



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025**

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

PLEDGE TO FLAG

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

ABSENT: Linihan

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

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:

Parks and Recreation Chairman O'Rourke requested to add DIA Inside Out 2026 Program, Oakland County Mobile Stage, and Application update for Ruth du Fresne.

**P&R 09-01-25 MOTION TO EXCUSE PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSIONER LINIHAN**

Motion by Robertson, seconded by Johnson, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To excuse Parks and Recreation Commissioner Linihan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**P&R 09-02-25 APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 9, 2025 PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Fernandes, seconded by Johnson, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the June 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Assistant City Manager Jaquays read correspondence into the record.

Good evening, members of the Walled Lake Parks & Recreation Commission. My name is Christy Ambrose, and I'm a proud resident of Walled Lake. While our parks are beautiful year-round, I believe we have an incredible opportunity to bring even more joy and community spirit to our city by embracing holiday events.

I'd like to propose a simple yet impactful idea: a city-wide 'Best Holiday Decoration' contest for various holidays throughout the year. Here are a few ideas for how we could implement this:

Christmas/Holiday Season: We could have categories like "Most Dazzling Light Display," or "Most Traditional Christmas Scene". The parks and rec team could create a map of all participating homes, turning it into a family-friendly holiday tour. Other ideas include best flower display, best Halloween display etc.

This initiative isn't just about decorations; its about building traditions, fostering community pride, and creating lasting memories for our children and families. A 'Best Decoration' contest would give residents a reason to come together, to show off their creativity, and to make Walled Lake an evening more magical place to live. I happy to work with the Parks and Rec board to initiate such project.

Christy Ambrose

Discussion was had on various Holiday Lights contests that other communities host.

Chairman O'Rourke asked what the administrative capacity is to implement a contest for this year?

Ms. Jaquays listed the different rules and regulations that would need to be designed, and receiving the addresses ahead of time to identify them on a map.

Commissioner Robertson recalled that Walled Lake did a similar contest years ago where Council Members would judge the lights, however, few residents attended the Council Meetings to receive recognition resulting in the end of the contest program.

Discussion was had on contest awareness, identifying homes, and awards.

Ms. Jaquays said at next month's meeting a draft of Rules and Regulations can be provided to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners for their review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) Inside Out 2026 Program

Mr. O'Rourke said he was able to connect with the DIA Staff on participating in the 2026 Inside Out Program. Mr. O'Rourke stated communities are permitted to participate every three years. Mr. O'Rourke said DIA does all of the installations.

Discussion was had on potential locations for display.

**P&R 09-03-25 MOTION FOR WALLED LAKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS (DIA) 2026 INSIDE OUT
PROGRAM**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Fernandes, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To participate in the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) 2026 Inside Out Program

2. Oakland County Mobile Stage Rental for 2026 Summer Concerts

Chairman O'Rourke said there are mobile stages available to rent through Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. O'Rourke said this discussion has been ongoing to host the summer concerts at the Casey J. Ambrose Public Safety Campus. Mr. O'Rourke asked if we had the budget for this expense, having two concerts at the Campus for opening and closing out the summer concerts series, and selecting bands to perform.

Ms. Jaquays said she would need to talk with the Finance Director to determine if funds were available.

Commissioner Johnson shared his experience working with various bands.

**P&R 09-04-25 MOTION TO REQUEST BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR
OAKLAND COUNTY MOBILE STAGE RENTAL IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$1,200 FOR 2026 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Fernandes, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: Request budget appropriation for Oakland County Mobile Stage Rental in the amount of \$1,200 for 2026 Summer Concert Series

3. Parks and Recreation Commissioner Application for Ruth Du Fresno

Discussion was had on confirming that Mayor Ackley has received application and that it will be reviewed.

DISCUSSION:

1. 2025 Market Place Update

Assistant City Manager Jaquays said there are eight markets remaining for the 2025 season. Ms. Jaquays thanked Council Member Owsinek and Council Member Fernandes for attending the market. Ms. Jaquays said last month the market held its Back to School festival and featured 25 booths in total, 12 Info Booths and 23 Artisan/Produce Vendors. Ms. Jaquays said the Walled Lake Library held a storytime and scavenger hunt. Ms. Jaquays thanked Katie Jones State Farm for sponsoring free custard. Ms. Jaquays said the final festival is scheduled for October 8th for the Harvest Festival. Ms. Jaquays said the market's last day is October 29th. Ms. Jaquays thanked the DPW for their work in preparing the grounds on Tuesday and assisting with set up on Wednesday morning. Ms.

Jaquays said the Market Place is running their Vendor Feature campaign on social media until the end of the season and requested Commissioners to follow and interact with the social media pages.

Commissioner Fernandes said she spoke with a vendor who requested that the port-a-johns be cleaned more frequently.

Ms. Jaquays said the port-a-johns are serviced weekly on Tuesday mornings before Market Day.

2. Summer Concerts After-Action Report

Ms. Jaquays said the Summer Concerts were well attended this year. Ms. Jaquays reported that one concert had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather. Ms. Jaquays said the updated street signage seemed to have brought more community awareness to the parks. Ms. Jaquays thanked the bands for their participation and commitment to attending Walled Lake's concert series. Ms. Jaquays thanked DPW for preparing the park ahead of the concert days.

Commissioner Fernandes said the bands were great.

Commissioner O'Rourke said the bands were great and thanked DPW for their work.

P&R 09-05-25 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM



Hana Jaquays
Recording Secretary

Dennis O'Rourke
Chairman