



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025**

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

PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

ABSENT: Fernandes, Robertson

OTHERS PRESENT: Assistant City Manager Jaquays, DPW Superintendent Ladd, City Manager Whitt, City Council Member Owsinek, City Council Member Lublin

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: NONE

**P&R 06-01-25 MOTION TO EXCUSE PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSIONER ROBERTSON**

Motion by O'Rourke, seconded by Johnson, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To excuse Parks and Recreation Commissioner Robertson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**P&R 06-02-25 APPROVAL OF THE MAY 12, 2025 PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Linihan, seconded by Johnson, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the May 12, 2025 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

DISCUSSION:

1. Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony After-Action Report

Assistant City Manager Jaquays said staff held an after-action meeting after Memorial Day to discuss what went good, bad, and improvements for next year. Ms. Jaquays said this is the 4th year of having the staging area at the WLCSD Parking Lot, 850 Ladd. Ms.

Jaquays said this has continued to work well for parade vehicles and public parking. Ms. Jaquays thanked the WLCSD for allowing the City to utilize the space for the staging area. Ms. Jaquays thanked the Department of Public Works (DPW) for preparing the City Campus and preparing the City for the event. Ms. Jaquays thanked Parks and Recreation Commissioner Linihan, Parks and Recreation Chairman O'Rourke and his wife, and City Council Member Fernandes for their assistance in the staging area. Ms. Jaquays thanked Pastor Bicknell with the River Church for delivering the invocation at the ceremony. Ms. Jaquays thanked Mayor Ackley for serving as this year's Grand Marshall and for presenting the Memorial Day Address. Ms. Jaquays thanked the Walled Lake Western band members who performed at the ceremony and thanked the MI Army National Guard for participating in the parade and dedicating a memorial wreath at the ceremony. Ms. Jaquays thanked Walled Lake TV for their time and effort in recording the parade and ceremony, she said if folks wanted to rewatch the parade and/or ceremony it is available on their Youtube Page, WLTV TV. Ms. Jaquays thanked DDA Board Member Millen for serving as the ceremony's emcee. Ms. Jaquays said some improvements for next year include pace management for parade participants and noted that there were some significant gaps during the procession. Ms. Jaquays said this year was a record turnout of parade watchers.

Chairman O'Rourke thanked Ms. Jaquays for preparing the line-up and numbers and maps. Mr. O'Rourke thanked Mr. Linihan for helping out and setting up cones, and DPW for being on-site early.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Linihan suggested reviewing the traffic flow as there was some angst from drivers coming in from Ladd Road.

City Manager Whitt said Walled Lake received some press coverage thanks to Maurielle Lue, Fox2 News Anchor. Mr. Whitt thanked her for participating in the parade and featuring Walled Lake's parade on Fox2.

2. 2025 Market Place Update

Ms. Jaquays said the market is five markets into the 2025 season, averaging about 16 vendors a week. Ms. Jaquays said it has been a cooler start to the season with some cooler temps in May. Ms. Jaquays listed a few different vendors the market includes. Ms. Jaquays said this week will be the market's Summer Kick- Off, June 11th and will include 40 vendors, live music, informational booths, and a storytime from the Walled Lake Library. Ms. Jaquays said next month's market event is scheduled for July 16th, Kid's Fest. It will feature live music, food, crafts, and entertainment for kids. Ms. Jaquays reported that she talks with interested applicants on a weekly basis. Ms. Jaquays thanked Ms. Loretta Whitt for assisting with marketing and content creation.

3. Walled Lake Summer Festival & Fireworks Event

Ms. Jaquays said this year's summer fireworks is scheduled for June 21, 2025. Ms. Jaquays said staff held a meeting last week to discuss event logistics. Ms. Jaquays said this year's activities include a Public Safety Open House from 11AM to 3PM. Ms.

Jaquays said the Fire Department will have fire apparatuses on display, hot dogs and chips, CPR demonstrations, and scheduling of free smoke alarm installations for Walled Lake residents. Ms. Jaquays said after the open house, the activities will move toward E. Walled Lake Drive and include food truck and food vendors ahead of the fireworks. Ms. Jaquays said the Commerce Township Area Historical Society will be doing an open house at 3PM and inviting the public to learn more about Walled Lake's history. Ms. Jaquays said the Walled Lake Civic Fund (WLCF) submitted an application for hosting a beer tent. Ms. Jaquays said the Police Chief has reviewed their request and they have been approved for the beer tent. Ms. Jaquays said the beer tent will be located on the property across from the beach. Ms. Jaquays said the WLCF has received approval from the property owner to utilize the entire lot for activities. Ms. Jaquays thanked the WLCF for their sponsorship of the fireworks and putting on a great display.

City Manager Whitt said the property owner has been cooperative with the City in letting the City utilize the property for multiple events. Mr. Whitt said the property owner applied for a fence permit and was going to fence off the area. Mr. Whitt said he has met with the property owner's representatives and the Civic Fund to use the lot one more year. Mr. Whitt said the WLCF has acquired use of the entire parcel and will be using it for their activities this year. Mr. Whitt said the City is supporting the WLCF. Mr. Whitt said the Tiki Bar will be hosting their own entertainment and having music.

City Council Member Lublin asked if there will be vendors this year?

Ms. Jaquays said not this year. Ms. Jaquays said there will be food trucks.

4. Summer Concerts

Ms. Jaquays said the Summer Concerts in the park starts later this month, with the first concert scheduled for June 25th and featuring the band Soundstation. Ms. Jaquays said the Summer Concerts are held at Hiram Sims Park on specific Wednesdays from 7PM to 9PM.


Mr. O'Rourke requested some signage to advertise the concerts.

Ms. Jaquays said Commerce Township will be celebrating their bicentennial this weekend, June 14th. Ms. Jaquays said there are activities happening throughout the day at Commerce and Carol Lake Road.

City Manager Whitt said Mayor Ackley placed the first Memorial Day flag in the Walled Lake Cemetery the Friday before Memorial Day.

P&R 06-03-25 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8: 03 PM



Hana Jaquays
Recording Secretary



Dennis O'Rourke
Chairman