



AGENDA - Recreation Commission

DATE: January 14, 2026 7:00 PM City Council Chambers

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - I. Approval of October 8th meeting Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Officer Selection
 - I. Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary
- V. OHM 5-Year Recreation Plan Update
 - I. Planning objectives and power point presentation
- VI. Director's Report
 - I. Report
- VII. Programming/Special Events
 - I. Project Play Southeast Michigan
 - II. Winter Programming
 - III. Chilly Fest 2026
- VIII. Windmill Pointe Park
 - I. Lavins Center Custodial Support Staff
 - II. Tompkins Community Center Rentals
- IX. Marina
 - I. West Seawall Repair
 - II. Open Wells
- X. Patterson Park
 - I. Ice Rink
 - II. Meadow Update
- XI. Unfinished Business
 - I. 2026 Meeting Dates
- XII. New Business
 - I. None
- XIII. Adjournment

Public Comment: Public Comments are limited to three minutes.

Live Stream: The meeting will be livestreamed to the Official City of Grosse Pointe Park YouTube Channel.



Recreation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, October 8th, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Chairman Mike Hindelang

Roll Call

Present: Chad Craig – Parks and Recreation Director, Mike Hindelang Chair, Mike Bannon Vice Chair, James Ceuninck, Patrick Gleason, Howard Bouton, Paul Spratt, Larry Haggart and Roger Basse

Also Present: Tom Caulfield-Council Liaison

Absent: Paul O'Donnell and Terry Ayrault

Approval of August 13th, 2025, meeting minutes

Public Comment (Agenda Items)

- Two public comments were made

Director's Report

- Update on department organizational restructuring
- Dedicated special events page on the City website
- Leak detected in the reflecting pond at Patterson. Repair work underway
- End of season cleaning and winterizing of the Olympic pool at Windmill has begun
- Fall programming underway. Well attended, within expectations
- Sue and team decorating in advance of Halloween in the Park
 - Recognition of assistance from DPW in preparation and setup of the decorations

Programming/Special Events

- Preview and discussion of upcoming winter and fall programming
- Community excitement and anticipation for upcoming "Camp Windy Mill" weekend
- Halloween in the Park
 - Three time slots
 - High attendance expected
 - Recognition of, and thank you to Park Grill for being the primary sponsor

Windmill Pointe Park

- Seasonal decorating underway throughout the park
- Meades Fitness Center will be cleaned daily
- A phone will be added for attendee's use in case of an emergency
- High utilization of the extended hours thus far
- Cleaning and maintenance of the gazebo by the marina will begin shortly

Marina

- 2026 boat well deposits due by November 1st
- Well holders now have the option to pay online
- West seawall repair proposals underway. Tentative restoration to be completed by spring opening
- Marina closes for the season on November 15th

Patterson

- Beautification Commission and GPP Garden Club held last clean up event of the season on September 27th. Very well attended, lots of volunteers.
 - Recognition of the work and leadership of all involved this season
- Boardwalk repairs and seasonal maintenance underway

Unfinished Business

- Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan:
 - Commission had their initial meeting with OHM on October 2nd
 - Received introductory information on the process and a better understanding of what the project will entail
 - Clarifications sought on timeline, next steps, and guidance from City administration
 - Highlighted the importance of continued community input throughout the process

New Business:

- Discussion was held on proposed 2026 Commission meeting dates
- Kelly Konieczki and Jim Creighton from the Beautification Commission and the GPP Garden Club presented to the Commission their proposal for a meadow at Patterson Park. They gave a detailed presentation and answered questions from Commissioners regarding the project. They will return at a future meeting with an update and to provide further clarification.

Adjournment: 9:09 PM

Next Meeting: Wednesday December 10th, at 7:00 PM at Grosse Pointe Park City Hall, 4th Floor



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary

SUMMARY: The commission will select a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for year 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Planning objectives and power point presentation

SUMMARY: OHM will provide the commission with planning objectives and a power point presentation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



Planning Objectives

Parks and Recreation Plan CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK

January 6, 2026

Part 1: Objectives, Why, and Outcomes / Action Items

Objective 1: Define the park plan purpose and governance framework .

- Why: To clearly establish how the Recreation Commission, staff, and elected officials will participate in the planning process and provide meaningful input at defined decision points.
- Outcome: A documented planning and engagement framework that identifies roles, responsibilities, and milestones where Recreation Commission input directly informs plan development and recommendations.

Objective 2: Establish the Recreation Commission's vision for the parks system.

- Why: To articulate a shared vision that defines the intended role, priorities, and long-term direction of the parks and recreation system.
- Outcome: An adopted vision statement that guides plan recommendations, prioritization, and long-term decision-making for parks and recreation investments

Objective 3: Conduct a comprehensive inventory and condition assessment of existing park assets.

- Why: To establish an understanding of the location, condition, and functionality of existing parks, facilities, and amenities.
- Outcome / Action: A verified park inventory and condition assessment informed by City data, existing documentation, and on-site facility inspections.

Objective 4: Analyze existing assets and identify capital improvement priorities.

- Why: Translate inventory and condition data into actionable priorities that can realistically be addressed within a multi-year planning horizon.
- Outcome / Action: A prioritized list of capital improvements based on asset condition, observed deficiencies, lifecycle considerations, and documented usage.

Objective 5: Assess operations and maintenance implications.

- Why: Ensure recommended capital improvements are feasible within the City's operational and maintenance capacity.
- Outcome / Action: Integration of operations and maintenance considerations into capital improvement plan to support long-term sustainability.

Objective 6: Gather targeted community feedback on recreation assets.

- Why: Validate asset, usage patterns, and satisfaction levels while avoiding speculative input that could expand scope or create unrealistic expectations
- Outcome / Action: Targeted community wide survey that directly informs asset prioritization and recommendations.

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Objective 7: Support transparent and accessible public engagement throughout the planning process.

- Why: To keep stakeholders informed, demonstrate accountability, and build trust to support plan credibility and adoption.
- Outcome / Action: Documented public engagement through a project website and open-house opportunities at key milestones.

Objective 8: Transform analysis and engagement into actionable and implementation steps.

- Why: Move from documentation to actionable guidance for capital investments, programming, partnerships, and funding strategies.
- Outcome / Action: Clear goals, objectives, and action items aligned with available resources and planning timeline horizon.

Objective 9: Establish implementation, monitoring, and framework.

- Why: To ensure the plan is actively used, progress is tracked, and updates can be made over time.
- Outcome / Action: An adoptable Parks and Recreation Plan with defined performance measures and an implementation monitoring framework.

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Part 2: Correlation of Objectives to Proposal Scope Tasks.

Objectives	Scope Phase	Scope Alignment
1	Phase 1 – Project Initiation Background	Recreation Commission meeting and establish the plan purpose and governance framework.
2	Phase 1 – Project Initiation Background	Recreation Commission visualization session and process to define long-term goals.
3	Phase 2 – Park Inventory and Assessment	Existing conditions analysis, City data review, and site visits support inventory and condition assessment.
4	Phase 2 – Park Inventory and Assessment	Technical analysis translates condition findings into near-term capital improvement needs.
5	Phase 2 – Park Inventory and Assessment	Operational and maintenance considerations are evaluated as part of the technical assessment.
6	Phase 3 – Visioning & Concept Development (Community Engagement)	Survey development, refinement, and launch collect targeted community input.
7	Phase 3 – Visioning & Concept Development (Community Engagement)	Engagement plans, website, and open houses provide transparency and outreach.
8	Phase 4 – Action Plan & Funding Strategy	Draft goals, objectives, and action plan convert findings into implementation guidance.
9	Phase 5 – Final Plan & Adoption	Final plan, monitoring framework, and adoption materials complete the scope.

Note

Some phases will overlap as part of project chronology.



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Report

SUMMARY: Halloween in the Park was another success. The event was sponsored by Park Grill. We sold 555 tickets for the three time slots. A special thank you to our Facilities, Maintenance, and Grounds team for creating a wonderful trail for all attendees and thank you to all of our table sponsors and volunteers.

New staff training/working at the front desk along with custodial support staff in the Lavins Activity Center and our FM&G Department.

FM&G staff members removed fall decorations, installed winter holiday decorations around the city, parks, and facilities, and have removed select locations as well.

Pruning and trimming of the park grounds is currently in progress.

The Marina officially closed for the season on November 15th. Working on 2026 deposits and the west entrance/exit seawall repair.

I am working with OHM on a mechanical, electrical, and structural condition assessment, demolition, and mechanical load calculations to assist with the replacement of the current rooftop HVAC unit on the Lavins Activity Center.

The City of Grosse Pointe Park Tree Lighting Ceremony was on Sunday, November 29th. The event was well attended, and Pointe Hardware hosted a wonderful third annual Santa's Little Builders Workshop.

Both theaters sold out on Wednesday, November 26th for the added matinée showings of Zootopia 2 and Wicked: For Good. Numbers were lower for NYE.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Project Play Southeast Michigan

SUMMARY: I met with Nancy Winzer from Project Play Southeast Michigan to discuss some potential grant funding opportunities for youth programming. One of the options we might qualify for is sport sampling. Introducing youth to different sports with a focus on camps/skills rather than a league. Project Play has some funding set aside for the Grosse Pointe communities.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: To submit some sample programs to Project Play and see if they qualify for any program funding/assistance.

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Winter Programming

SUMMARY: Winter programs/leagues will include adult recreational volleyball, competitive drop-in volleyball, 30+ drop-in basketball, adult cornhole, adult pickleball, youth karate, adult sound bath, youth yoga, mat palates, functional strength, and an animal show at the Tompkins Community Center over Midwinter Break on 2/18/2026 from 2-3pm.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Chilly Fest 2026

SUMMARY: The City of Grosse Pointe Park and the Tax Increment Finance Authority will be hosting our annual Chilly Fest event on Saturday, February 28th, 2026. The event will take place on Kercheval Avenue, Charlevoix Street, and Mack Avenue from 2:00–6:00 p.m. and will include gift raffles, activities/entertainment, and a chili cook-off. Sponsorships and business participation are currently coming in.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Lavins Center Custodial Support Staff

SUMMARY: We recently hired two new staff members to handle the custodial support at the Lavins Activity Center. Both individuals have over 20 years of combined cleaning experience. The Lavins Activity Center sees a lot of foot traffic on a daily basis, which requires regular cleaning of the building. Having two staff members cleaning the building 7 days a week will bring the building aesthetics and cleanliness up to the standards and expectations of our residents, members, participants, and their guests.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY:



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Tompkins Community Center Rentals

SUMMARY: We had a busy December at the Tompkins Community Center with 20 events scheduled for the month. A few days were blocked off for deep cleaning and set-up for some of the events/rentals. The Tompkins Center is a popular amenity, especially around the holiday season. Staff have done a fantastic job decorating and cleaning the facility.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Increased revenue during the month of December compared to some of the other months of the year.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: West Seawall Repair

SUMMARY: The seawall repair proposal from E.C. Korneffel Co. was submitted to City Council and approved at the Monday, December 8th, City Council meeting. We are currently working on a start date for the project. It should take less than a month for the work to be completed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: \$512,000.00. This amount includes the permanent seawall repair and new electrical on the seawall structure.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Open Wells

SUMMARY: We currently have 6 open wells that Marina Supervisor Fraser is working to fill for the 2026 season.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Ice Rink

SUMMARY: The Facilities, Maintenance, and Grounds Department flooded the rink on Monday, December 8th for potential ice skating. This season will be a trial and error process, and it is recommended that the outside temperature needs to be consistently below freezing, but the ideal range for building a smooth, quality ice is between 19 degrees Fahrenheit and -4 degrees Fahrenheit. We did experience a solid stretch of days between Tuesday, December 30th and Sunday, January 2nd for residents to utilize the rink. January 6th - January 11th won't be the case due to warmer temperatures and rain.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: On days that the ice rink is acceptable for skating the park will close at 8:00 PM. Residents can also call the gatehouse at (313) 822-1681 and confirm hours and rink condition on that day.

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Meadow Update

SUMMARY: Jim Creighton and Kelly Konieczki will provide the commission with an update and answers to questions that were raised at the October meeting, along with some additional information regarding the meadow proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the initial stages and concept of the meadow proposal with no specific timeline or start date at this time.

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026 Meeting Dates

SUMMARY: Two proposals for 2026 meeting dates:

Option 1: 2nd Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

2/11

4/8

6/10

8/12

10/14

12/9

Option 2: 2nd Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and 3rd Wednesday of November.

1/14

3/11

5/13

7/8

9/9

11/18

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

RECOMMENDATION: Commission to discuss and select one of the two options provided.

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: None

SUMMARY: N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREPARED BY: Chad Craig, Parks & Recreation Director