



CITY OF OAK PARK

Department of Recreation

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Council Members

Solomon Radner

Stephanie Crawford

Rebecca Berman

City Manager

Erik Tungate

CITY OF OAK PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: July 15, 2026

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

II. Introductions:

Members Present: Juanita Bell, Beverly Wiggins, Mickey Alderman, Theresa Lorick – Henderson, and Jennifer Szonye

Members Absent: Carly Silverman, Ajai Tice, Carian Taylor, and Alexander Simpson

City Council Members present: none

Staff Members Present: Laurie Stasiak, Recreation Director and Maralee Rosemond, Recreation Coordinator

Guests Present: Joe Tangari & Eric Kudla, from Giffels Webster to talk about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update

III. Approval of Agenda for July 15, 2026

Motion: Beverly Wiggins Seconded: Jennifer Szonye Approved: Yes

IV. Approval of Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of June 17, 2026.

Motioned by: Mickey Alderman

Seconded by: Theresa Lorick-Henderson

Approved: Yes

V. Council Comments: None

VI. Special Presentation: Joe Tangari & Eric Kudla, from Giffels Webster talked about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan progress and received some input from the Commission.

VII Recreation Updates:

July 4th Celebration:

The Independence Day Celebration was held on Friday July 3. My responsibilities included the organization of hiring the band for the entertainment for the Event Hub concert, the set up for the Family FunFest, food vendors, DJ services, and securement of local organizations for the resource area.

- Oakland County brought 6 inflatable's for the kids as well as the climbing tower. The petting farm and DJ were a huge hit. We had 5 food vendors on site. The area also held a large 40X60 tent with tables and chairs so attendees could stay out of the sun and immense heat. We also want to thank Theresa Lorick-Henderson and Juanita Bell for participating in the July 3 parade! Thank you for your time & support, and we were glad to have a vehicle represent our awesome committee.

We have had several people stop by the community center to say that they really looked forward to this event every year, were happy that we still had it, but felt that it was very disjointed. They stated that they liked it over in David Shepherd Park better as it afforded not only shade, but all the activities were located together, making it more family friendly.

Farmers Market: officially opened in the new Event Hub on July 2. Indoor space was at capacity, while we also had numerous vendors located outside and around the perimeter of the building. We have a total of 24 vendors with an additional 6 in kind participants: MSUE, Oakland County Health, Lamba Chi Sorority nurses, Power of Produce, and our Oak Park "Living Tree" art project. The library will hold "Storytime at the Market July 9,16,23, and possibly 30th.

Our **Family Market Day** is scheduled for July 23. This is a special day for WIC recipients, as they can have their WIC cards loaded with additional funds, Healthy Oakland Partnership will be on hand with additional \$5 produce coupons, and we host a resource tent for additional organizations to provide educational materials. There will be a petting farm and our very popular face painter!

Summer Concerts: Summer concerts are scheduled to begin on July 15 and run through August 19. They will be held at the Event Hub Amphitheatre from 7 pm – 8:30 pm

The Event Hub is now open! We hosted the Grand Opening of the Event Hub on Tuesday June 30. The grand opening/State of the City event was a huge success! We welcomed several hundreds of people to our new facility, enjoying snacks and networking, free t-shirts, and a concert performed by Kimmie Horne.

Thank you to all the Parks & Recreation Commission members who attended this event in support of our new facility.

Requests for catering & alcohol proposals were due on June 23. We received 4 catering proposals, and 2 alcohol vendor proposals. This is short of how many we would like to offer to guests renting the Event Hub, so Erin is currently working on next steps to add more vendors.

Check out our Event Hub page on the Oak Park website. Here you will find all pricing information as well as a form to complete to inquire about hosting an event inside the Event Hub. Oakparkmi.gov/event-hub

The Event Hub will be available for rent beginning in August for the event space, as well as the kitchen. We currently have several food businesses interested in utilizing the kitchen space for their prepping and preparing products to sell. Several of these businesses are our Farmers Market vendors!

Michigan State University Extension is hosting food safety classes inside the event hub kitchen. There are refrigerator pickles & freezer jam classes for youth, freezer jam classes for seniors, and a canning peaches class for adults. Classes are free! Sign up online, or call the Recreation office, or event hub office to register.

Sports:

- **Soccer** – Soccer sign-ups for Fall are open! Fall soccer will begin mid – September, with games kicking off September 19.
- **Baseball** – Baseball season is under way. We have two T-ball teams and one coach pitch squad representing Oak Park. It's been an interesting start to the season so far with two gamedays being postponed due to the extreme temperatures. Outside of the cancelations, the coaches/players have enjoyed their season, and Recreation is excited to see how everything concludes.
- **Adult Kickball** - Get ready to kick off the fall season with our Adult Kickball League! Open to participants ages 18 and older, this fun and competitive league will take place on Friday evenings beginning August 14, with additional games scheduled for August 21, August 28, and September 11. There will be no games on September 4 due to the holiday weekend, and playoffs will be held on September 18. Teams will enjoy a 6-game guarantee plus playoffs, with games played at either City Field #2 or Joe Forbes Field. The team registration fee is \$165 for up to 20 players, along with a refundable \$50 forfeit fee. Please note that each team is responsible for referee payments.

Day Camp officially started on Monday, June 15! It has been an exciting opportunity for Brody to oversee camp and meet the counselors and campers and deal with all the different situations that happen. Suddenly, we're halfway done with camp. Today (7/15) they took a trip to Greenfield Village!

Youth Programming

- **Hair Braiding** – Hair Braiding wrapped up on May 26. Overall, the instructor was great and the class seemed to go well, and we are planning to have another 8-week session beginning in September.
- **Archery** – Our Archery Fundamentals program saw 9 participants this session, including 6 seniors and 3 youth. Participants were introduced to the fundamentals of archery, including proper stance, aiming techniques, range safety, and shooting form. Throughout the program, archers had the opportunity to practice their skills and participate in a variety of fun target challenges and friendly

competitions. It was great to see participants improve their accuracy and confidence each week while enjoying a unique recreational activity in a supportive and welcoming environment.

- **Power Playground** – I’m excited to announce that Power Playground Fitness is set to launch September 15 and run thru November 3. This is a program that creates a fun atmosphere which promotes movement, exercise, and fun!

Special Events

- **Mother/Son Kickball Night, Saturday, August 15 @ 6pm** is a fun-filled Mother/Son Kickball Night! Participants will take the field for a friendly 5-inning showdown featuring mothers versus sons in what is sure to be an evening full of laughs, competition, and lasting memories. Registration is just \$15 per resident couple and \$20 per non-resident couple.

Find your Fit – Sunday, August 23 1-4pm – Join us for a free event in partnership with Oakland County Parks & Rec for a day filled with free exercise classes, inflatables, nature education and more!

- Commission viewed Community Center Design Boards which were rolled out at the State of the City on June 30.

VIII. Old Business – Commission

a. **Dog Park Committee Report – Current Dog Park #'s:**

- 54 Members
 - Oak Park – 49
 - Huntington Woods – 3
 - Detroit – 1
 - West Bloomfield – 1
- 60 Dogs

Special event at the dog park: Dog Day Afternoon: Sunday July 19 from 12-3pm!

This event will take place on Sunday, July 19 from 12-3pm at the dog park. This event will operate much like last year, and we are excited to welcome back most vendors from the previous year as well as some newcomers. Erin has still helped a lot with getting this event in motion, but Brody is excited to take the lead on it and be involved with a great afternoon. Dog Park Committee attending include Leslye Richie, Mark Phillips, Ken Sherman and Julie Edgar.

- b. **Creating a Parks and Recreation Friends Group** – Meeting again soon. Looking for more members and deciding on a project to initiate. Jennifer, Mickey and Carian are also members.

IX New Business – Commission
None

X Announcements – None.

XI Meeting adjourned at: 7:37 pm

Motioned by: Mickey Alderman

Seconded by: Beverly Wiggins

Motion passed: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary: Theresa Lorick – Henderson