



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Moore, Cheney, Hecht, Loch,

**ABSENT:** Palmer, Skronek

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Recording Secretary Joyce, Councilman Bennett Lublin

**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:**

Recording Secretary Joyce said the Commission does not have a vice chair with the recent resignation of Joey Rondeau. She suggested to wait until the next meeting with a full board in attendance to put on the agenda for a new vice chair.

Commissioner Hecht said the commission should have more discussion on the Master Plan and to add it as New Business E.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**P&R 06-01-17 APPROVAL OF THE MAY 8, 2017, PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Cheney seconded Loch, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the May 8, 2017, Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

**COMMUNICATION:** None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Memorial Day Parade Wrap-Up**

Commissioner Loch spoke about former Recreation Commissioner Gabe Costanzo's behavior at the Memorial Day parade, stating that she has received several e-mails and was stopped in the street by people who were outraged by his conduct. Commissioner Loch said the Parks and Recreation Commission was made to look terrible because the Recreation Commission allowed

Gabe Costanzo to pull a political stunt. Chairman Moore stated, "Yes, I agree." Commissioner Loch said people were furious, because we disgraced our fallen and disrespected them. Commissioner Loch explained that she personally had spoken with Gabe Costanzo on the day of the Memorial Day parade and that Costanzo had his campaign buttons and said she explained to him that it was not the time or place for campaigning and asked if he was going to participate in the parade. Commissioner Loch who serves also as a city council member stated that Gabe Costanzo "has issues with the truth."

Recording Secretary Joyce explained she also had spoken with Costanzo the day of the parade and asked him to remove his campaign buttons.

Chairman Moore also said he had spoken to Costanzo and told him to remove the campaign buttons. Commissioner Moore said Gabe told him he was not going to be in the Memorial Day parade, but stated, "It is my first amendment right and I am not in the parade." Commissioner Moore said Gabe stated to him that if he participates in the parade "I will take it off." Commissioner Moore stated that Gabe went around and campaigned in the parade anyway, stating that then Gabe handed out literature throughout the parade that was found all along the parade route. Commissioner Moore explained that he was a Veteran himself and he believed it is not a day for politicians. Commissioner Moore said Gabe told him that the Congressman was in the parade. Chairman Moore said he explained to Gabe that the congressman is doing his job and he is not running for office there is no political stuff being handed out and they do not have "vote for" on their stuff and that is the way it supposed to be.

Commissioner Loch explained that Council Member Susan Helke had to remove her political stuff from her vehicle when she ran for office, yet Costanzo participated on a float in the parade as part of the "Trump Float" and company. Commissioner Loch further explained that the Walled Lake Memorial Day parade is "no place to campaign" and people are outraged.

Secretary Joyce suggested that the parade application be updated and have the application state that nothing political will be allowed in the parade other than the elected officials. Commissioner Hecht said the Trump mobile made the City look foolish with some of their signs.

Commissioner Loch said by allowing them in the parade it made the Commission look like the bad guys by allowing Mr. Costanzo to do his campaigning. Commissioner Loch explained that everyone knows that Gabe Costanzo is a former member of the Parks and Recreation Commission and stated that she even signed his petition to run for council and now she said she is just baffled by his actions. Chairman Moore agreed that he too was baffled by Costanzo's actions.

Commissioner Hecht asked why the Trump mobile was allowed in the parade, stating he was informed that the commission had never denied any group from attempting to honor the veterans. Commissioner Hecht said going forward the Commission needs to be allowed to deny permission to any group that is not appropriate.

Recording Secretary Joyce said the Trump Mobile turned in their application just a couple of days before the parade and she told them nothing political and no campaigning. Secretary Joyce said the applicant said it was only to have the Trump name on it but nothing stating "elect".

Commissioner Hecht said going forward there should be nothing political in any of the City events. He said someone needs to be able to approve or disapprove when politics is involved.

Commissioner Loch explained that the upcoming Market Day/Beach Party should be about family and the children with no politics.

Chairman Moore said in the past, there had never been a problem, but Mr. Costanzo has opened a whole new can of worms. Chairman Moore explained that Mr. Costanzo “disrespected the veterans” and the fallen, “who never came home”. Chairman Moore emphasized that Memorial Day is about honoring our fallen Veterans. Chairman Moore and Secretary Joyce apologized to Commissioner Loch as they had no idea this chaos would happen when they prepared the lineup, explaining that they do not want to see this happen again.

Commissioner Hecht asked if there were any political groups involved with Market Day/SummerFest/Beach Party. Recording Secretary said there were two groups, Gabe Costanzo and the Democrats of West Oakland County. Commissioner Hecht opined that neither group should be involved with the beach party.

Chairman Moore opined that there should be no political booths in the Market Day/Beach Party event. He suggested that the Commission decline any political booths.

**P&R 06-02-17            MOTION TO DECLINE ALL POLITICAL PARTY APPLICATIONS FOR MARKET DAY/SUMMERFEST/BEACH PARTY AND ANY CITY EVENTS THEREAFTER.**

Motion by Loch seconded Hecht, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To decline all political party applications for Market Day/SummerFest/Beach Party and any City events thereafter.

Secretary Joyce said the Memorial Day Parade Preparation List has been updated and highlighted with additions and changes.

Commissioner Hecht suggested that “for profit organization” be charged to be in the parade as that might offset some of the costs of the parade, or have it a donation to the Veteran’s Memorial. Commissioner Loch, said in her capacity as City Council Member she will bring to council for their input.

**2.        Concerts**

Chairman Moore said he would be the contact person for the bands performing for the summer concerts in case of bad weather.

Recording Secretary Joyce said she would send out letters with his phone number to let the bands know who to contact.

**3.        Market Day/Summer Fest/Beach party**

Chairman Moore said the promotion committee has a meeting Monday at 4:00 if anyone can attend.

Recording Secretary Joyce said there is also a signup list called Sign Up Genius for volunteering for the event on the City website.

Chairman Moore said Amber McInnes with More Fit Studio will be doing an exercise routine from 11:00 – 11:55 on the stage.

Council Member Lublin stated that there are currently about twenty sponsors for the event, explaining there will be a \$5 fee to enter the beer tent and purchase, and they can enter the entertainment area from the beer tent area.

Commissioner Hecht asked if the City had ever done a cost analysis for the event, and it was explained that this is the first year of this combined event. Commissioner Hecht suggested a cost analysis going forward to try and break even with costs. Commissioner Loch stated that since the Police and Fire Departments were downtown for the fireworks it was decided to combine the events and piggyback the costs of Market Day/SummerFest/Beach Party. Commissioner Hecht suggested next year getting in touch with Civic Groups like the Masons, Boy Scouts, etc. to sell products and split the profits with them.

Council Member Lublin stated that the sale of Adirondack chairs has gone well. All twenty chairs that were purchased have been sold and Walled Lake Schools have decorated seven of the chairs. Council Member Lublin said they would like to do more next year and there was an extra \$25 per chair to have the students at the school decorate the chair for the businesses.

#### **4. Movies in the Park**

Gabe Costanzo before his removal had previously taken care of the Movie in the Park event so Secretary Joyce has provided a copy of the information that she received from Gabe Costanzo. It was discussed that this year is pretty well covered due to the rainout dates from last year. Commissioner Hecht offered to take over the movies in the park and follow up with the event for next year and he will follow up with Swank and Great Outdoors Movies.

Council Member Lublin reported that City Council has approved the electrical upgrade at Sims Park. It was discussed to have Mosquito Joe's come in and spray the park for mosquitoes and bugs as was done last year. Commissioner Hecht said he has used the mosquito service and said it is about 75% effective.

It was discussed that this would also be a good event to sell glow sticks partner with a vendor and possibly some of their profit coming back the City.

#### **5. Master Plan**

Secretary Janell Joyce and Chairman Tim Moore said they would try and find whatever there is regarding the Master Plan for the Parks & Recreation Commission. Commissioner Reuben

Cheney stated that it had been worked on with the Planning Commission. He said it has been 5 - 6 years. He said once we have a master plan we can apply for grants.

It was discussed to walk the parks and compile a list of what needs to be done. Commissioner Hecht suggested this walk for next month as a working meeting for the Commission.

Council Member Lublin stated that we don't have to update the Master Plan to update the parks. It was stated that one can't apply for grants if there isn't a Master Plan in place. The current master plan can be approved as is and then make your improvement plan.

Chairman Moore stated that he would like to institute a Junior Parks and Recreation Commission to get the youth involved with the Parks and Recreation and get their input into what they would like to see in our parks.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

It was reported that the Lions have completed the bench project at Riley Park with other citizens assisted them with this project. It was felt that they should be awarded a plaque in recognition for their efforts with this restoration. Secretary Janell Joyce will see if she can find a suitable plaque.

Commissioner Loch suggested to have a working meeting next month and walk the parks. The Commission was acceptable to doing an inventory and survey of the parks.

Commissioner Hecht asked why the Parks & Recreation Commission isn't too involved with the Market Day/SummerFest/Beach Party. He feels we should be more involved. We are trying to come together. Commissioner Loch said she was not aware that the Commissioners were not getting emails from Pat Wlodarczyk regarding committee meetings. It was felt that next year the planning of this event needs to start much earlier in the year and there needs to be better communication between City Council, DDA, and Parks and Rec.

It was felt that there should be a follow up meeting, between all the involved parties, after the event to make a preparation list with anything that needed to be worked on for next year. And then start preparation in January/February for the 2018 event.

The Commission thanked Secretary Janell Joyce and the DPW for their hard work and support to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

#### **P&R 05-04-17          ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Moore, seconded by Hecht, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

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Janell Joyce  
Recording Secretary

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Timothy Moore  
Chairman

