



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

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

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

**ABSENT:** Arnold, Palmer, Robertson

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

**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**P&R 09-01-21 APPROVAL OF THE JULY 12, 2021, PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Fernandes, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the July 12, 2021 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Overview - 2021 Summer Concerts

Recording secretary Gross said the concert series concluded on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Gross said this year's concert series was a little longer than in years past. Ms. Gross said there were two additional concerts this summer and unfortunately two had to be rescheduled because of inclement weather. Ms. Gross said turnout was good and she heard nothing but positive feedback. Ms. Gross said the city received an email she would like to share with the commission. Ms. Gross said the email came from a gentleman by the name of Robert Hunt. Ms. Gross read the letter aloud to the commission:

*I want to compliment Walled Lake on the two concerts I have seen at Hiram Sims Park this summer. I saw the Detroit Social Club and the Sound Station bands. They both were good, and both had a good variety of songs to listen to. I hope that they are scheduled again in the future. I liked your venue. The band shell was simple and adequate, and the grounds are beautiful. I had my bike with me and was able to bike on the paths while the band was warming up. I also like the access to the*

*Michigan Line bike path on Pontiac Trail Rd. in Walled Lake. I look forward to watching future concerts this summer while relaxing in your park.*

Recording Secretary Gross reported that Sims Park was hit pretty hard by all the storms that rolled through this summer. Ms. Gross said the DPW crew spent a lot of time on storm cleanup, especially at Sims Park. Ms. Gross thanked Mr. Ladd and his crew for making sure the park was cleaned up and looked good each week, prior to the concerts.

DPW Team Lead Ladd mentioned that one of the storms did major damage at Sims Park. Mr. Ladd said there were several large trees down, powerlines down, and one of the trees fell on a bench and destroyed it. Mr. Ladd said we can discuss that further since the topic of park benches is on the agenda for discussion later tonight.

Commissioner Johnson said he was able to stop by one of the concerts this summer and he provided positive feedback about the bands.

Chairman O'Rourke asked about the process for selecting the bands.

Recording secretary Gross said the prior chairman of the parks and recreation commission set up the bands before retiring. Ms. Gross said since they were cancelled due to COVID-19 we asked those bands to come back this year. Ms. Gross said she did add two additional bands and one was a recommendation of the mayor and the other was a band that had reached out a few years back. Ms. Gross said the planning of next year's concerts has not yet begun.

Chairman O'Rourke said maybe we could have a meeting with the city manager and mayor about scheduling next years concerts. Mr. O'Rourke asked that it be placed on next month's agenda for discussion.

2. Overview - Walled Lake Community Playhouse: Jewish Ensemble Theatre (JET) August Performance

Recording secretary Gross said the Walled Lake Community Playhouse (JET) approached city's downtown development authority with a proposal to put on a production outdoors at the public safety campus. Ms. Gross said it was a full production of Grease and was scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup>, and August 29<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Gross said unfortunately the show scheduled for Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> was cancelled because of inclement weather. Ms. Gross said the city enjoyed working with JET and heard nothing but positive feedback about their performances.

DPW Team Lead Ladd said, as Ms. Gross stated, JET approached the DDA with a proposal for the event. Mr. Ladd explained the proposal was reviewed by the police department, fire department, and city administration. Mr. Ladd said traffic control and policing was required during these events. Mr. Ladd said he worked with DTE to get the

electrical service set up prior to the event as well as preparing the grounds. Mr. Ladd thanked all involved.

Chairman O'Rourke said he knows the JET Theatre had done a performance last year as well. Mr. O'Rourke asked if they anticipated working with the city regularly to do these events.

Recording secretary Gross said if she had to guess they will most likely continue to work with the city and the downtown development authority in the future, especially since the community seemed to enjoy the performance and they were a pleasure to work with.

### 3. Trunk-or-Treat Event

Recording secretary Gross said the last couple years the mayor, council, and downtown development authority partnered with DDA member Gerry Millen to plan a trunk-or-treat event at Riley Park. Ms. Gross said several Walled Lake businesses and their families showed up with their cars decorated and passed out candy to the children. Mr. Millen and the city provided food and entertainment for the event as well. Ms. Gross said the event will take place again this year. Ms. Gross said it will be held on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 p.m.

Chairman O'Rourke asked how the parks and recreation commissioners could help or participate in this event.

Recording secretary Gross explained to participate in the event in anyway, please reach out to either city council or staff.

### 4. Update on Riley Park Playground Equipment

Recording secretary Gross said at the August city council meeting, there was a motion made to purchase new playground equipment for Riley Park not to exceed \$250,000. Ms. Gross said the equipment that was presented to the parks and recreation commission a few meetings prior, is the one that was purchased. Ms. Gross said although we purchased it already, it won't be delivered for a few months. Ms. Gross said that means it won't be placed until the spring. Ms. Gross said that the current equipment is over twenty years old and is deteriorating. Ms. Gross said preparation will begin soon by Mr. Ladd and his crew removing the old equipment as soon as they have some time. Ms. Gross said for reference she will screen share a picture of the exact equipment that we purchased.

Commissioner Fernandes asked about how long this equipment should last.

DPW Team Lead Ladd said approximately 20 to 25 years.

Chairman O'Rourke thanked council for the approval to purchase new equipment. Mr. O'Rourke said he is excited for the old equipment to be replaced with the brand-new equipment.

5. Park Benches

Chairman O'Rourke said the commission discussed replacing the benches at the city parks a few meetings back. Mr. O'Rourke said he emailed some pictures of benches from Scarlet's Playground in Commerce. Mr. O'Rourke explained he is not sure what the commission's next step would be.

DPW Team Lead Ladd pointed out that the new equipment at Riley Park will come with two new benches.

Chairman O'Rourke asked for the name of the company that we purchased the equipment from.

Recording secretary Gross said the name of the company is Penchura LLC.

Chairman O'Rourke said maybe we should just purchase benches from the same company to keep the benches uniform.

Commissioner Fernandes agreed. Ms. Fernandes explained the commission needs to take this request to council.

Recording secretary Gross explained if that is the commission desire, then you can make a motion recommending that to council.

**P&R 09-02-21            MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO PURCHASE  
BENCHES FROM PENCHURA LLC TO REPLACE THE  
CURRENT BENCHES AT ALL THE CITY PARKS**

Motion by O'Rourke, seconded by Masi, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To recommend to council to purchase benches from Penchura LLC to replace the current benches at all the city parks.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**            None

**P&R 09-03-21            ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

---

Miranda Gross  
Deputy Clerk

---

Dennis O'Rourke  
Chairman