



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE TO FLAG

ROLL CALL: Arnold, Dufresne, Johnson, Linihan

ABSENT: Fernandes, O'Rourke, Robertson

OTHERS PRESENT: HR Director Sears, DPW Superintendent Ladd

**P&R 07-01-26 MOTION TO EXCUSE COMMISSION MEMBER FERNANDES
FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING**

Motion by Linihan, seconded by Dufresne, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To excuse commission member Fernandes from tonight's meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (3)	Arnold, Dufresne, Linihan
Nays (1)	Johnson
Absent (3)	Fernandes, O'Rourke, Robertson
Abstain (0)	

**P&R 07-02-26 MOTION TO EXCUSE COMMISSION MEMBER O'ROURKE
FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING**

Motion by Linihan, seconded by Dufresne, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To excuse commission member O'Rourke from tonight's meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (4)	Arnold, Dufresne, Johnson, Linihan
Nays (0)	
Absent (3)	Fernandes, O'Rourke, Robertson
Abstain (0)	

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**P&R 07-03-26 APPROVAL OF THE MAY 11, 2026 AND JUNE 8, 2026, PARKS
AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Arnold, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the May 11, 2026 and June 8, 2026, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes (4) Arnold, Dufresne, Johnson, Linihan
Nays (0)
Absent (3) Fernandes, O'Rourke, Robertson
Abstain (0)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Banks Dolbeer Foster Farmhouse Sign

Chairman Johnson said, at the park walk-through Mayor Gunther requested this item be put on the agenda and discussed by this commission.

DPW Superintendent Ladd said the sign was dilapidated and the mayor requested it be taken down.

Chairman Johnson said he thinks a motion should be made to bring to city council a new sign for the Foster Farmhouse.

Commission Member Linihan said we need to put together a proposal to send to City Council. Mr. Linihan asked if anyone had a picture of the old sign.

Commission member Dufresne said she has a picture that she could share with the commission.

Recording Secretary Sears asked Ms. Dufresne to send the picture to her and she can forward it to the commission. Mrs. Sears said that way the commission members have it before the next meeting and can start brainstorming for the proposed sign.

DPW Superintendent suggested getting a sign made that can be mounted to the building for maintenance purposes. Mr. Ladd said that once the commission has a proposal, it can be taken to a sign company for a quote.

Commission Member Linihan asked Mr. Ladd if the DPW can install the sign.

DPW Superintendent said yes.

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Ladd what time of year is best for the installation of a sign.

DPW Superintendent Ladd said anytime before mid-November should be fine.

Commission Member Linihan asked Ms. Sears to place this item on the agenda for next month's meeting.

DISCUSSION:

1. Park Walk-Through

Recording Secretary Sears said this item was placed on the agenda for the commission to discuss their findings from the park-walkthroughs.

Chairman Johnson said he has a chance to walk Hiram Sims Park during the summer concert last Wednesday. Mr. Johnson said everything seemed to be in good condition. Mr. Johnson said his only concern was some of the picnic tables under the pavilion. Mr. Johnson said they could use some WD-40 or something like that.

Chairman Johnson said he spent some time with his family at the beach the other day. Mr. Johnson said while he was there, he spoke with a couple of residents. Mr. Johnson said the consensus was there aren't enough bathrooms and there were concerns with the cleanliness of those bathrooms.

DPW Superintendent Ladd said the restrooms are cleaned by Metro on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Mr. Ladd said the DPW cleans the beach on the same days and some weekends, as well.

Commission Member Linihan asked Mr. Ladd if we could get the parking lots re-stripped at Riley and Marshall Taylor Park.

DPW Superintendent said he got the city campus and the beach parking re-stripped so far this year. Mr. Ladd said he will check those parks out and see if it is within the budget to get them done.

Commission Member Dufresne expressed concern about motorized vehicles like motorbikes in our city parks. Ms. Dufresne suggested adding signage.

Commission Member Linihan asked Ms. Sears to place this item on the agenda for next month's meeting so the commission members that haven't finished their walkthroughs can continue to share their feedback.

2. Market Place Update

Recording Secretary Sears said there have been 68+ total vendor applications received this year, with more filtering in every week; several new vendors, including young entrepreneurs. Mrs. Sears said vendor participation has been great, with an average of 30+ vendors per week. Mrs. Sears said the Kids' Fest is taking place this Wednesday July 15th from 11am-2pm with a fun-filled line-up of activities including: live music by Miss Paula from 12pm-1pm, free facepainting from 12pm-2pm, free Custard Hut ice cream and bubbles from State

Farm, free putt putt course sponsored by Oakland County Parks, free scavenger hunt and Play-Doh party with the WL Library, free take home activity kits from Home Depot, and fun history facts with the Commerce Twp. Area Historical Society. Mrs. Sears said there will be food and drink trucks, and we are excited to allow kid vendors to attend for the second year in a row for free. Mrs. Sears said there are 14+ kid vendors who have signed up so far. Mrs. Sears asked Ms. Dufresne to share what the historical society has planned for Wednesday.

Commission Member Dufresne said during the Civil War, there was a group of men that came from Oakland County and here in Commerce, and they were the Michigan 22nd. Ms. Dufresne said the day after they went off to war, a group of them were walking through this area and found a cow, one of the farmer's cows, and took the bell off the cow. Ms. Dufresne said they took it with them into the war, rang it in the morning, rang it at night, and rang it when they won. Ms. Dufresne said when they came home several years later, they go back up to the farmer to offer the bell back and he says, no, you guys keep it. Ms. Dufresne said they kept it through all their reunions and the last guy who died, his wife gave it to the Oakland County Historical Commission and it's now at the Oakland History Center in Pontiac. Ms. Dufresne said it will be on loan to us and we will have it at the marketplace for the kids. Ms. Dufresne said the kids can pick it up and they can ring it and we'll tell the story of the bell. Ms. Dufresne said in her research, she found that it wasn't unusual for moms to make candy and send it to their young men that were soldiers. Ms. Dufresne said she will have similar candies for the kids to try as well.

Recording Secretary Sears thanked Ms. Kaylee Hall for providing her with tonight's update and all her hard work. Mrs. Sears said the success of this years market is owed to her.

3. DIA Inside|Out Program Update

Recording Secretary Sears said she has heard a lot of positive feedback about the DIA's Inside|Out Program. Mrs. Sears said we had 50 passports printed and delivered to the library to handout. Mrs. Sears said when she checked with the library director yesterday, she was informed that there were none left. Mrs. Sears said she is working on getting more printed. Mrs. Sears said Purefit Pilates and Yoga put on a free yoga class at Hiram Sims Park on Saturday, June 20th. Mrs. Sears said that they handed out brochures and discussed the program with their students. Mrs. Sears said there were about 40 to 50 people in attendance for this class.

Commission Member Linihan recommended putting the passport on the city's website in a PDF format.

Commission Member Dufresne said she would like to get a DIA volunteer to come do a tour of the art pieces throughout the city. Ms. Dufresne said sometime in the fall would probably be best, so that it isn't too hot outside.

Recording Secretary Sears said she would reach out and see if that is a possibility.

4. Summer Concert Update

Recording Secretary Sears said the summer concert series kicked off on Wednesday, June 24th at our public safety campus. Mrs. Sears said it was a country band by the name of Neon Crows. Mrs. Sears said the weather turned out to be beautiful and there were 55+ people in attendance. Mrs. Sears said there was a cookie vendor from our market and a popcorn and lemonade food truck in attendance. Mrs. Sears said the forecast looked like rain all day and she thinks that deterred some people from attending but many people walking and/or riding their bikes down the trailway decided to stop in. Mrs. Sears said even some people driving by decided to stop to see what was going on. Mrs. Sears said overall she feels it was a good start to the series.

Commission Member Dufresne said she attended last Wednesday's concert at Hiram Sims Park and the band was amazing. Ms. Dufresne said there was a large crowd and many people brought food to have a picnic. Ms. Dufresne said Hiram Sims Park is beautiful, and she loves that we host the concerts there. Ms. Dufresne recommended partnering with Hospitality house in the future to assist with a survey to help select the bands.

Chairman Johnson said the band last week was excellent, and he understands why they have been asked to come back year after year. Mr. Johnson said he is glad that is one of the bands they decided to repeat. Mr. Johnson said he talked to a couple of people, and they were definitely not only happy about the band that was there last Wednesday, but people had been to the campus the prior week and saw the new band were excited about the new lineup. Mr. Johnson said he thinks that maybe we've gotten the community reinvigorated with the city concerts and the fact that we're shaking things up, keeping some of people's favorites, but then adding some things they may not have known they liked before.

Recording Secretary Sears reminded everyone that there is another summer concert at Hiram Sims Park this Wednesday. Mrs. Sears said the band is Taylor Tuckey.

P&R 07-04-26 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Miranda Sears
Recording Secretary

Patrick Linihan
Vice Chairman