



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026**

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

PLEDGE TO FLAG

ROLL CALL: Arnold, Dufresne, Fernandes, Johnson, Linihan, O'Rourke,
Robertson

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Whitt, HR Director Sears, DPW Superintendent
Ladd, Council Member Woods

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**P&R 03-01-26 APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 09, 2026, PARKS AND
RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Linihan, seconded by Robertson, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve
the February 09, 2026, Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

DISCUSSION:

Chairman O'Rourke thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, DPW, and City staff for
their efforts over the weekend with the water main break that occurred.

Commission Member Dufresne said community partners such as Oakland County Parks, the
Oakland History Center, and the Commerce Township Historical Society are hosting a planning
meeting for America 250 celebration. Ms. Dufresne said the meeting is on March 12th from 6:30
– 8 pm at the Waterford Oaks Event Center. Ms. Dufresne said there is the option of attending
virtually, and she will email the information to Mrs. Sears to send to the commission.

Commission Member Dufresne said that she has worked with the VFW in the past to place flags on the veteran's grave sites at the Walled Lake Cemetery for Memorial Day. Ms. Dufresne said she has been participating for years and has created a map of the veteran's graves, she said there are 92 veterans in the Walled Lake Cemetery. Ms. Dufresne invited the other commission members to join her and the VFW. Ms. Dufresne said the flags are placed on the Saturday before Memorial Day. This year it will be held on May 23rd. Ms. Dufresne said everyone will meet at the cemetery at about 10:30 am.

Commission Member Dufresne said she will have a booth at the Market place a few times throughout the season on behalf of the Historical Society. Ms. Dufresne explained that she will be attending on the event dates and each date will have a different theme.

Chairman O'Rourke said there is an orientation scheduled for the Inside|Out Program on Thursday, April 9th. Mr. O'Rourke said he will be attending with Commissioner Johnson. Mr. O'Rourke said he asked Mrs. Sears to attend as well. Mr. O'Rourke stated that we have 4 spots available.

Recording Secretary Sears said she asked Mr. Ladd to attend the orientation to fill that 4th spot.

Chairman O'Rourke said he wants to discuss the details of the park walk-throughs that the commission would like to this spring.

The commission discussed the details on how they wanted to handle the park walk-throughs.

P&R 03-02-26 MOTION TO APPROVE CITY PARK WALK-THROUGH, MEET AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR THE MAY REGULARLY SCHEDULED PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING, OUTLINE A SCHEDULE TO FOLLOW AND DO PARK WALK-THROUGHS AS A GROUP THAT NIGHT

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Linihan, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve city park walk-through, meet at council chambers for the May regularly scheduled parks and recreation meeting, outline a schedule to follow and do park walkthroughs as a group that night

Commission Member Johnson asked if notification of the park walkthrough could be placed on the city website and social media. Mr. Johnson said there might be other residents and their families that would like to attend and provide feedback.

1. Spring Egg Hunt

Recording Secretary Sears said the only thing left to do for the Spring Egg Hunt is to stuff the eggs. Ms. Sears said she would like to open discussion on a date and time to do so.

Commission Member Dufresne said at the last meeting, we discussed doing the egg stuffing on Saturday, March 14th. Ms. Dufresne said she is still available to do it on that date as long as it is scheduled in the morning.

The commission agreed to do the Egg Stuffing Saturday, April 4th at 10 A.M. in City Council Chambers.

Commission Member Robertson asked what activities are booked for the egg hunt this year.

Recording Secretary Sears said there will be two bounce houses, a magic show, petting zoo, coffee for sale by a prior marketplace vendor, and the Easter Bunny will make an appearance.

2. Summer Concert Series

Commission Member Johnson said he had a chance to review the band information that was sent over and shared his opinion on those bands.

Discussion was had about what bands the commission members would like to perform this season.

Recording Secretary Sears was directed to reach out to Michigan Country Entertainment and check their availability for June 24th and Beach Katz to check their availability for August 12th.

Recording Secretary Sears was directed to reach out to Detroit Social Club, Harmonized Steel, 9D Proof Detroit, Itchycoo Park, and Tom Petty Tribute Band to fill the remaining spots.

Commission Member Dufresne said the Inspired Acting Company put on a show called Home and she attended it. Ms. Dufresne said it was incredible and that she recommends the other commission members attend.

Chairman O'Rourke said he would like to remain on the Parks & Recreation Commission but would like to step down as the chairman. Mr. O'Rourke said he would like to nominate Commission Member Johnson for Chairman of the commission.

P&R 03-03-26 MOTION TO APPOINT GIOVANNI JOHNSON AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Motion by Robertson, seconded by Linihan, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To appoint Giovanni Johnson as the chairman of the parks & recreation commission

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. O'Rourke for his years of service as the chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Johnson said he would like to nominate Mr. Linihan as the vice chairman of this commission.

**P&R 03-04-26 MOTION TO APPOINT PATRICK LINIHAN AS THE VICE
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

Motion by Robertson, seconded by O'Rourke, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To appoint Patrick Linihan as the vice chairman of the parks & recreation commission

P&R 03-05-26 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42PM

Miranda Sears
Recording Secretary

Dennis O'Rourke
Chairman