

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 – Warren Hartley – Hassan Kourani – Cade McLogan – John Ruselowski – Yousef Saleh -
Mark Schobert –John Sczomak – Johanna Seidel – Joe Siciliano– Eugene Smith – EmmaJean
Woodyard

REGULAR MEETING OF THE DEARBORN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

October 1, 2025

Meeting was conducted in-person only at FCPAC

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

PRESENT: Abousaleh; Al-Jabiri; Aljahmi; Durant; Hartley; Murray; Ruselowski; Saleh; Schobert; Sczomak; Siciliano; Smith; Woodyard

EXCUSED: Brady-Medley; Durant, Fidima; Kourani; McLogan; Platz; Seidel; Woodyard

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Plamondon, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Mike Hoffmeister, Mannik & Smith Group

The meeting was called to order by Chair Murray at 7:05 pm.

Chair Murray welcomed new Commissioner Yousef Saleh.

A motion to approve the August minutes was made by Ruselowski; seconded by Abousaleh. Motion carried.

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

2026-2030 Master Plan

Mike Hoffmeister of the Mannik & Smith Group gave an overview of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

A draft of the Master Plan was distributed.

There will be a thirty-day public review period. There will be formal public hearing at the next Recreation Commission meeting (November 5th).

This plan is being completed simultaneously with City Master Plan.

It was noted that Camp Dearborn has its own Master Plan completed in 2024.

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Looked at schools and private venues providing recreational activities. Looked at State and Federal Park facilities.

Assessed accessibility of parks. Will be used to help guild City Planning for capital improvements.

Noted that City of Dearborn is well over average for park acreage per thousand people.

Provided data from public input via online survey.

97% of people who completed the survey were residents. 76% of participants were residents for more than 15 years. 65% of participants were over 35 years of age.

Identified major goals and objectives via public input meetings. Number one goal was park maintenance and improvements. Number 2 was using the Rouge River as an asset. Other goals were a pedestrian and bicycle network, trail connectivity, sports park or facility expansion, and an outdoor performance venue.

Action program – identified short term, mid-term and long-term recommendations for improvements.

Action plan included items that have already been identified by Parks and Recreation staff and many have been completed.

Noted that the Parks Department has been very creative at finding funding for projects.

Question – was there anything about arts in the Master Plan?

Answer – Community partners were identified. There was an arts question in the survey. Noted that more can be put in. Noted that current FCPA amenities could be fleshed out.

Question – noted that fine arts were not discussed.

Answer – focus was on existing partnerships. General discussion of the Padzieski Gallery. There was a general discussion of the mural projects and the Dearborn Community Fund. Assistant Director Plamondon recommended having a meeting with EmmaJean Woodyard and the Cultural Arts Committee and input would be provided to Director Fletcher.

There was a general discussion of the state of baseball in Dearborn.

There was a question regarding the rolled gate at Ford Field. Fences and gates are being installed for security reasons during hours the park is closed.

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It was noted that cameras were installed at the neighborhood pools.

Question regarding park ratings. Primarily it was Mr. Hoffmeister's ratings, with feedback from Parks and Recreation staff. It was noted that a rating of 3 was satisfactory.

It was recommended that the date of the determination be noted.

Mr. Hoffmeister will be contacting members of the Community Fund and Cultural Arts Committee.

Director's Report

The Division Updates had been previously distributed to Commissioners.

Assistant Director Plamondon gave the following updates.

Nearing punch list phase of the three neighborhood pools. Six-million-dollar projects. Kudos given to Teddy Shaskos for all his work.

Mystic Creek is doing very well. There will be an update to the signage as is Camp Dearborn. The golf course is doing very well.

Theatre step lights up for bid. Using Theatre Restoration Fund.

There was a question and a general discussion regarding the flood at the theatre. It occurred five hours before the Dearborn Youth Theatre show. General discussion of impact on youth theatre production. Will be meeting regarding the future of the theatre program.

A contract has been awarded to replace the roof at the DISC.

The Haunted Trail will take place on October 17, 18, 19. This event is now under the purview of the Community Relations Department. Recreation will supply support and security.

Camp Dearborn – Tin Can Tourists and the flea market had lots of traffic. MI Bright Lights will be at Camp Dearborn beginning November 14th. Have been meeting with Milford regarding the MI Bright Lights. Talking about Milford Township PD assuming role of Camp Dearborn security.

Chair Murray noted that the MI Bright Lights tour will be a continuous ride-through.

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Chair Murray attended the Camp Dearborn meeting and there had been a discussion of holding an Electronic Festival. Strongly advised against it. It was noted that there was not much of an appetite for that request.

Cultural Arts

Commissioner Sczomak noted that the Holiday Market is opening November 19th and will be followed by the Festival of Trees November 22. The theme will be The Nutcracker and local artists will be involved in painting Nutcracker pieces that will be sold. The Padzieski Gallery is booked through March.

It was noted that the Fashion Show was well attended and very well done.

Sports Banquet

Commissioner Abousaleh noted that the timeline for the Sports Banquet has been established and the timeline was distributed to the Commission.

Noted that quality Nominees are needed.

Selection Committee will meet to go over bylaws for the different categories and the bylaws for the Dr. Kreger award. December 17th will be Hall of Fame selection meeting.

Van Patrick interviews scheduled for February 22nd. The deadline for ads is March 16th. A letter will be available for anyone soliciting ads.

Discussion of changing date of ceremony.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE REATION COMMISSION WILL BE NOVEMBER 5, 2025, AT THE
FCPA**

IMPORTANT DATES: NO MEETING IN DECEMBER