



MINUTES OF MEETING

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Date: February 10, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

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

Members Present

Patricia Tupacz Scribner, WCPARC President; Janis Bobrin, WCPARC Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, WCPARC Secretary; Robert Marans, JoAnn McCollum, Brenda McKinney and Yousef Rabhi.

Members Absent

Gretchen Driskell, Robert Joerg, and Katie Scott

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; David Ries, Project Manager; Allison Krueger, Stewardship Planner; Kyle Jasper, Communications Specialist.

1. *Call to Order*

Ms. Tupacz Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

2. *Pledge of Allegiance*

3. *Approval of the Minutes*

The January 13, 2026 regular meeting minutes were included in the packet materials.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026, regular meeting, as attached. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. *Public Comment*

None

5. *Communications, Activities and Recreation Reports*

Ms. Bonfiglio welcomed everyone and invited Mr. Gold to provide updates on the Michigan Folk School. Mr. Gold shared the newly created "Find Your Flow" books have been created to give insight into the Folk School class experiences.

Mr. Ezekiel inquired about the heating system performance during extreme cold temperatures. Mr. Gold responded that adjustments are being made, noting this has been one of the coldest winters experienced by the building and system.

Ms. Bonfiglio reported that January was slower due to weather-related media limitations. She shared progress images from the MLMRC Natatorium project and summarized communications and events across facilities. She also highlighted the Sierra Huron Valley Club Award and recognized Kelsey Dehring for her presence and discussion on bird initiatives.

Ms. Ziolkowski presented her communications highlights and the 2025 Annual Highlight Reports.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to receive and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the months of January 2026, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

6. Finance

A. Claims Report

Mr. Brooks reported total claims \$501,192.95 for the month of January 2026.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, to approve the claims for the month of January 2026 as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent; the motion was approved.

B. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the financial reports for January 2026.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum, seconded by Ms. McKinney to receive and file the financial reports for the month of January 2026 as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Concentrate Media Annual Update

Ms. Bonfiglio introduced Mr. Dunn, Editor and Publisher of Concentrate Media, who shared updates and highlighted partnership efforts including “On the Ground Ypsilanti.” Discussion followed regarding funding and stakeholder support.

B. MLM Natatorium Additional Design/Engineering Services

Mr. Reis provided renovation updates and requested additional funding not to exceed \$67,362.33 due to project challenges.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel that Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize a contract amendment in the not to exceed amount of \$67,362.33 on a time and materials basis with JFR Architects to complete construction administration for renovations to the MLM Recreation Center Natatorium, for a total contract amount of \$263,650.33. Roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent; the motion was approved.

C. Director's Comments & Project Updates

Ms. Bonfiglio shared the passing of Bob Gunzel, a prior Washtenaw County Administrator. She then provided upcoming project updates for the Spring/Summer of 2026. She also gave an update on the Watkins Lake gravel mine and community concerns. Ms. Bonfiglio noted there is a drafted letter regarding the gravel mine prepared that is now open for review amongst the commissioners.

Ms. Bouma gave an update on the scholarship program, which is now live and open to the public. Mr. Bertrand shared that we have joined the coalition to advance the responsible policy on invasive ornamental plants continuing.

Ms. Stewart gave an update on the Eastside Camp announcing there are three potential venues available and structuring them more to align with the WCPARC camp day to day operations.

Ms. Bonfiglio provided an update on the East Washtenaw Community and Recreation Center (EWCRC) project, noting that the traffic study has been completed. She added that the design team is meeting weekly and is close to finalizing the design. In addition, staff is currently interviewing candidates for the Project Manager as well as Owner Rep options.

It was moved by Ms. McCollum, seconded by Mr. Rabhi to receive and file the Commission Report as part of Director's Comments for January 2026, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

D. Other Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. NAPP Preserve Amenity Design Services

Mr. Ries noted that staff is seeking approval for design and engineering work at both Lost Wagon Preserve and Saline Preserve. Based on review of quotes, staff recommends that Johnson Hill provide these services as well as develop entrance and boardwalk standards at preserves.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin, seconded by Ms. McKinney to award the NAPP Preserve Amenity Design Services at Lost Wagon Preserve and Saline Preserve coupled with the development of boardwalk standards to Ann Arbor based, Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio for \$113,285 including a 10% contingency (\$11,329) for a total amount of \$124,614.00. Roll call vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent; the motion was approved.

B. Signatory Authority Designation

Mr. Hohenberger noted that staff is requesting this action to update and clarify the existing authorization to align with Commission bylaws and support efficient execution of Commission business. He added that this change will designate the signatory by position rather than by name.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to delegate authority to the Parks Director and Chief Deputy Director (in the Director's absence) to sign contracts and legal documents on behalf of the Commission. All ayes, the motion was approved.

C. Other New Business

None.

9. Commissioners Comments

None.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

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

Washtenaw County will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 7-day notice to Washtenaw County. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Washtenaw by writing or calling the following: Human Resources, 734-994-2410, TTD# 734/994-1733.