Parks Administration | 2230 Platt Road | Ann Arbor, Michigan | 48104

MINUTES OF MEETING
WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Date: August 12, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Parks Administration Building, 2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Members Present
Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President; Janis Bobrin WCPARC Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, WCPARC Secretary; Gretchen Driskell, Robert Joerg, Robert Marans, JoAnn McCollum, Brenda McKinney, Yousef Rabhi and Katie Scott.

Members Absent
None

Staff Present
Meghan Bonfiglio, Director; Rhonda Bouma, Deputy Director of Operations; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; Matthew Bertrand and Kira Macyda, Park Planners; Kyle Jasper, Communications Specialist

1. **Call to Order**

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

   A. **June 10, 2025 Minutes**

The minutes of the June 10, 2025 regular meeting were included with the packet materials.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025 regular meeting, as attached. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. **Public Comment**

Mary Campbell, President of AFSCME 2733, wants to address the Parks Commission in relation to seasonal staff and the amount AFSCME work done by seasonal staff. She stated that the problem is that Parks continues to hire more seasonals and not regular staff. Ms. Campbell added added that more property is being purchased and more seasonals are being hired that are working year-round. She said that this also causes a space issue.

Elle Bogle, Seasonal Naturalist, stated that she has been employed by Parks for six years and has been designated a seasonal but has been year round and has done the work of a full-time naturalist. She stated that her programming numbers rise every year. She added that she has asked every year to be made a full-time employee. Ms. Bogle stated that this is a passion job for her. She stated that if she is being furloughed than the Commission will be losing the scheduled programming.

Abigail Allman, stated that she is the Unit A Chapter Chair. She stated that she supports her in everything that she just said and wanted to discuss the breakdown in staff and added that it's true that the situation is not equitable in every situation. She added that she wants to be very delicate about this situation.

Shawn Severance, Parks Naturalist, stated that Elle does the same job as her and that she supports what Elle said. She stated that people need to be out in nature more often and added that Elle runs a meditation program. She added that she cut back from 100 programs to 80 programs.

Aron Griffis stated that he has never known the parks in the area or known what any of them had to offer anywhere else that he has lived. He added that it would be a shame if that goes away.

Nancy Heine stated that she's a supervisor in Facilities and President of AFSCME 3052. She stated that she hears from the supervisors in this department and that she is having a lot of special conferences and added that one piece of equipment often must be shared between teams. Ms. Heine reported that there are health issues at Parker Mill. She added that there is also a fear of retaliation.

Sharon Paskus stated that she is present in support of Elle and has volunteered hundreds of hours. She added that she is ashamed to hear what the workers are going through. She wanted to thank Elle, Shawn, and Kelsey for what they've done for her.

Ginny Morgan, who lives on North Lake in Dexter Township, stated that she is here because she's like the Commission to consider what to do with Camp Burt Shurly. She stated that it has been totally abandoned and is a mess, but that there are great possibilities for the camp. She added that she sees it as bringing Ypsi and Ann Arbor into a place you can have conferences and revenue.

Kim Brann, Ann Arbor, stated that Elle and Washtenaw County Parks have been life changing. She added that parks in Texas offered nothing. She stated that kids can see things like climate change with their own hands.

Amy Griffis stated that she wanted to speak up on behalf of the naturalists and that she learns so much whenever she goes out to one of these programs.

Stephanie Buttrey stated that she has a 99-year-old father-in-law who is a retired biologist, and she would take everything she has learned and discuss it with her father-in-law and he enjoys the programs as well.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Ms. Bonfiglio provided an overview of news items included in the August meeting packet and the recent projects and activities from the months of June and July.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. Bobrin, to receive and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the months of June and July 2025, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Rolling Hills – Main Pool Mechanical Room Contract Award

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. Scott, to award a contract to Northern Pump and Well for the main mechanical room improvements (as defined in RFP 8811) in the amount of $179,238 and based on the

age of the pumps, motors and overall complexity of the project, to authorize a 20% contingency. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

B. B2B – Barton-Bandemer Tunnel Contract Change Order

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. Scott, to authorize an amendment to the Colliers Engineering & Design contract in the amount of $23,103.75 for the Barton to Bandemer Tunnel and Trail Project. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

C. NAPP – MDARD P.A. 116 Update (included in the packet for informational purposes)

Mr. Rabhi asked for clarification on whether we have to go back for review of conservation easements. Ms. Leikam stated that the state would become the co-holder on the conservation easements but that the agreements would not be fully opened up for renegotiations. She added that we are collaborating with the statewide group, Heart of the Lakes, on possible resolutions and they are working toward a legislative fix. Ms. Bobrin stated that a legislative solution would be best.

7. Financial Reports – June & July 2025

A. Claims Reports

Mr. Brooks reported that claims for June 2025 totaled $562,190.20.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Joerg, to approve the claims for the month of June 2025 as submitted. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

Mr. Brooks reported that claims for July 2025 totaled $802,895.82.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Joerg, to approve the claims for the month of July 2025 as submitted. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

B. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks provided a verbal update on financial reports of the months of June and July 2025.

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

8. Old Business

A. Staebler Farm – Blackbird Lodge AV System Award

Mr. Gold stated that we have recently had rentals at Blackbird Lodge to see what is necessary for improved audio visual equipment to support not only the operations of the facilities but also the increased use as rental. He also stated that the system is a 10–15-year system with a focus on flexibility, friendliness and scalability.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney, seconded by Ms. Bobrin, to authorize the establishment of a purchase order under the existing countywide contract with CTI in the amount of $74,152 to upgrade the audio-visual equipment in Blackbird Lodge. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None.

9. New Business

A. Director's Comments and Project Updates

Ms. Bonfiglio provided an update to the County Farm Park Master Planning Process and the anticipated timeline and Ms. Macyda provided additional information. Ms. Macyda gave an update on public engagement within the process.

Ms. Bonfiglio provided an update on the power outages at Independence Lake County Park; She added that the schematic design process on the proposed ERC is nearly complete, and that public engagement will be taking place on September 11th and 12th at Christian Love Fellowship Church.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Ms. Scott, to receive and file the Commission Report as part of Director's Comments for June & July 2025, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. NAPP – Garrett's Space Donation Agreement

Ms. Leikam stated that the owners who bought this property are interested in building a young adult suicide prevention facility and added that as part of the site development agreement and zoning of the property need a qualified organization to hold a conservation easement on the natural areas not to be developed. The owners nominated the property for a donation of 77 acres. The property was noted as a high priority for NATAC as part of Round 24, based on the committee's site visit.

Mr. Ezekiel stated that this property is spectacular, and we are getting it for nothing. Mr. Rabhi thanked staff for work done on this property. Mr. Rabhi and Ms. Driskell recommended including an option to buy if the use of the property ever changes.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Mr. Joerg, to authorize a donation agreement with Garrett's Space to accept a conservation easement contingent upon completion of due diligence and final approval of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

C. NAPP – Brooks Donation Agreement

Ms. Krueger stated that this property is adjacent to the Koenn preserve on the west side of the County. She added that the proposed portion of the land to be donated has a lot of wetlands and possible trail connection.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg, seconded by Mr. Rabhi, to authorize a donation agreement of the Brooks property, contingent upon completion of all necessary due diligence investigation and final approval of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

D. NAPP – Maier Partnership Agreement

Ms. Leikam stated that this is a more of a traditional NAPP property in Lima Township. She reported that Legacy Land Conservancy is asking for $87,450 from the NAPP program as a contribution to this easement.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Ms. Scott, to authorize a partnership agreement with Legacy Land Conservancy and contribution $87,450 toward the purchase of a conservation easement with contributions from ALPAC and NATAC, and to contribute $7,500 to the stewardship special revenue fund to cover potential future monitoring or enforcement costs of the conservation easement. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

E. Preventative Pavement Maintenance Contract Award

Mr. Townsend reported that this project focuses on preventative maintenance on pavement within the Parks system. He added that going with a fog seal instead of a micro seal is less expensive and is recommended for this work.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Mr. Marans, to award a contract to Pavement Maintenance Systems for preventative pavement improvements, as defined in RFP 8828, in the revised amount of $672,825.12 and to authorize a 10% contingency of up to $67,200. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

F. Independence Lake – Trails Repaving Contract Award

Mr. Townsend provided an overview of the proposed trail repaving contract at Independence Lake.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney, seconded by Ms. Scott, to award a service contract in the amount of $165,000 to Cadillac Asphalt, LLC and to authorize a 10% contingency of up to $16,500 for potential change orders. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent, the motion was approved.

G. Other New Business

None.

10. Commissioners Comments

Ms. Bobrin asked for some perspective on the union issue discussed during public comment. Ms. Bonfiglio reported that there is a long-standing Letter of Understanding (LOU) that allows certain positions to work year-round. She added that ultimately the educator position was not included in the LOU and that the LOU does need to be followed, even as strategy for future programming is developed.

Commissioners requested that the Director follow up with the concerns that were raised during public comment.

Ms. McKinney asked what can be done to attract more minority people to apply to positions at WCPARC when they are posted. Ms. Bobrin stated that this has been a long-term concern countywide and that HR should play a role.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of adding a “Commissioner Follow-Up” section to the agenda after public comment.

Mr. Marans stated that the end of October is the opening of the Ralph C. Wilson Park and that Parks staff should keep that in mind for scheduling purposes when it comes to other events.

11. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.