



MINUTES OF MEETING

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Date: January 13, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

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

Members Present

Patricia Tupacz 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; Greg Hohenberger, Chief Deputy Director; Rhonda Bouma, Deputy Director of Operations; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Sarah Walls Stewart, MLM Superintendent; Karen Harris, Parks Administration Analyst, Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; Kira Macyda, Park Planner; Matthew Bertrand, Park Planner; Allison Krueger, Stewardship Planner; Kyle Jasper, Communications Specialist; Michael Kettler, Golf Course General Manager

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. December 4, 2025 Working Session Minutes

The minutes of the December 4, 2025 working session meeting were included with the packet materials.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2025 working session meeting, as attached. All ayes, the motion was approved.

B. December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting

The minutes of the December 9, 2025 regular meeting were included with the packet materials.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 regular meeting, as attached. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

Mr. Appleyard spoke regarding a proposed gravel mine near Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve and expressed concerns about construction impacts on the natural habitat. He suggested contacting the DNR to support purchasing and relocating the project away from the area.

Ms. Kolon, from Manchester Township, also shared concerns about the proposed Watkins Lake gravel mining application. She stated she is part of two groups opposing the project and requested county support in opposing mining activity in the area, referencing Irish Hills concerned citizens as one of the opposing groups.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Ms. Bonfiglio noted a large attendance due to partnership and employee award recognitions. She shared articles highlighting recent events, including an email from a patron from Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center patron thanking staff for the Pickleball Fall Classic and recognized contributions from Facility Manager Suzanne Kessler.

A photo of the Bandemer Tunnel lighting was shared. Ms. Bonfiglio provided updates on projects and activities across all facilities.

Ms. Ziolkowski continued communications updates, announcing a Sierra Club award presented to Dan, Peter, and Roy. She outlined upcoming 2026 initiatives, including redesigning the quarterly newsletter and streamlining and updating kiosk signage.

Ms. Bonfiglio and staff presented the 2025 Parks Employee and Partner Recognition Awards. All award honorees were presented.

It was moved by Ms. Scott, seconded by Ms. McKinney, to receive and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the months of December 2025, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

6. Financial Reports – December 2025

A. Claims Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the December 2025 claims which totaled \$4,438,413.73.

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

B. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks summarized the fund balance reports along with the revenue reports presented in the January packet.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Mr. Rabhi to receive and file the financial reports for the month of December 2025 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. B2B – Esch Property Additional Contribution Request

Mr. Sanderson presented an overview of the proposed property purchase to connect to the B2B Trail. Metroparks would contribute \$60,000, WCPARC \$16,000, and other partners \$17,000 each. The proposal will be presented to the Metroparks Board of Commissioners.

Questions were raised regarding property ownership. It was clarified that Hudson Mills would own the property with an easement. Ms. McCollum requested clarification on title clearing and ownership responsibilities.

It was moved by Mr. Rabhi seconded by Mr. Joerg, to partner with Huron Clinton Metroparks, Dexter Township and Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative on the purchase of the additional acres of the Esch property, and to contribute the remaining \$16,000 to complete the negotiated pool of funds of the partners above, contingent upon attorney final review and approval of documents. Roll call vote: 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent; the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. Director's Comments and Project Updates

Ms. Bonfiglio announced receipt of a \$2 million TAP grant, thanking Commissioner Rabhi for the connection. Updates were provided on the Recreation Center traffic study (currently underway), bi-weekly design and construction meetings, and ongoing interviews for the Project Manager position.

Commissioner Rabhi asked about previously allocated annual funds; Mr. Brooks confirmed the county continues to receive those funds.

Ms. Macyda shared results of the MLM Natatorium Artwork selection, announcing Thomas Mosberg as the winner.

Ms. Walls-Stewart provided an overview of an upcoming design-build RFP for upgraded strength and cardio equipment and new flooring and discussed establishing a three-year replacement cycle using a trade-in/buy-back program. Commissioner Joerg asked whether there would be public or commission feedback.

Ms. Leikam discussed concerns regarding the Watkins Lake Gravel Mine, noting that 770 acres were purchased in 2025 from GT Ranch near Watkins Lake. County representation will attend the January 24 meeting to monitor the process. Ms. Bonfiglio requested permission to speak on behalf of the board. After discussion, the commissioners agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored and authorized Ms. Bonfiglio to send a letter on behalf of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to express concerns to the Norvell Township and mining representatives.

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

B. Pierce Lake Golf Course Greens Fees Adjustment

Ms. Ms. Bouma presented proposed greens fee adjustments for 2025–2027, noting no increase since 2022. A 14% increase is proposed for 2026, considering staffing levels.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg, seconded by Ms. McKinney, to increase golf course fees at the start of 2026 and to authorize staff to amend the budget. Roll call vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Marans); the motion was approved.

C. Dexter-Huron Boardwalk/HCMA Partnership

Mr. Sanderson presented the B2B boardwalk deterioration and a proposal to pilot fiberglass decking on smaller sections for evaluation. Eight bids were received. The recommended contractor is Laux Construction of Mason, MI, for \$426,201.05 plus a 10% contingency, with costs split 50/50 with HCMA. The item will go to the board in February.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Ms. Driskell, to award a contract to Laux Construction for \$426,201.05 for RFP #8858 and to authorize a 10% construction contingency in the amount of \$42,620 for this project, contingent upon authorization of funds and reimbursement by Huron Clinton Metroparks Authority for 50% of the contract value in accordance with the executed repair and maintenance agreement. Roll call vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Marans); the motion was approved.

D. NAPP – Davenport Partnership Request

Ms. Krueger presented the Davenport Property as primarily wetland with strong habitat value. The total cost is \$770,000, with Scio Township contributing \$385,000 and Ann Arbor Greenbelt considering \$231,000, subject to approval. WCPARC approval is requested for up to 30% of the project cost.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Ms. McKinney, to authorize a partnership agreement with Scio Township and contribute up to \$385,000 toward the fee simple purchase of the Davenport property. Roll call vote: 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent (Marans); the motion was approved.

E. Election of Officers

It was moved by Ms. McKinney, seconded by Ms. Driskell, to elect Ms. Tupacz Scribner as President of the Commission, to elect Ms. Bobrin as Vice President of the Commission and to elect Mr. Ezekiel as Secretary/Treasurer of the Commission. All ayes, the motion was approved.

F. Other New Business

None.

9. Commissioners Comments

Ms. Scribner thanked attendees for their support. Ms. Scott shared that she has been visiting all the County properties/preserves and is impressed with their upkeep and maintenance. Ms. McKinney asked for an update on the status of the arsenic water issues at Staebler Farm County Parks, Ms. Bonfiglio responded that the water treatment permit has been reviewed by the WC Environmental Health Department and has been forwarded to the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for review.

10. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.