



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

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

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

**ABSENT:** Palmer, Robertson

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

**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**P&R 07-01-21 APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 14, 2021, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Masi, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the June 14, 2021 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Farmers Market Update

Confidential Assistant Jaquays said we are a few months into the farmers market season and things are going well. Ms. Jaquays said as a reminder, the farmers market is every Wednesday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. May through October. Ms. Jaquays encouraged participation from the commission. Ms. Jaquays said the weather could have been a little better the last few weeks, but most vendors have been in attendance regularly. Ms. Jaquays said more recently the turn lane for the farmers market facility has been completed, as well as paving and parking lot striping. Ms. Jaquays said both customers and vendors are enjoying these improvements.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if Ms. Jaquays received any feedback from the vendors on if they are satisfied with the improvements to the facility and turnout thus far.

Confidential Assistant Jaquays said she has communicated with the vendors, and they are pleased with the improvements and the turnout.

Commissioner Fernandes said she was at a meeting with the state fair, and they were talking about the Walled Lake Farmers Market specifically. Ms. Fernandes said they were talking about how nice it was and saying how they really enjoy it. Ms. Fernandes said she just wanted to pass that message along, she loves sharing good news.

## 2. Summer Festival (Beach Party/Firework Event) Overview

Recording Secretary Gross said this year's summer festival was a little different than in years past. Ms. Gross said we had low vendor turn out due to COVID-19. Ms. Gross said as a result we placed all vendors along E. Walled Lake Dr. Ms. Gross said we had food truck vendors, a few craft vendors, participation from the Walled Lake Civic Fund and Market Street church. Ms. Gross said there was a walk through of the Foster Farmhouse as well and several other activities put on by local businesses. Ms. Gross said the firework show went on at dusk and it was a bigger show than prior years. Ms. Gross said given the circumstances, the event went on and was still a success.

## 3. Report on Park Improvements

DPW Team Lead Ladd said the city has made some major parking improvements at the farmers market facility, Marshal Taylor Park, Riley Park, and Hiram Sims Park. Mr. Ladd said the city has paved local roads such as Quinif Dr. which leads to Hiram Sims Park. Mr. Ladd said a turning lane was added into the farmers market facility to help with traffic flow. Mr. Ladd said we also added paved and striped parking spaces for the vendors and customers. Mr. Ladd said Nagle Paving will be putting down topsoil, seed, and straw at the parks and at the edges of local roads that were paved. Mr. Ladd said there was a lot of damage from the storms last week, especially at Hiram Sims Park. Mr. Ladd said DPW and outside crews spent a full day cleaning all that up. Mr. Ladd said today they were able to get the grass cut for the concert this Wednesday. Mr. Ladd said the decorative streetlights downtown and along the east side of Pontiac Trail have been painted. Mr. Ladd said we will also be replacing all playground equipment at Riley Park this year. Mr. Ladd said that is the park that is in need of replacement items the most.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if the playground equipment for Riley Park has already selected.

DPW Team Lead Ladd said that the same information presented to this commission a few months ago, was presented to the city council. Mr. Ladd said they make the final call and seemed to take a liking to the specific equipment.

Chairman O'Rourke said with all the park improvements being made, maybe we should reevaluate the results of our park walk through and regroup at the next meeting.

DPW Team Lead Ladd said he wanted to add that he did add some picnic tables to Mercer Beach as requested and DPW workers did some repair work on the basketball fence at Hiram Sims Park. Mr. Ladd said he was going to remove some of the grills at Hiram Sims Park that are rusted really bad.

Chairman O'Rourke said Ms. Fernandes sent out an email to the commission in regard to some low maintenance benches. Mr. O'Rourke said maybe this is something we should look into for Mercer Beach and Hiram Sims Park. Mr. O'Rourke said maybe we could put together a proposal and take it to council for approval.

Commissioner Fernandes said they are a bit pricey but require very little maintenance. Ms. Fernandes said she worked with the Rotary in placing benches around Scarlet's Playground located in Dodge Park in Commerce Township. Ms. Fernandes encouraged the commission members to check them out if they have some time.

DPW Team Lead Ladd asked commissioner Fernandes if the price included installation.

Commissioner Fernandes said no it does not. Ms. Fernandes said the Commerce Township workers installed them. However, they do include personalization. Ms. Fernandes said we wouldn't need them personalized unless the commission wants to, but that fee was included in the total cost from the email.

Chairman O'Rourke said he would check out the benches at Scarlet's Playground and email some pictures to the commission for those that aren't able to make it over there. Mr. O'Rourke asked that discussion on drafting a proposal for the purchase of some new low maintenance benches be placed on next months agenda. Mr. O'Rourke said with all the improvements being made to the parks recently, he would like to see the benches be upgraded as well.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None

**P&R 07-02-21 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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Miranda Gross  
Deputy Clerk

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Dennis O'Rourke  
Chairman