by people from all over, but we just have to come in on the weekends to maintain the beach area. Mr. Ladd said he believes they are doing a good job of adequately maintaining the area and have not had any complaints since that first weekend. Mr. Ladd mentioned the playground equipment at Mercer Beach is 25 years old. Mr. Ladd said it is not in the best shape especially the rubber matting around the equipment. Mr. Ladd said he does not see too many kids utilizing it and it takes up a large space on the beach. Mr. Ladd suggested that it possibly be removed and replace with a pavilion or more sand.

Commissioner Hecht said he was thinking the same thing. Mr. Hecht said he hardly sees anyone utilize that equipment and Riley Park is fairly close to the beach area. Mr. Hecht said with how packed the beach has been, why not make more beach space. Mr. Hecht said it will be less maintenance to the city as well.

DWP Leader Ladd said yes, it is difficult to get the sand to stay up by the play structure because it is at a higher level than other areas of the beach. Mr. Ladd said it is something to think about. Mr. Ladd said he has the equipment to do so and there would be no cost to remove it.

Commissioner Cheney said he has seen some kids utilize the playground there at Mercer beach, so he is hesitant to take it away completely. Mr. Cheney said however it might be better to have more beach space with how crowded it has been.

City Manager Whitt said the city will take a look at it and the commission can decide at a later date. Mr. Whitt said it is a good idea to have this discussion and administration will come back with ideas of what can be there.

DPW Leader Ladd said he would like to discuss the restroom enclosure and storage facility that was put in at Mercer Beach. Mr. Ladd said the restroom enclosure is in a much better location. Mr. Ladd said it does not block the view of the beach or lake anymore, it blocks the view of the restaurant's dumpster enclosure. Mr. Ladd said it is also convenient for him and the other DPW workers to be able to store equipment down there for maintenance purposes. Mr. Ladd said he thinks the commission did good by moving and rebuilding the facility.

Mr. O'Rourke said it does look great and it is well maintained.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Amend Master Plan to Include the Walled Lake Trail as a Linear Park

City Manager Whitt said at the last Parks and Recreation meeting discussion was held regarding the city pulling out of the MI Airline Trail Council. Mr. Whitt said the resolution declared the trail as a linear park and now the Parks and Recreation master plan needs to be amended to include it. Mr. Whitt said he suggests the commission make a motion to direct staff and the consultant planner to draft language to include the trail in the master plan.

**P&R 07-02-20            MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF INCLUDING CONSULTANT  
PLANNER TO DRAFT LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE THE LINEAR  
PARK IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Motion by Cheney, seconded by Johnson, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To direct staff including consultant planner to draft language to include the linear park in the parks and recreation master plan

2. Walled Lake Community Theater (JET) August Event Proposal for Cooperative Support of Children's Play

City Manager Whitt said for those that were not aware, city administration recruited the Jewish Ensemble Theater (JET) out of West Bloomfield some time ago. Mr. Whitt said the Corona Virus has put them on hold for some time, but they are not out of business. Mr. Whitt said the Walled Lake Community Theater (JET) is looking to coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the DDA to coordinate an event. Mr. Whitt explained that the Walled Lake Community Theater (JET) is proposing an outdoor children's performance for August 14 at the farmers market area. Mr. Whitt said this proposal includes reserving a stage through Oakland County Parks. Mr. Whitt said he would appreciate a motion to support the August 14, 2020 event.

Chairman O'Rourke asked how this event will be compliant with the Governors orders in regard to COVID-19.

City Manager Whitt said that is one of the reasons it is outside. Mr. Whitt said if the governor has not lifted the order then adjustments will have to be made. Mr. Whitt said the intent is to comply with all the governor's orders so if we have to reschedule or cancel it, we will. Mr. Whitt said we are going to start planning it but if it is not feasible, we will report back.

Commissioner Johnson said he also owns an entertainment company. Mr. Johnson said his company hosts many events and has an upcoming event in Detroit. Mr. Johnson said some of the same concerns came up in a meeting they had. Mr. Johnson said however, he believes the event is a great idea. Mr. Johnson said there are ways to have the event and still comply with the governor's order. Mr. Johnson said people have got to get back to living their lives. Mr. Johnson said the event seems like it will be great for the community and will give people something to do with all the other events being cancelled due to COVID-19. Mr. Johnson said he is looking forward to seeing what the JET has planned in the City of Walled Lake.

**P&R 07-03-20                    MOTION TO SUPPORT THE WALLED LAKE COMMUNITY  
THEATER (JET) AUGUST 14, 2020 EVENT**

Motion by Hecht, seconded by Johnson, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To support the Walled Lake community theater (JET) August 14, 2020 event

3. That's Wassup Stand Up Paddle

Chairman O'Rourke said he is concerned with the business utilizing the beach to store their paddle boards during the day and they rent a parking spot from the Tiki Bar restaurant to store their trailer. Mr. O'Rourke said he wants to know if this is allowable, do they need a permit through the city and if the city is liable in any way.

City Manager Whitt said the use of running a business on the beach is not allowable. Mr. Whitt said often times what they do and continue to do is violate the ordinance. Mr. Whitt said the Tiki Bar are the ones that allow them to park their trailer in their parking lot. Mr. Whitt said they are in violation of our ordinance. Mr. Whitt said he believes there may be an arrangement some kind between the two. Mr. Whitt said we will investigate the process and get back to the commission on whether or not it is worth shutting down.

Chairman O'Rourke said he is not trying to shut the business down he is worried about it from a liability standpoint.

Commissioner Hecht said it is getting out of hand. Mr. Hecht said there are people on paddle boards in the middle of the lake that do not know what they are doing.

Mr. Whitt said we will have to investigate that, they do encroach, and the Tiki Bar is not helping by allowing them to park their trailer in their lot and do business from there.

Commissioner Hecht brought up the firework event that is going to take place on Walled Lake on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hecht said he wanted to give Mr. Ladd a heads up for cleanup purposes.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Draft Ordinance for Regulations on Public Parking at City Facilities

City Manager Whitt said at the last Parks and Recreation meeting the commission expressed their concerns with businesses using the parking lots at city parks for employing parking. Mr. Whitt said he met with Police Chief Shakinias and created a draft ordinance to send to council for first reading. Mr. Whitt said no further action needs to be taken by this commission. Mr. Whitt said he included the ordinance in the packet for reference. Mr. Whitt said if the commission had any questions please reach out. Mr. Whitt said it should be on the next council agenda.

Chairman O'Rourke asked how the businesses will be notified.

City Manager Whitt said it would be by signage. Mr. Whitt said we would not rush out and ticket them, we would notify the businesses first. Mr. Whitt said the businesses know what they are doing is wrong and we just want compliance.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Karen Wilmot, 518 Winwood Circle – Mrs. Wilmot expressed her concerns in regard to the possible trail parking restrictions. Mrs. Wilmot said 3 hours might not be enough time for trail users.

Neal Wolfson, 565 Winwood Court – Mr. Wolfson inquired how someone could become a vendor at the Walled Lake farmers market.

Confidential Assistant Jaquays said there is an application on our website at walledlake.com, under the parks page.

**P&R 07-04-20      ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Miranda Gross  
Deputy Clerk

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Dennis O'Rourke  
Chairman