



MINUTES OF MEETING

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Date: September 9, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Staebler Farm County Park, Blackbird Lodge, 7734 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Patricia Tupacz-Scribner and Robert Joerg

Staff Present

Meghan Bonfiglio, Director; Greg Hohenberger, Deputy Director; Rhonda Bouma, Deputy Director of Operations; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Karen Harris, Parks Analyst; Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; Matthew Bertrand, Park Planner; Kira Macyda, Park Planner; and Kyle Jasper, Communications Specialist

1. Call to Order

Ms. Bobrin called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. August 12, 2025 Minutes

The minutes of the August 12, 2025 regular meeting were included with the packet materials.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. Scott., to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 regular meeting, as attached. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Ms. Bonfiglio provided a brief introduction of the new Chief Deputy Director, Greg Hohenberger. Mr. Gold introduced the Folk School staff and shared their roles: Wade Buck (Coordinator), Amy Coomer (Receptionist), and Justin Polley (Chef/Instructor). He also shared the upcoming events and activities planned for the fall season at Staebler Farm County Park and MI Folk School.

Ms. Bonfiglio continued with additional communications, including an update on another power outage at Independence Lake. She provided images and updates on the MLM, B2B Trail, and Stucki Preserve projects, noting that all projects are progressing well and remain on track.

Ms. Bouma discussed summer day camp enrollment data and shared plans to increase the number of new campers and better support the needs of current participants. She also provided updates on the Youth Arts Alliance program and partnerships. Ms. Bonfiglio concluded by announcing new volunteer opportunities across park operations.

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

6. Financial Reports – August 2025

A. Claims Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on August 2025 claims which totaled \$1,366,231.50.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Ms. McKinney, to approve the claims for the month of August 2025 as submitted. Roll call vote: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (Joerg and Scribner); the motion was approved.

B. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks provided a verbal update which included revenue reports for YTD activity through August 31 as well as fund balance reports.

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

7. Old Business

A. MLM Natatorium Art Installation

Ms. Macyda shared the background of the Ann Arbor Art Center, which under this recommendation would provide a list of vetted artists for the MLM Natatorium project. She explained the funding breakdown, summarized as 75% to the artist and 25% to the Art Center. The timeline for the project was also shared.

Mr. Rabhi requested information on what the Ann Arbor Art Center does within this process. Ms. Macyda responded that they provide a network of artists, insurance, and project oversight. Ms. McKinney expressed concern about spending money on this type of project given the difficult times we are in. Mr. Ezekiel stated that the environment in the gym and pool space is challenging and added that we want to create a memorable space for patrons. Ms. McCollum suggested that the process to select an organization to provide oversight be competitive. Mr. Rabhi and Ms. Scott also expressed support for an open bidding process.

Several Commissioners expressed concerns and asked questions regarding the project and requested funding. Commissioner Driskell offered to work with the team on proposals.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel seconded by Ms. Driskell, to authorize a sole contract to the Ann Arbor Art Center for managing the Natatorium public art project for the Meri Lou Recreation Center, not to exceed \$100,000.00.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi seconded by Ms. McKinney to postpone this item until the next regular meeting. The motion failed by voice vote.

Roll call vote on the original recommendation: 5 ayes, 3 nays (McCollum, McKinney, and Rabhi), 2 absent (Joerg and Scribner); the motion was approved.

B. NAPP – Squiers Preserve Acquisition Final Approval

Ms. Leikam summarized the request for the Squiers property acquisition.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Ms. Scott, to authorize the purchase of the Squiers property in Sylvan Township at a purchase price of \$218,000 contingent upon attorney review of final closing documents and to contribute \$25,000 to the stewardship special revenue fund for future maintenance. Roll call vote: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (Joerg and Scribner); the motion was approved.

8. New Business

A. Director’s Comments and Project Updates

Ms. Bonfiglio provided an update on the Eastern Washtenaw Community and Recreation Center and noted that the schematics are complete. She added that community meetings will take place this month. Ms. Ziolkowski showed updates made to the county webpage and highlighted important links for Parks communications. The community outreach will begin with meetings in September at Christian Love Fellowship Church.

It was moved by Ms. Driskell, seconded by Ms. Scott, to receive and file the Commission Report as part of Director’s Comments for August 2025, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. NAPP – Roome Trust Sales Contract Approval

Mr. Bertrand discussed the Roome property and its evaluation scores in Augusta Township. He then outlined the proposal.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Mr. Marans, to authorize a sales contract for the purchase of a conservation easement on the Roome Trust property in the amount of \$393,000, or \$5,099/acre, contingent upon completion of all necessary due diligence investigation and final approval of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Roll call vote: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (Joerg and Scribner); the motion was approved.

C. Westside Operations Facility

Ms. Bouma provided background on the need for a permanent facility to house NAPP/ROC staff operations. Visuals of the proposed property were shared. Mr. Rabhi suggested that a building purchase or purchase of a property to construct a building may be more cost effective than renting in the long-term and asked that this solution be a temporary one.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Mr. Marans, to proceed with lease negotiations for the property located at 4111 Jackson Road in Ann Arbor, contingent on attorney review of terms. Roll call vote: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (Joerg and Scribner); the motion was approved.

D. TAP Grant Application – Eastern Washtenaw Community and Recreation Center (EWCRC) Trails

Ms. Bonfiglio presented an overview of the Transportation Alternative Program grant application. She shared a map of the EWCRC trails, outlining plans to widen them and connect surrounding communities.

It was moved by Ms. Rabhi, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to authorize staff to proceed with the TAP application for \$2,000,000 in partnership with Superior Township, Ypsilanti Township and the Washtenaw County Road Commission, and to provide the \$400,000 local match from the non-motorized trail millage fund. Roll call vote: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (Joerg and Scribner); the motion was approved.

E. Admin Roof and Building Repair

Mr. Power outlined the necessary repairs and improvements for the Parks Administration Building. He reported that contractors were sourced through the MiDeal joint purchasing program.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum, seconded by Ms. McKinney, to award a service contract to Laux Construction in the amount of \$168,320, including an additional 15% (\$25,248) contingency for potential change orders. Roll call vote: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (Joerg and Scribner); the motion was approved.

F. Sharon Mills Hydraulic Analysis

Ms. Macyda presented the condition assessment of the hydraulic structure at Sharon Mills.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi, seconded by Ms. McKinney, to approve a purchase order with Stantec to do a condition assessment, develop engineering plans for wingwall repairs, and conduct a hydraulic analysis at Sharon Mills County Park in the amount not to exceed \$76,000, and to authorize a 10% contingency of \$7,600. Roll call vote: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent (Joerg and Scribner); the motion was approved.

G. Other New Business

None.

9. Commissioners Comments

Mr. Marans shared details of a celebration of the Ralph C. Wilson Park in Detroit on October 25th.

Mr. Rabhi announced that he is expecting a baby in mid to late October and noted that he may miss a few upcoming meetings.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.