



WARREN CULTURAL COMMISSION

CITY OF WARREN, MICHIGAN

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025 – 5:10 P.M.

WARREN COMMUNITY CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM “A”

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Cutter at 5:10 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- **Members Present:** Jeff Cutter, Shima Begum, Jon Oaks, Carl Weckerle, Paula Wild, Rebecca Zainos
- **Members Absent:** Keri Pruse (excused), Monica Papasian (excused)
- **Guests:** Candice Mayer, City Attorney

III. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Jon Oaks, supported by Shima Begum, to accept the agenda of the Warren Cultural Commission Meeting of June 16, 2025.

- Yes: All
- No: None
- Motion Carried.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented by Jeff Cutter. Report dated December 2, 2024.

A motion was made by Jon Oaks, supported by Elaine DePalma, to approve the Financial Report.

- Yes: All
- No: None
- Motion Carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Juneteenth

- Scheduled for June 19, 2025.
- Budget for entertainment: \$12,692.
- Three poets were added to complement the lineup.

- A jazz performance was added to the program.
- B. Earth Day Park Clean-Up
 - Earth Day Park Clean-Up took place April 26, 2025, at Rinke Park. Permanent table installation requested by Parks & Rec.
 - Permanent table installation was requested by Parks & Rec due to frequent movement.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Thomas H. Carey Concerts at the Square 2025
 - a. Talent is booked; awaiting invoice submissions.
 - b. Increased budget for summer and winter concerts is pending final approval.
 - c. Approved by Mayor Stone.
 - d. Members discussed promoting concerts earlier and explored opportunities to engage more acts and advertising pending budget approval.
- B. Reappointments
 - a. Members up for reappointment: Jeff Cutter, Jon Oaks, Keri Pruse, Paula Wild.
 - b. Appointments for Cutter and Oaks were booked with the Mayor on June 16.
 - c. Awaiting appointment for Paula Wild.
 - d. Keri Pruse announced she will resign due to personal reasons.
- C. Commission Vacancies
 - a. No current vacancies — the first time in several years with a full commission.
- D. 2025-2026 Budget
 - a. The budget for 2025-2026 was approved by City Council.
 - b. Year 25-26 budget allocation discussion was tabled to the next meeting.
- E. Council of Commissions Appreciation Dinner
 - a. Occurred on Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Gazebo.
- F. Election of Officers for 2025-2026
 - a. Chair: Jeff Cutter was nominated and elected unanimously.
 - b. Vice Chair: Jon Oaks was nominated and elected unanimously.
 - c. Secretary: Carl Weckerle was nominated and elected unanimously.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Elaine DePalma announced she will step down from the commission after 18 years of service due to health-related issues. She also presented members with commemorative notebooks documenting commission memories and will advise the Mayor of her decision.
- Keri Pruse announced she will step down from the commission at the end of her term, citing family responsibilities and the demands of caring for her three young children. She has served on the commission for 21 years. She will advise the Mayor of her decision.
- Chairman Cutter requested that members share any feedback or opinions in advance of the upcoming 2025 Council of Commissions meeting.
- Next Cultural Commission Meeting: Monday, September 15, 2025, location to be determined.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jon Oaks, supported by Shima Begum, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- Yes: All
- No: None
- Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Wild, Secretary
Warren Cultural Commission