



MINUTES OF MEETING

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Date: June 10, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Sharon Mills County Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd., Manchester, MI 48158

Members Present

Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President; Janis Bobrin WCPARC Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, WCPARC Secretary; Gretchen Driskell, Robert Joerg, Robert Marans, Yousef Rabhi and Katie Scott.

Members Absent

JoAnn McCollum, Brenda McKinney

Staff Present

Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Rhonda Bouma, Deputy Director of Operations; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Thomas Power, Superintendent of Maintenance; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; Peter Sanderson, Project Manager; William Cook, Maintenance Supervisor; Matthew Bertrand and Kira Macyda, Park Planners; Kyle Jasper, Communications Specialist

1. Call to Order

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. May 13, 2025 Minutes

The minutes of the May 13, 2025 regular meeting were included with the packet materials.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Mr. Marans, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2025 regular meeting, as attached. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

Janice Kessler, Manchester Township, stated that she would still like to see a playground and benches across the street from Sharon Mills. Ms. Kessler added that a Friends Group has been started for Watkins Lake and reported that the group is looking for interested individuals to participate.

Barbara Fuller stated that she wanted to congratulate Coy Vaughn on his retirement. She wanted to refresh the memory of the Commission regarding the canoe livery and mentioned that there is a master plan for Sharon Mills Park and stated that she hopes the Commission revisits it. She added that she is interested in plans for the property where the house burned down across the street. Ms. Fuller reported that Manchester Township is working on a PDR Ordinance and Megan DeLeeuw has been appointed chair of the committee. She added that for

those interested in the property on Sharon Valley Road, the property adjacent is now for sale. Ms. Fuller also asked that local officials be notified when WCPARC meetings are occurring in local districts around the County.

Barry Lonik, Dexter Township, stated that he is speaking in support of the Esch property on Dexter-Pinckney Road. He added that the owners may want to sell the property and that a buy-protect-sell process may take place.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn provided an overview of news items included in the June meeting packet. He thanked staff for all of the work done to keep Sharon Mills Park looking good.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Mr. Marans, to receive and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of May 2025, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

6. Financial Reports – May 2025

A. Claims Report

Mr. Brooks reported that claims for the month of May 2025 totaled \$693,806.66.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the claims for the month of May 2025 as submitted. Roll call vote, 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (McCollum and McKinney), the motion was approved.

B. Fund Balance Reports

Mr. Brooks provided an update on the fund balance reports from May.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Mr. Joerg, to receive and file the fund balance reports for the month of May 2025 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

C. Revenue Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Revenue Reports for the month of May 2025.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Ms. Scott, to receive and file the Revenue Reports for the month of May 2025. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. B2B – Parks Fund Contribution to Trail Development & Maintenance

Mr. Sanderson presented a summary of B2B Trail construction from 2016 – 2025, which totaled \$36M, with Commission expenditures representing 35.2% of the total.

Ms. Bobrin suggested a working session to dig into the details going into the development of these segments given the timeframe and complexity some segments will take.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi and second Mr. Marans by to commit \$6,400,000 from the Parks fund over four years (2026-29) to augment the Road and Trails Millage and continue planning the development of the B2B trail, to deposit \$69,000 into the B2B Trail Special Revenue Fund to reflect the recently completed 3.45 miles

of trail in accordance with the MOU between HWPI and the Commission and to authorize staff to amend the 2025 Budget in alignment with the remaining 2022-25 commitment and maintenance contribution. Roll call vote, 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (McCollum and McKinney), the motion was approved.

B. NAPP – Beaty Conservation Easement Final Approval

Mr. Bertrand provided a brief presentation on the Beaty conservation easement. He reported that it will be our first conservation easement in Saline Township. The property received partial funding from the Michigan Department of Agricultural and Rural Development.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Ms. Scott, to authorize the conservation easement purchase of the Beaty property in the amount of \$587,000, contingent upon attorney review of the final closing documents, and to commit \$15,000 to the stewardship special revenue fund for the future monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement. Roll call vote, 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (McCollum and McKinney), the motion was approved.

C. Main Street Park Alliance Partnership Contribution

Mr. Vaughn provided a brief presentation on the Main Street Park Alliance. He noted that this item was initially presented to the Commission last fall. WCPARC has contributed \$100,000 through the Connecting Communities Program. Mr. Vaughn recommends a contribution of an additional \$150,000 toward the development of the park. This is in alignment with overall contributions to other park developments such as the Ypsilanti skate park.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, to approve a contribution of \$150,000 to the Main Street Park Alliance for the development of Main Street Park in Chelsea. Roll call vote, 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (McCollum and McKinney), the motion was approved.

8. New Business

A. Director's Comments and Project Updates

Mr. Vaughn provided an overview of the Commission Report included in the packet materials. During director's comments it was noted of some failing equipment at Rolling Hills waterpark that will likely be on a future agenda for needed repairs.

Mr. Rabhi supported by Ms. Bobrin moved to create an emergency fund to authorize staff to spend an amount of not to exceed \$300,000 specific to the Rolling Hills impeller sleeves should any number of them fail prior to the August meeting and Commission review of a formal County RFP. Roll call vote, 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (McCollum and McKinney), the motion was approved.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Ms. Scott, to receive and file the Commission Report as part of Director's Comments for the month of May 2025, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. NAPP – N. Weidmayer Conservation Easement Sales Contract

Mr. Bertrand presented the request for a sales contract for Weidmayer Farms, LLC in Freedom Township. A grant was received from MDARD for a portion of the funding. A grant was submitted to USDA for additional funding, but the federal funding has been put on indefinite hold. The farm is adjacent to additional farms already protected by Legacy and WCPARC.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Mr. Scott, to authorize a sales contract for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Weidmayer Farms LLC property in the amount of \$1,314,000, or \$5,200/acre, contingent upon completion of all necessary due diligence investigation and final approval of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. All ayes, the motion was approved.

C. NAPP – Esch Partnership Final Approval

Ms. Leikam presented on the Esch Partnership conservation easement and noted that this is a NATAC contribution as it is not eligible for ALPAC funding due to its designated Commercial zoning. A portion of the property, adjacent to Hudson Mills Metropark is proposed to be purchased by HCMA to build the northern passage of the Border-to-Border trail. The property is also adjacent to Stinchfield Woods, owned by University of Michigan. The Township has received both state and federal funding for the purchase of the conservation easement.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, to authorize a partnership with Dexter Township and contribute \$250,000 (22%) toward the purchase of the conservation easement and to contribute \$7,500 to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future monitoring or enforcement costs. Roll call vote, 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (McCollum and McKinney), the motion was approved.

D. Coy Vaughn Resolution of Appreciation

Ms. Scribner presented and read a resolution of appreciation to Coy Vaughn for his service to Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, to adopt a resolution of recognition of Coy Vaughn for his dedicated service to the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission and the citizens of Washtenaw County. All ayes, the motion was approved.

9. Commissioners Comments

None.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Mr. Rabhi to adjourn. All ayes, the motion was approved.