

# DEARBORN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Elizabeth Murray, Chair

Sara Platz, Vice Chair

Sean Fletcher, Director of Dearborn Parks & Recreation

Commissioners:

Rami Abousaleh – Ameer Al-Jabiri – Jamal Aljahmi – Kate Brady-Medley – Steve Durant – Walid Fidama – Greg Gomolak – Warren Hartley – Hassan Kourani – Cade McLogan – John Ruselowski – Mark Schobert – John Sczomak – Johanna Seidel – Joe Siciliano – Jim Siwik – Eugene Smith – EmmaJean Woodyard

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE DEARBORN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AUGUST 6, 2025

Meeting was conducted in-person only at FCPAC

Division Updates and Cultural Arts Updates were distributed prior to the meeting.

**PRESENT:** Al-Jabiri; Aljahmi; Durant; Kourani; Murray; Platz; Ruselowski; Schobert; Sczomak; Seidel; Siciliano; Smith; Woodyard

**EXCUSED:** Abousaleh; Brady-Medley; Durant, Fidima; Gomolak; Hartley; McLogan; Siwik

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sean Fletcher, Director, Parks and Recreation.

Dan Plamondon, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation

Mike Hoffmeister, Mannik & Smith Group

Maria Willett, Director, Philanthropy & Grants Department

The meeting was called to order by Chair Murray at 7:02pm.

A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Platz; seconded by Seidel. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Platz, seconded by Smith. Motion carried.

### Director's Report

Director Fletcher reported that the budget is being reviewed and the numbers look good.

Camp Dearborn is having a very good summer.

The Center continues to be busy.

The Disc has received two new sheets of ice. A new roof is being put out for bid. Once the roof is replaced, one ceiling will be painted. Looking at updating building paint colors.

Assistant Director Plamondon reported FY 24 Recreation revenues eclipsed \$10,000,000. This is with oil revenues being 1/5 of what they used to be.

Center revenues are coming back. Memberships are up.

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Dearborn Hills back to 18 holes. Mystic Creek continues to do well

Revenues up at all locations. Up \$1,200,000 in revenue. Expenditures are up, but subsidy has stayed flat, which is good news.

Pool openings are on track. The locker rooms look great.

Question about condition of greens and turf at Dearborn Hills. Related to issues with irrigation. River and ponds need to be tested. Need to clear lines of sediment. Attempting to replace as many irrigation heads as possible. Hand watering is insufficient during times of high heat and humidity.

Inspection of Lapeer Pool is scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup>. Opening on August 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Murray reported that she spoke to Jon Golich and John Kerr and next year's calendar will reflect that there will be no Recreation Commission meetings in December, July and March. The sports banquet will be in March.

## **Five Year Master Plan**

Mike Hoffmeister from the Mannik & Smith Group presented an overview of the meaning of the Master Plan and the process of creating a new Five-Year Master Plan.

Have been evaluating and inventorying amenities the various park facilities offer residents.

Have been conducting stakeholder and public surveys.

Have had one public input session and will have two more.

Have had meetings with youth sports groups and cultural groups utilizing the Center.

Why a Five-Year Master Plan? It is a best practice. It is a requirement for any MDNR grant submission. Any project submitted for grant consideration must be in the Master Plan.

Plan is to take Master Plan to City Council in November.

Asked of the Commission:

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## **What are the current priorities, issues or concerns?**

- Updating park equipment. Improving communication on status of repairing or updating equipment
- Need to utilize social media for updates as well as website.
- Need to provide services and amenities across parks. Public wants convenience.
- Need to keep aware of recreational trends (e.g., pickleball, skate parks)
- Need to take care of amenities that are currently in place (e.g., bocce courts)
- Need affirmation of commitment to Arts programs.

## **Need for expansion of facility?**

- Currently plenty to work with. Question of staffing issues and programming Center for optimum use.
- Need for variety of arts classes.
- Need for good communication of availability of summer classes. Need to coordinate and cooperate with schools.
- Bring back outdoor summer concerts

## **What park amenities would you like to see?**

- A lot of amenities have shifted to third party and partner organizations. Need to help nurture and facilitate partnerships.
- Indoor sport facility. Turf space.
- Bring back blue boxes at parks.
- Parents want their kids to be more socialized, less isolated, less attached to their phones.

## **General thoughts?**

- Concessions in parks
- LED displays in parks of upcoming activities.
- Volleyball courts
- What we have we need to make good and have timelines for when things will be fixed.
- Upgrade hockey locker rooms

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## **Cultural Arts**

Commissioner Woodyard reported the Padzieski Gallery has an exhibit that will be up for the next couple of weeks.

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Padzieksi Gallery: Fashion show and fundraiser for the gallery. Will have a hanging costume design based on the historic figure of Marie Antoinette.

Holiday Boutique in December – hoping to increase volunteer participation.

Art on the Hill at Homecoming was well received. Kudos to Sasha Corder and Sunshine Durant.

Pop Mural and Butterfly Garden opening was well attended. Have had businesses requesting murals.

Commissioner Ruselowski noted that on July 26<sup>th</sup> the City of Dearborn and the Allied War Veterans paid tribute to 62 men who served in the Korean War at the Korean Memorial. Well attended.

Kudos were given to Commissioner Ruselowski for his work with Korean veterans and he was welcomed back by the Commission following his recovery from a fall.

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 AT THE FCPA**

**IMPORTANT DATES: NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**