



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

ABSENT: Adams, Robertson, Linihan

OTHERS PRESENT: Assistant City Manager Jaquays, DPW Superintendent Ladd,
Mayor Pro-Tem Woods

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:

Chairman O'Rourke requested to add Commerce Township Area Historical Society to Discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**P&R 1-01-25 APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2024 PARKS AND
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Johnson, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the October 14, 2024 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

DISCUSSION:

1. Commerce Township Area Historical Society

Ms. DuFresne introduced herself and said she was here tonight on behalf of the Commerce Township Area Historical Society to discuss the organization's involvement along the Linear Trail, Cemetery Talks, and Market Place events. Ms. DuFresne said the weekend of the City's summer fireworks is the anniversary of the recording of Walter Hewitt, Walled Lake's first settler, purchasing of property across from the Walled Lake Cemetery. Ms. DuFresne said this year marks the 200th anniversary of Walled Lake being

settled. Ms. DuFresne said she would like to coordinate a celebration event with the Walled Lake Civic Fund and the summer event. Ms. DuFresne said she is drafting an agenda to discuss different historical moments at the market on selected market dates. Ms. DuFresne shared some statistics from last year's cemetery talks and says she plans on hosting them again this year and include restoration of headstones. Ms. DuFresne said she is doing research on some of the historical significance of the existing buildings and churches downtown, and intends to host talks about Walled Lake's history in the summer.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Fernandes said she appreciates the cemetery talks and the knowledge Ms. DuFresne shares.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Johnson suggested branding this year's summer firework event as a bicentennial celebration. Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. DuFresne for her work.

2. Tree-Lighting After-Action Report

Ms. Jaquays said the City's Tree Lighting ceremony was on December 2. Ms. Jaquays thanked the DPW Staff for assisting with the decoration inside the fire bay and beautification efforts around City Hall campus and throughout the City. Ms. Jaquays thanked the commissioners for their help distributing refreshments and leading the ceremony outside. Ms. Jaquays said approximately 60 families were photographed with Santa. Ms. Jaquays said the photography space was different this year and believed to be a better solution to maximizing the indoor space and creating efficiency with families lining up. Ms. Jaquays said the students at Walled Lake Western TV attended the event and prepared a video presentation showcasing the highlights of the event. Ms. Jaquays shared the video.

Parks and Recreation Chairman O'Rourke thanked the DPW for their work and said the PA system was a great improvement to the audio.

3. DIA Inside Out Program

Ms. Jaquays said she has attempted to connect with the program coordinator at the DIA to inquire about the application process. Ms. Jaquays said her understanding is that the application opens in March and she will be reviewing the website periodically for updates. Ms. Jaquays said it appears that the participating communities are given 8-12 different displays to set up in the community and listed the different participating Oakland County communities.

4. 2025 Schedule of Regular Meetings

Ms. Jaquays shared the schedule of regular meetings for 2025.

5. 2025 Schedule of Events

Ms. Jaquays shared the schedule of events in the City. Ms. Jaquays said staff is preparing a flyer to advertise the schedule. Ms. Jaquays said the Summer Concert Series has been finalized and contracts to the participating bands will be sent out by the end of the week.

Parks and Recreation Chairman O'Rourke said he would like to include some street advertisements and signage ahead of the summer concerts to invite the public to attend. Mr. O'Rourke suggested street signs a day in advance.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Johnson suggested creating a social media presence for the summer concerts to advertise them.

6. Spring Egg Hunt Preparation

Ms. Jaquays said the City's Spring Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 19th. Ms. Jaquays said she will be finalizing entertainment, candy purchases, and food vendors for the event. Ms. Jaquays said she will share the egg stuffing date at the next meeting.

DPW Superintendent Ladd said the City approved the annual maintenance of the pond and mosquito spraying for this year.

P&R 10-02-24 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Hana Jaquays
Recording Secretary

Dennis O'Rourke
Chairman