

**WARREN PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Commissioner Salka at 6:31pm

In Attendance: Mike McCrillis, Adam Sawka, George Chapp, Heather Craig, Sara Frederick, Jim Schoenherr, Renee Pellegrini, and Council Ex-officio Councilman Jonathan Lafferty

Parks and Recreation Director Jason Spiller; Facilities and Events Supervisor Casey Kyewski

Excused Absence Amy Motyka

Unexcused Absence:

Approval of Agenda: A motion by Commissioner Sawka, seconded by Commissioner Frederick to approve the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote on approval of October 2025 Minutes: A motion by Commissioner Sawka, seconded by Commissioner Chapp to approve the minutes from October 14, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business:

A. Update on Skate Park and Splash Pad

- Restroom facility at Eckstein Skate Park is currently under construction.
- Department currently has several nice black polyurethane benches & Garbage cans which will be installed around the skate park area.
- Grand opening of Park scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2026 with M3 Midwest Movement event scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 2026.
- Temporary fencing has been removed from Skate Park
- Looking into a new street sign for Eckstein
- Splash Pad at Weigand's is still under legal due to ongoing issues with contractor.
- Main water supply line was turned on without City notification and left throughout winter, line broke on 12/16/25.

Splash Pad Project

- Splash Pad at Weigand's is still under legal due to ongoing issues with contractor.
- Main water supply line was turned on without City notification and left throughout winter, line broke on 12/16/25.
- The project has experienced problems with the subcontractor responsible for installing the splash pad equipment, which is identified as the primary source of issues, including material delays.
- The primary contractor for the project is Great Lakes Recreation.

B. Veteran's Park Pickleball & Basketball Court

- New pickleball and basketball courts are in the final phases of engineering and are expected to break ground in late summer.
- The department held meetings with the pickleball community to gather input on the new court design, which was incorporated into the engineering plans, addressing concerns about fencing and restrooms.
- Final sealant for the court is scheduled for spring.

C. Parks & Recreation Staff Update

- Kevin Taegel has been hired as the new Sports Supervisor, Kevin being on Monday, February 9, 2026.
- The Parks department is run by Adriana, Casey, and Denise. Full-time staff includes two maintenance technicians, a maintenance specialist, and a P&R assistant.
- The department is responsible for 30 parks. Restructuring is planned for chemical checks at Wiegand and City Hall splash pads, requiring CPO-certified staff.
- Mr. Klein retired at the end of December. The plan is to hire an administrative clerk to handle payroll, permits, and other administrative tasks
- Susan Heydel (Purchasing) will be the new Administrative Clerk for the Parks and Recreation Department. Susan will be starting on Friday, February 6, 2026.

VI. New Business

A. Tree Lighting Recap;

- Event was held on Saturday, December 6, 2025 in front of City Hall.
- Great attendance, all events were well received. Ice Skating Rink was super crowded, possible move hot chocolate from immediate area.
- The drone show started early, causing some attendees to miss it.
- Reorganize skate and food areas, and consider a timing system for the ice rink. Upcoming events will test new strategies

B. Senior Programs

- A \$10,000 grant from Meyer will fund new programs for Warren residents, including monthly senior luncheons, themed senior swim nights (18+), and a color run.
- Department currently running senior focus group for programming ideas.

C. New Playgrounds

- A new universal playscape will be installed at the following parks;

- a. Altermatt
 - b. Rentz
 - c. Jaycee
 - d. Halmich
- A comprehensive renovation plan for Helmick Park exists but currently lacks full funding. The entire Halmich project is being broken into 2 phases;
 1. Renovations & removal of pavilion
 2. Construction of new North Indoor/outdoor pavilion/restroom facility
- The department will be asking Warren City Council to approve a project for Halmich Park for the Spring of 2026. The project consist of removal of the North Pavilion, renovations of the north restroom into a maintenance building; and ADA Renovations to the South restrooms & Pathway connectivity from south restroom to current pathway. The cost associated with this portion is \$1,663,500.
- Phase 2 consist of a new North Pavilion with indoor/outdoor capabilities. The cost associated with this project is \$3,246,700.00. Currently, funding is not available for Phase 2.
- Department is accepting Bids for the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan, committee will meet on 2/9 to choice vendor.

D. Shaw Park Grant

- A resolution was passed for a matching grant for Shaw Park, totaling 985,200(585,200 from the city, \$400,000 from the state's Michigan Trust Fund).
- The project is currently awaiting MDNR applications approval
- The grant covers renovations to the bathroom, shelter, and playground. A Professional Cricket Field as well as improvements to the parking lot, and pathways. Project is expected to begin Spring of 2026.

VII. Commissioners Comments

- Forward a copy of Parks and Recreation Commission By-Laws to commissioners for review

VIII. Audience Participation

N/A

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:14pm by Commissioner Sawka, seconded by Commissioner Pellegrini
The motion passed unanimously