



CITY OF OAK PARK

Department of Recreation

Mayor
Marian McClellan
Mayor Pro Tem
Julie Edgar
Council Members
Solomon Radner
Shaun Whitehead
Stephanie Crawford
City Manager
Erik Tungate

CITY OF OAK PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING: March 18, 2026

I. Meeting called to order by at: 6:31 pm By: Juanita Bell, Chair

II. Introductions:

Members Present: Juanita Bell, Beverly Wiggins, Mickey Alderman, Theresa Lorick – Henderson, Ajai Tice, Alexander Simpson, Jennifer Szonye, Carly Silverman, Carian Taylor

Members Absent: Alexander Simpson

City Council Members Absent: City Council Member Whitehead

Staff Members Present: Laurie Stasiak, Recreation Director and Erin Foley, Event Hub Manager

Guests Present: None

III. Approval of Agenda for **March 18, 2026**

Motion: Mickey Alderman
Approved: All

Seconded: Beverly Wiggins

IV. Approval of Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of **February 18, 2026.**

Motioned by: Theresa Lorick-Henderson
Seconded by: Ajai Tice

Approved: All

V. Council Comments: none

VI. Recreation Updates:

Event Hub: After a thorough search and several interviews Erin Foley has been promoted to the Event Hub Manager. She has been working on creating the contracts and fee structures for the Event Hub, Commercial Kitchen and the Amphitheater.

S'mores N More

S'mores n more was another fun pop-up event this year! With roughly 50 attendees, guests roasted marshmallows for s'mores and built their own mini marshmallow snowflake. Guests turned their snowflakes into more creative ideas and built cars, houses, and animals out of marshmallows and toothpicks!

Save the Date: Earth Explorers Spring Pop-up Event

Sunday, April 26, 1-3pm, Oak Park Community Center Grounds

Oak Park Recreation is teaming up with Oakland County Parks for an Earth Day celebration! Learn about local pollinators and roll your own wildflower pollinator seed balls! These help bees and butterflies thrive in your garden. Join in on other nature related education and activities at this fun and educational afternoon!

MParks Conference. Erin, Brody and Maralee attended two days of the MParks Conference, March 3-5. On Wednesday March 4, we were awarded the **Innovated Programming Award** for the **“Rooted in Community Quilt”** project that took place over the 17 weeks of our Farmers Market in 2025. It was quite a wonderful recognition!

Meals On Wheels Luncheon. Numbers are still way down for the participation level for this great lunch service. This month we added a “Trivia Challenge “for the entertainment portion of the afternoon. More to come!

Theatre Trips:

Meadowbrook Theatre trip for “Come From Away was a sell out at 22 tickets. Performance is for April 8.

Brunch & Learn: The presentation at the Outdoor Adventure Center will be on Michigan Lumberjacks: **Sold Out!** We will be going to either Sinbad’s or The Continental Cafe for lunch afterward.

4th Of July Grand Marshall Recommendation: Business Grand Marshall, nominating Scotia Stop. They have been wonderful sponsors for many of our community events, especially Winterfest. **Resident Grand Marshall**, we would like to nominate a young resident named Jona Lawrence for his life saving quick action for saving his sister from a house fire. Jona Lawrence is 9 years old. Parks and Recreation Commission approved these nominations. Next, these nominations will be forwarded to the Mayor for her approval.

Farmers Market: We are receiving numerous “New” requests from potential vendors. This will be an exciting season for us! Submissions for sponsorships are going out by end of March.

We were awarded a Food Safety Grant from Michigan Farmers Market Association totaling \$1263 for this market season. We will host 2 sessions; one on how to make refrigerator pickles, the second session will be on how to safely make freezer jam. Type of jam will depend on what is in season locally.

Sounds of Summer Concert Series: Bands will be selected by end of April. Concerts are held on Wednesday evenings from 7 :00 pm-8:30 pm. First concert will be on July 15, will end on August 19.

Sports

Basketball – Basketball season is concluding this Saturday, March 21. Teams will compete in bracket play and participation medals will be awarded to all the squads prior to the first game. Two Oak Park squads, 3-4 Co-ed “Shooting Stars” and 5-6 Co-ed “B.E.S.T” are entering Saturday as the #1 seeds in their respective divisions. After a slow start, the basketball season ran smoothly, and kids and parents

seemed to have a blast! Looking for more ways to improve operational efficiency for next year, as well as adding more squads in the older divisions.

Soccer - Soccer sign-ups have officially been open for a couple months. We have close to 70 sign-ups, and a registration push has been communicated with the communications team to boost enrollment numbers. The tentative date for the first game day is Saturday, April 18. (Weather/field permitting) The goal is to start practicing the week of April 6.

Flag Football (Goal of Fall '26) – Looking to reach out to neighboring community alliances to bring flag football for kids starting in the fall of '26 or the spring of '27. This is a growing sport across the region, and I believe that it could provide a great opportunity for Oak Park youth.

Day Camp

- **We are accepting applications for the positions listed below**
- **Camp Director**
- **Assistant Director**
- **Counselors** – We will need to hire a few more counselors for this upcoming summer.

Youth Programming

- **Hair Braiding** – We have a confirmed hair braider with supplies ordered and a date set. Hair Braiding will be offered beginning on Tuesday, April 7 @ 5pm in the community center. The course will be 8 weeks long. The first session will be for 10 kids for \$80. Need 7 more sign-ups!!!

TumbleBunnies – TumbleBunnies is scheduled to begin the week of April 20. We will have two sessions, one for gymnastics and one for karate. This program is for the young kids of Oak Park ranging from 18-months – 7 years old. This program is a fun, engaging opportunity for the youth to explore different programs, stay active, and play with peers.

Mother & Son Brunch & Games – Planning for the mother & son brunch & games on Saturday, May 2 from 12-2pm

- Emphasize on games which includes a limbo competition (moms vs moms, son's vs sons, winner of mom's vs winner of sons) cakewalk, and a soul train style line dance competition
- 2-3 designated slow dances
- Brunch style eats – pancakes, eggs, bacon, etc.
- Photo booth opportunity, and a rose for mom at the end
- ****NEED VOLUNTEERS**** – Please save the date if you're interested!!

City Council - **Recreation Master Plan Proposal** was passed at the city council meeting on Feb. 16 – Giffels Webster -\$16,400 in conjunction with the City Master Plan Update so that both are on the same timeframe to save money when done together.

We will start this process with an Open House on Monday, March 23 from 4 – 7 pm at City Hall, I hope all Commissioners will attend and give their input.

Event Hub – looking good, some garage doors are in and lighting, working on AV equipment State of the City on June 30 – More information to come. This year we will feature a concert, food trucks and vendors.

Last week city council members, our city manager, and directors toured Troy and Macomb community centers for ideas, plans and to look at square footage needs.

Community Center: Phase 2 Open House April 20 from 4:30 – 6:30 at City Hall.

Looking at renderings and program elements.

Demo on Ice Arena, pool, locker rooms, cable building, bathrooms, concession stand. Starting in March – May.

Oak Park Woods at Shepherd Park – Shelter Rentals started back on March 2 for residents. Rentals for all 3 shelters, rental date of July 1.

Shelter 1 – Improvements, new warming kitchen, electricity and near new bathrooms and playground area

Shelter 2 – improved with electricity

Non - resident date: April 6

VII. Old Business – Commission

a. **Dog Park**: Save the date for 2026: Dog Day Afternoon Sunday, July 19 from 12-3pm! Vendors are already securing their space to attend this year’s event!

Current Dog Park #'s:

Humans: 41 Dogs: 46

Oak Park: 37

Huntington Woods: 3

West Bloomfield: 1

VIII New Business – Commission

Election results:

Chair – Juanita Bell

Vice-chair- Ajai Tice

Secretary – Theresa Lorick-Henderson

IX Announcements

Carian Taylor- Oak Park Girl Scout troop were featured at the last City Council meeting. They did a great job!

X Meeting adjourned at: 7:16 pm

Motioned by: Beverly Wiggins

Seconded by: Ajai Tice

Motion passed: All

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Lorick- Henderson

Recording Secretary for the meeting