



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024**

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

**PLEDGE TO FLAG**

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

**ABSENT:** Adams, Robertson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Manager Whitt, Assistant City Manager Jaquays, HR Director Sears, Acting Chief of Police Kolke, DPW Superintendent Ladd

**REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**P&R 04-01-24 APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Fernandes, **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:** To approve the February 12, 2024, Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Spring Egg Hunt After Action Report

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall thanked the commissioners for their assistance at the egg stuffing event. Ms. Hall said that the city could not have gotten it done so efficiently without the commissioners, council members, city staff, and additional helpers who were present. Ms. Hall said that everything got done much quicker than expected. Ms. Hall said that, despite the weather, there was a good turnout at the event. Ms. Hall said that the face painting, petting zoo and pony rides, magic show, and Easter Bunny were a success. Ms. Hall said that families enjoyed taking pictures with and getting candy from the bunny. Ms. Hall asked the commissioners if they had any feedback/ suggestions to improve the event next year.

Chairman O'Rourke said that the event has gotten better every year. Mr. O'Rourke said that it only rained a little bit and then turned out to be a good day. Mr. O'Rourke said that the event ran smoothly. Mr. O'Rourke said that the petting zoo was a big success. Mr. O'Rourke thanked DPW Superintendent Ladd for all his team's hard work setting up the event and staff for running a smooth event. Mr. O'Rourke asked if there was any way to move the magician up closer to the parking lot where the other activities take place. Mr. O'Rourke said it might help increase the audience.

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said that the magician utilizes the pavilion for electricity access and to keep his equipment protected in the case of inclement weather. Ms. Hall said that they can check with him and see if he would be willing or able to move to a different location next year.

Chairman O'Rourke said that it would be beneficial to go around beforehand and let everyone know the magic show is going to begin and where it is located. Mr. O'Rourke said that there appeared to still be a lot of kids at the show this year.

## 2. Memorial Day Parade

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said that City Council voted at the last meeting to keep the parade route the same as last year. Ms. Hall said the parade will begin at 850 Ladd Rd. and conclude at the Walled Lake City Offices. Ms. Hall said that the application is available on the city's website and that it was sent out to all of last year's participants. Ms. Hall said they have received eight applications thus far, yet are expecting many more to come in. Ms. Hall said that applications are due no later than May 10<sup>th</sup> and commissioners are welcome to share information on the parade, as well as the flyer, on their social media platforms.

Commissioner Johnson asked who the Grand Marshall is this year.

HR Director Sears said that we do not have one yet.

City Manager Whitt said that we do not have a Grand Marshall confirmed yet. Mr. Whitt said that we are waiting for the individual to accept the role. Mr. Whitt said that backup plans are in place if needed.

## 3. Market Place Update

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said that the start of the market season is a little over three weeks away, on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Hall said that an Opening Day Celebration will be held from 11am-2pm. Ms. Hall said that local musician Rich Rustad will perform from 12pm-2pm and there will be free coloring and activity sheets for kids, as well as a story time and free craft kits from the library. Ms. Hall said that two new food/ drink vendors will be present, including the Main Squeeze & More and MADD House Tea, Michigan's first mobile tea trailer. Ms. Hall said that the Main Squeeze & More will be trying different products, such as cotton candy, mini donuts, shaved ice, and hot chocolate. Ms.

Hall said that there has been a steady number of applications coming in. Ms. Hall said that 30 applicants have been processed and approved, including 12 new vendors and 12 who have committed for a full season. Ms. Hall said that more applicants are awaiting processing, and some have indicated they will be applying soon. Ms. Hall said that we are still looking for new vendors and to feel free to spread the word.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if anything had come of the individual from the Commerce Historical Society who wanted to do tours of the Airline Trail.

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said that Ms. Du Fresne will be at the market this season to start the tours up.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if Ms. Du Fresne will be at every market this season.

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said that Ms. Du Fresne will be trying out the tours once a month, mostly on the event dates. Ms. Hall said Ms. Du Fresne will be providing some information on the Historical Society and taking families out on tours.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if there is anything the commissioners can do to let people know the Historical Society will be there.

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said they can work on adding some information on the Historical Society to their weekly Facebook and Instagram posts, letting individuals know the tours will be happening. Ms. Hall said that they will also do a vendor feature for Ms. Du Fresne.

#### 4. Purchase of New Speakers & Staging

DPW Superintendent Ladd went over two quotes received for a new sound system from a local company in Wixom. Mr. Ladd said that he had reached out to various companies, but this was the only one that was willing to come out and evaluate what is needed, where our events take place, as well as set-up and listening to the system we currently have. Mr. Ladd said that he has been working with Bart Edwards, who has been very helpful and knowledgeable. Mr. Ladd said that Mr. Edwards is willing to come out and assist if we ever have equipment issues.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if the system was portable.

DPW Superintendent Dan Ladd said that the quotes are for a portable system. Mr. Ladd said that he has not seen the system yet, but Mr. Edwards is willing to come out and set it up for a demonstration if any commission members would like to look at it.

Commissioner Masi asked what the name of the company is.

DPW Superintendent Dan Ladd said the company is called Mercury Sound & Lighting out of Wixom.

Chairman O'Rourke asked what the difference between the two quotes provided was.

DPW Superintendent Dan Ladd said that the first quote 24-32022 is for the purchase of the equipment and the other is to rent the same equipment. Mr. Ladd said that the better option would be to purchase because the rental costs approximately \$800/event and would add up.

Commissioner Fernandes added that this system would be utilized at the Market Place, Memorial Day Parade, Egg Hunt, and Tree Lighting.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if the purchase of the sound system would have to go to Council for approval.

City Manager Whitt said this is an informational item. Mr. Whitt said he will report the topic to Council, but approval is not required. Mr. Whitt said they will take care of the sound system and that we should purchase it now.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if we need to have a demonstration or if DPW Superintendent Dan Ladd feels comfortable purchasing it now.

DPW Superintendent Dan Ladd said he personally would like for them to come out and to see it and hear it. Mr. Ladd said he would like the Public Works employees to all be trained on how to set-it up, as they will be the ones in charge of doing so at the events. Mr. Ladd said they typically set it up hours or the day before the event starts.

City Manager Whitt asked Chairman O'Rourke if he is suggesting we wait to purchase or if he would like to see a demonstration for operating purposes. Mr. Whitt said he is ready to make the purchase now. Mr. Whitt said that we are behind on getting a new system. Mr. Whitt said we will know if the system does not fit the city's needs.

Commissioner Masi said that he agrees with purchasing the system.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if there were any updates on staging.

DPW Superintendent Dan Ladd said that staging has not been in discussion yet and he does not have quotes quite yet. Mr. Ladd said that there is a different set-up for Memorial Day and, once we get through that, we can look at purchasing new staging.

**P&R 04-02-24      ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

---

Kaylee Hall  
Recording Secretary

---

Dennis O'Rourke  
Chairman