



WARREN CULTURAL COMMISSION
CITY OF WARREN, MICHIGAN
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Cutter at 6:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Members Present: Jeff Cutter, Jon Oaks, Shima Begum (unexcused; arrived at 6:13 p.m.), Michele Kennedy, Carl Weckerle, Rebecca Zainos
- Members Absent: None
- Chairman Cutter introduced new commissioner Michele Kennedy, representing the Warren Tri-County Fine Arts Association and filling the seat previously held by Paula Wild.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Jeff Cutter, supported by Michele Kennedy, to accept the agenda of the Warren Cultural Commission Meeting of May 11, 2026 as presented.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 8, 2025 Minutes

- Carl Weckerle presented the December 8, 2025 minutes for approval and noted that, consistent with prior guidance from City Attorney Candice Mayer, the standing "Secretary's Report" item has been replaced with "Approval of Minutes" on the agenda going forward.
- One correction was identified: the spelling of "Rosemarie" was corrected in two locations within the minutes.

A motion was made by Jon Oaks, supported by Rebecca Zainos, to approve the December 8, 2025 minutes as corrected.

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

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. 2025-2026 Expenditures

- Chairman Cutter reported that no expenditures have been made since the December meeting, with approximately \$13,941 remaining in the 2025-2026 account.
- No payment was issued to the Warren Symphony, as required performer waivers were not signed by the organization.

A motion was made by Carl Weckerle, supported by Jon Oaks, to receive and file the financial report.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Thomas H. Carey Concerts at the Square

- Jon Oaks presented the full slate of concerts along with the promotional flyer.
- The Mayor's Office offered to produce directional and event signage (such as "Concert Tonight," "Parking," and "Restrooms") through the Communications Department, with a three-week lead time required for printing.
- The Mayor's Office requested that several concerts be moved to Wednesday evenings to align with the City's Wednesday Street fairs.
- Communications will share social media content for the series and provide it to Vice Chair Oaks for posting on the Cultural Commission page. The concert schedule will also appear in the Warren Weekly beginning in July.
- The Commission discussed piloting a 40x100 foot festival tent at one later-summer concert to address shade and heat concerns, at an estimated cost of approximately \$3,000 and possible use across multiple concerts. Vice Chair Oaks will obtain a formal quote through Parks and Recreation, and the Commission will consider action at the June meeting.
- The Mayor's Office requested that concert attendance figures be included in the official minutes going forward.
- Jeff Cutter recognized the contributions of Thomas H. Carey, founder of the Warren Cultural Commission and longtime band director, for whom the concert series is named.

No formal action was taken.

B. Juneteenth

- The 2026 Juneteenth event is scheduled for Sunday, June 21, 2026, which coincides with Father's Day. Commissioners discussed the implications of the date for attendance and noted that this is the first time the event has been held on a Sunday.
- The Commission agreed on a contingency plan: if confirmed performer and cost information for Juneteenth is not received by Wednesday, May 13, 2026, Vice Chair Oaks will instead book one or more Wednesday concerts in June using the remaining 2025-2026 funds.
- In the event that the Juneteenth event does not occur, the Commission authorizes the remaining 2025-2026 funds to be used for as many concerts to be held in the month of June as possible.

No formal action was taken.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council of Commissions Appreciation Dinner

- The Council of Commissions Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2026. Commissioners Cutter, Oaks, Begum, Zainos, and Kennedy plan to attend. Commissioner Weckerle is unable to attend.

No formal action was taken.

B. Commission Vacancies

- With the addition of Commissioner Kennedy, the Commission now has six appointed members. Three vacancies remain.
- Chairman Cutter noted that he has reached out to the Warren Tri-County Fine Arts Association regarding an additional representative.

No formal action was taken.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Zainos announced her intent to propose a Latin Heritage Day celebration. She will submit a one-page proposal to Chairman Cutter for inclusion on the June agenda, with the goal of bringing a formal recommendation to City Council for a future programming year.
- The Commission's 2027 meeting and concert dates will be set at the June 15, 2026 meeting in order to meet the City calendar submission deadline of August 1, 2026.
- The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jon Oaks, supported by Carl Weckerle, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Weckerle, Secretary
Warren Cultural Commission