

## **Warren Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

April 15, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.

Warren Community Center – Conference Room B

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Adam Sawkas.

Present: Adam Sawkas, Sara Fredrick, George Chapp, Michael McCrillis, Heather Craig, Renee Pelligrine, Amy Motyka

Absent: Ken Voss (unexcused)

Motion by Amy Motyka to mark absence unexcused, seconded by George Chapp. Motion passed.

### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda made by George Chapp, seconded by Sara Fredrick. Motion passed unanimously.

### **III. Approval of January 14, 2026 Minutes**

Motion to approve the January 14, 2026 meeting minutes made by Heather Craig, seconded by Sara Fredrick. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. Old Business**

Eckstein Skate Park:

Director Jason Spiller reported that restroom renovations are almost complete and additional site amenities, including benches and waste receptacles, are to be installed soon. The park will receive 50 new trees through the USTA forestry grant. A community event, Grindfest, is scheduled for June 13 and will feature skate lessons, music, and food vendors. The skatepark must be resealed prior to its official opening, after which a grand opening event will be scheduled. Spiller noted the park is already experiencing high usage and is expected to attract visitors regionally. Additional improvements include bioswales, clover landscaping, a future shade structure, and a potential designated graffiti wall to discourage vandalism elsewhere.

Weigand Splash Pad:

Currently Weigands has some safety issues which the City is work on addressing prior to opening

Halmich Park Renovations:

The project is progressing with a total estimated cost of approximately \$1.4 million. Planned improvements include new restroom facilities, pavilion upgrades, pathway reconstruction, and a new playground with safety surfacing and fencing. Temporary

restroom facilities will be installed during construction. Work is expected to begin upon final permit approvals.

**Shaw Park Renovation:**

This project, funded through a Michigan Trust Fund grant, includes ADA restroom upgrades, pavilion replacement, additional parking, and a professional-level cricket field with netting and bleachers. The project is in the early planning phase, with design plans to be submitted to the state. Construction is anticipated to begin this summer.

**Tree Inventory Grant:**

Spiller reported that a tree inventory is roughly 85% completed and native tree planting at Eckstein Park is scheduled for mid-May. The project includes planting of 50 variety of Michigan-native species trees with a two-year maintenance and replacement guarantee. The grant must be completed by September 1. Commissioners discussed the possibility of educational signage for tree identification.

**V. New Business**

**Veteran's Park Courts:**

Pickleball and basketball courts are nearing completion, with final surfacing scheduled for mid-May. Wind screens and portable restrooms will be installed.

**WCC Courtyard Renovation:**

The former bocce ball court is being converted into a green space. The project is funded by the Downtown Development Authority and work is expected to begin within the next few weeks.

**Summer Park Staffing:**

Spiller reported wage increases for part-time staff to remain competitive with surrounding communities. Operational adjustments may be required due to increased labor costs. Future infrastructure improvements include parking lot upgrades and stormwater management changes that may impact field availability.

**Summer Events and Programming:**

Upcoming events include the Birthday Bash (August 27–30), street fairs, foam parties at multiple parks, and the return of the day camp program. Spiller emphasized a focus on infrastructure improvements across the city's 29 parks, with approximately \$3.6 million in planned investments. A communication strategy is being developed to better inform residents through print, television, and social media.

**VI. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioners discussed revitalizing the Adopt-a-Park program and expanding community engagement efforts. Positive feedback was provided regarding senior programming and outreach initiatives. Additional discussion emphasized the importance of improving communication and public awareness.

## **VII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.