



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024**

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

PLEDGE TO FLAG

ROLL CALL: Adams, Arnold, Fernandes, Johnson, Masi, O'Rourke, Robertson

ABSENT:

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 05-01-24 APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 8, 2024 PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Robertson, seconded by Masi, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the April 08, 2024 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

DISCUSSION:

1. Memorial Day Parade Update

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said that the Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Monday, May 27th. Ms. Hall said that 27 applications have been received thus far and that a few more are expected to be received. Ms. Hall said they will be working on the line-up and hope to have it completed by the end of this week or early next week. Ms. Hall requested commissioners to arrive at the staging area (850 Ladd Rd.) at 9am. Ms. Hall said they will be putting together a map to show where everyone will be stationed and hope to have it completed by the end of this week or early next week. Ms. Hall said it will be sent out to everyone once it is completed. Ms. Hall said that this is a large event and any assistance is greatly appreciated.

DPW Superintendent Ladd said everyone will be blown away by the new sound system. Mr. Ladd said the company came out and set up the system next door at the event field. Mr. Ladd said the system sounded phenomenal and that you can tell a big difference between the new system and old system. Mr. Ladd said the system is equipped with wireless mics, mics you can clip on your lapel, a headset, etc. Mr. Ladd said the new system will be an excellent improvement to all the city's events.

City Manager Whitt said that he was able to hear the system from his office. Mr. Whitt said that the system looks great and that they will be doing trial runs before the ceremony.

Commissioner Robertson asked where the parade would be broadcast from? Mr. Robertson asked about Casey's portion of the parade and what the set-up will look like.

City Manager Whitt said that we will have the sound system at the memorial site in front of City Hall. Mr. Whitt said there will be the Star Spangled Banner, taps, and God Bless the USA. Mr. Whitt said that we now have an Honor Guard Unit, comprised of police and fire personnel. Mr. Whitt said that they have been practicing frequently and that they look good. Mr. Whitt said that they received M1 carvings to fire out of the guns and practiced firing them. Mr. Whitt said that everyone can expect a kick-up from last year's parade and that we have received several applications, as mentioned earlier by Ms. Hall.

Chairman O'Rourke asked if a Grand Marshall has been selected for this year's parade.

City Manager Whitt said that Maurielle Lue will return as the Grand Marshall this year. Mr. Whitt said she is a Walled Lake resident and does a great job and that we are proud to utilize her services. Mr. Whitt said the City will get full coverage of our Memorial Day Parade on Fox News and on her personal TV show. Mr. Whitt said that he expects the coverage to be even better this year with our planned activities. Mr. Whitt said that Fox News will also be doing some live shots of the Summer Festival this year.

Commissioner Masi said that, having worked the parade the past couple of years, the set-up is great and he is looking forward to it.

2. Market Place Update

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said that Opening Day took place on Wednesday, May 1st and it was a success. Ms. Hall said there was live music, free activity and coloring sheets, and that the library did a story time. Ms. Hall said that 31 vendors were in attendance. Ms. Hall said that there were 26 vendors in attendance the second week and that 32 vendors were signed up to be there this week. Ms. Hall said that May is usually a slower month, yet they are happy with what they are seeing thus far. Ms. Hall said that the weather has been cooperative and they hope to continue to have great market days. Ms. Hall said that many vendors have already committed to the whole season, including new vendors testing the market out, and some are selling out of their products

already. Ms. Hall said that they continue to receive applications on a daily or weekly basis. Ms. Hall said that they expect to see higher vendor numbers (in the 50s) come June and July, when the kids are out of school. Ms. Hall said that they are looking forward to a great season and that we hope to see some of the commissioners there. Ms. Hall said that we are still looking for more vendors if anyone has any recommendations.

Chairman O'Rourke asked how the foot traffic has been.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Hall said that it has been a bit slower so far. Ms. Hall said that this is typical for May, as the kids are still in school. Ms. Hall said that a new bakery already sold out of their products and that vendors are saying they are doing well. Ms. Hall said that they expect to see more foot traffic when the kids get out of school and when the weather gets a bit better.

Commissioner Johnson said that he is happy to see the market. Mr. Johnson said he visited the market and that the foot traffic looked pretty good. Mr. Johnson said that it is great to see where the market started and where it is now. Mr. Johnson said that there is great diversity in the vendors and products. Mr. Johnson said that the market has become a great part of the city.

3. Summer Festival Update

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said that the Summer Festival will be taking place on Saturday, June 22nd.

Assistant City Manager Jaquays said that the Walled Lake Civic Fund is planning their annual fireworks and that they always do a great job. Ms. Jaquays said that staff has already begun meeting with some of the downtown businesses to discuss the anticipated activities. Ms. Jaquays said that we anticipate the event to look similar to how it did in pre-Covid years. Ms. Jaquays said this includes a stage downtown, food trucks, and live music. Ms. Jaquays said the public can expect road closures downtown and a music entertainer for the evening. Ms. Jaquays said in response to the community's feedback, the City is proposing a weekend market on Saturday, June 22nd from 9am-2pm for market vendors, and anyone who is interested, will be invited to a market at the Casey J. Ambrose Public Safety Campus. Ms. Jaquays said the event will include entertainment, music, and kid-friendly activities. Ms. Jaquays said the City is also organizing a police, fire, and city open house during the event. Ms. Jaquays said the biggest draw will be the fireworks and they have met with downtown businesses to discuss the road closures and other aspects of the event.

Chairman O'Rourke said that he is happy to hear the stage is heading back downtown. Mr. O'Rourke said that he feels it brought a lot of people in and there were great activities around it. Mr. O'Rourke said that the dunk tank used to be popular, as well as other fun activities.

City Manager Whitt said that we will be closing down some areas for a beer tent. Mr. Whitt said we will be closing down Liberty and the business in front of N. Pontiac Trail up to the lake, between Liberty and Ferland. Mr. Whitt said that everything is not finalized yet, but we are working on getting some entertainment downtown, funded by the businesses. Mr. Whitt said there will not be much activity where Greenhouse's parking lot is. Mr. Whitt said that there has been discussion about the Greenhouse charging a parking fee at that lot, that will serve as a donation to the Civic Fund for the fireworks. Mr. Whitt said we are still in the preliminary stages of planning and will focus more on the event after the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Whitt said that the event will be bigger than previous years.

Chairman O'Rourke asked for clarification on there being a beer tent at the event.

Assistant City Manager Jaquays said that the Civic Fund has expressed an interest in sponsoring a beer tent. Ms. Jaquays said that we have been working with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Civic Fund to determine what they need to submit to the city and what they need from the state liquor commission to do so.

City Manager Whitt said that we cannot approve certain activity or shut down streets specifically for a beer tent. Whitt said the Civic Fund is interested in proposing more than just a beer tent; creating a social district. Mr. Whitt said we are planning to close down Liberty either way, so the area will be free.

Chairman O'Rourke asked who is putting up the beer tent?

Assistant City Manager Jaquays said that we are not sure exactly what organization the Civic Fund will be partnering with and that the Civic Fund will be the one leading it.

City Manager Whitt said that the city will not have a role in collecting money from the beer tent. Mr. Whitt said the Civic Fund is putting it together so that they can collect money to go towards the fireworks display.

Assistant City Manager Jaquays said that DDA Board Member Millen has also mentioned hosting a cornhole tournament downtown during the event. Ms. Jaquays said Mr. Millen has also looked into bringing a nature center mobile unit, through Howell Nature Center, where they show off animals to families. Ms. Jaquays said that they will be discussing the idea with the DDA tomorrow.

City Manager Whitt said that it is a group that takes in injured animals and cares for them. Mr. Whitt said the fee is a couple thousand dollars for the service. Mr. Whitt said Mr. Millen will be bringing it up to the DDA to see if they will fund it. Mr. Whitt said that we want to kick this event up to be the best it has ever been this year.

Commissioner Johnson asked City Manager Whitt where any referrals for entertainment for the event need to be sent to.

Assistant City Manager Jaquays said that any referrals can be submitted with a written proposal to herself and they will be shared with the necessary parties, whether it be the DDA Board or Parks & Recreation board.

Commissioner Adams asked if we will be revisiting the idea of doing inflatable outdoor movie nights downtown on the beach.

Chairman O'Rourke said that we can revisit the idea for a different date and add it to next month's agenda. Mr. O'Rourke said that he is not sure fireworks night will be the optimal time to hold it, as the beach will be overcrowded and the fireworks will likely start around the same time a movie night would begin. Mr. O'Rourke said that it is a great idea and he believes it would be a great community event.

Commissioner Adams said it would be a great activity for another date or event in the city.

Commissioner Masi thanked the City for their support of the Civic Fund's beer tent as another way to support the fireworks.

4. Summer Concerts Update

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Hall said that the Summer Concert Series begins next month, starting on Wednesday, June 26th from 7pm-9pm. Ms. Hall provided the flyer to anyone attending virtually and in-person. Ms. Hall said the flyer was posted on the city website and copies were placed in the city hall lobby, at the library, and in the lobby of the police department. Ms. Hall said that the commissioners may share the flyer on their social media pages. Ms. Hall said that all the contracts have been turned in and they are good to go. Ms. Hall said that they hope to see some of the commissioners at the concert next month.

Chairman O'Rourke thanked the city for their efforts in booking the concerts this year and said they bring a full Summer of good times to Hiram Sims Park. Mr. O'Rourke asked DPW Superintendent Dan Ladd if we did the mosquito spray again this year.

DPW Superintendent Dan Ladd confirmed that we did.

Chairman O'Rourke said that it has been very successful and thanked DPW Superintendent Dan Ladd and their team.

P&R 05-02-24 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Kaylee Hall
Recording Secretary

Dennis O'Rourke
Chairman