



CITY OF OAK PARK

Department of Recreation

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Shaun Whitehead
Stephanie Crawford
City Manager
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CITY OF OAK PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING: April 15, 2026

I. Meeting called to order at: 6:32 pm By: Ajai Tice Vice-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: Juanita Bell, Carian Taylor, and Carly Silverman

City Council Members absent: City Council Member Whitehead

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

Guests Present: none

III. Approval of Agenda for April 15, 2026

Motion: Mickey Alderman Seconded: Alexander Simpson Approved: Yes

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

Motioned by: Theresa Lorick-Henderson

Seconded by: Jennifer Szonye

Approved: Yes

V. Council Comments: None

VI. Recreation Updates:

A. Senior Trips:

22 Seniors attended Meadow Brook Theatre April 8 to see “**Come From Away**”. This was a sold-out performance. We enjoyed lunch at Finnegans Pub prior to the performance.

April 16 we will travel to the **Outdoor Adventure Center** for the Brunch and Learn. The presentation will be on Mackinac's Forgotten Features. This is also a sold-out trip, with lunch at Slow's BBQ

Meals On Wheels Luncheon.

Our Wednesday April 22 lunch menu is a Taco bar.

May 13 lunch menu is BBQ Pulled Chicken sandwich with potato wedges, coleslaw and dessert.

Oak Park Farmers Market

Sponsors to date: Henry Ford Health: \$5000, Beshara printing \$2500.

Currently in discussions with Aetna/CVS Health and possibly Delta Dental

Returning Vendors: 16

New Vendors: 5

Mark your calendar for **May 31 from 1 – 5 pm for the “Sneak Peek”** at the market event.

This event will be held in the community center. Reacquaint yourself with our veteran vendors as well as meet our new vendors!

The Oak Park Farmers Market and Event Hub had a three-page article in the Edible Wow magazine for this spring. Moving forward it is hoped that the owners of Edible Wow will be securing chefs from different restaurants for cooking demos at the market.

The market was once again awarded a food safety grant through Michigan Farmers Market Association for \$1262. One class will be how to make refrigerator pickles; the second class will be how to make freezer jam. Participants will go home with a small jar of the pickles and jam. The class will be run through MSUE.

The Power of Produce Program will be re-designed this year. Participants will be on a “first come first served” basis, with the activities being held on the spot at the market to earn the \$3 coin. We will still have the children's track and the adult track.

Work is underway to get the calendar of events for the market secured.

All musicians have been secured from June 25 – October 1.

Earth Explorers Spring Pop-up Event Sunday, April 26 from 1-3 pm

Join Oakland County Parks to get your hands messy (in the best way!) as you learn about local pollinators and roll their own wildflower **pollinator seed balls** that help bees and butterflies thrive to take home for your garden.

Located on the Oak Park Community Center Grounds

4th of July

The 4th of July events will be hosted on **Friday, July 3**. The parade application is available! I am inviting the Parks & Recreation Commission to participate in the parade once again this year. If interested, please complete the application.

Event Hub

As things are full speed ahead for the Event Hub, Erin is beginning to make contacts with preferred caterers & alcohol vendors for the event space. Erin is also working on getting all policies, procedures and pricing for the event space and kitchen rentals. Erin is also teaming with Maralee on farmers market

logistics, and where to place vendors. Erin is also working on planning several future special events for the upcoming year for the Event Hub.

The Amphitheater will not be available for external rentals for the first year, as we work through our policies and procedures for outdoor events.

Soccer – Soccer sign-ups have officially wrapped up, and we are under way with our Spring '26 season. Between all the divisions we ended up with 85 sign-ups and 8 teams across the divisions. Practices started last week for most teams, while some teams elected to wait until this week. Games will start this Saturday, April 18 @ Martin Road Park in Ferndale. I also wanted to give a big shoutout to Coach Alex Simpson, who is serving as an assistant coach for one of our U6 squads!

Baseball – Baseball sign-ups have been open since the beginning of March. As we stand currently, there are enough players to form a T-Ball team, and we almost have enough for sign-ups to field a squad for the coach pitch and the 11/12 yr. divisions. My tentative goal to start would be the first week of June, with games starting around mid-June.

Youth Programming

Hair Braiding – Hair Braiding classes kicked off last Tuesday, April 7. The class originally had 8 students but has since filled its capacity of 10 students. This class will have 7 more sessions before it concludes on May 26. We are potentially looking to expand for the fall (15 spots?) and see if there would be interest in an adult session for the community.

Archery – Archery is back! After my original in-person certification was cancelled, I found another opportunity on May 3 in Troy to get certified. I will be offering both a youth and senior archery class starting on Thursday, May 7.

Seniors – 4 weeks starting May 7. 3:00-4:00pm

Youth – 4 weeks starting May 7. 4:15-5:15pm

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.

Power Playground – I recently met with the founder of power playground which is a company that provides exciting/fun ways to incorporate exercise with the youth! This program will be introduced in the fall, but I am hoping to finalize a week during summer camp where she can provide programming to the campers.

Special Events

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, sons vs sons, winner of moms 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!

VII. Old Business – Commission

a. Dog Park Committee Report –

Current Dog Park #'s:

Humans: 47 Dogs: 53

Oak Park: 43

Huntington Woods: 3

West Bloomfield: 1

Save the date for 2026: Dog Day Afternoon Sunday, July 19 from 12-3pm!

Next Dog Park Committee meeting – Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 pm

b. State of the City – Tuesday, June 30, Networking starts at 5:30 followed by speeches by Erik Tungate, City Manager and Mayor McClellan, ribbon cutting and concert. Performing: Kimmie Horne.

VIII New Business – Commission

- a. Oak Park Woods Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Tentatively set for June 22, more details will be shared as they are scheduled.
- b. Creating a Parks and Recreation Friends Group – Jennifer Szonye will take the lead and invite members of a rescue group who has formed a friend's group and members from the Library Friends Group.

IX Announcements - None

X Meeting adjourned at: 7:20 pm

Motioned by: Beverly Wiggins

Seconded by: Alexander Simpson

Motion passed: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary: Theresa Lorick – Henderson