

## **City of Inkster**

### **Parks and Recreation Commission**

Meeting Agenda  
2025 Middle Belt Rd.  
Inkster, MI 48141  
October 10, 2024  
6:30p.m.

- **Call to Order**
- **Meditation/Prayer**
- **Roll Call of Commissioners**
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Communications**
- **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
- **Budget Review- Waiting for numbers from the treasurer.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Updates from Director McDaniel**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Recreation Center Updates**

- General Maintenance and Facility Enhancements
- Upcoming Programs and Events
- Community Feedback

##### **Recreation Center Preparedness for Large Crowds in Case of Local Disasters**

- Current Capacity: Can the center handle large groups during emergencies?
- Review of Emergency Equipment and Resources (Cots, Water, Generators)
- Collaborating with Local Emergency Services (Fire, Police, Medical)
- Plans for Temporary Housing, Food Distribution, and Health Services
- Identifying Areas for Improvement or Additional Resources

##### **Park Maintenance and Upkeep**

- Review of Landscaping, Playgrounds, and Public Spaces
- Seasonal Clean-Up Plans (Fall/Winter)

#### **Budget Review**

- Financial Updates
- Fundraising Opportunities and Grants

## **Upcoming Events**

- Fall Events Planning
- Thanksgiving and Holiday Season Activities

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## **Reports from board members on any relevant matters or activities:**

- Public Comment
- Announcements
- Adjournment

## List of Parks in the City of Inkster:

1. Wheatley Park
2. Westwood Park
3. Lemoyne Park
4. King Memorial Park (andover and carlyslle)
5. Kennedy Park (Henry Ruff and Hively)
6. Bel Aire Park (Cherry and Eastern) – adopted
7. Dartmouth Square Playground (by Dartmouth apartments)
8. Manor Park ( Helen and Colonial)
9. Moore Tot Lot (moore st.)
10. Parkwood Manor Park (middlebelt and Parkwood)
11. Wellington Park (Washington st)
12. Brookside Park

## 1. Advisory Role:

- **Provide Expertise:** Commissioners bring their professional knowledge and experience to the board, offering insights and recommendations on issues related to the board's mission.
- **Consultation:** They serve as a resource for the board, offering advice on policies, programs, and other initiatives under consideration.

## 2. Policy Development:

- **Guidance on Policy:** Commissioners help develop and refine policies that align with the board's goals and objectives. They may review existing policies and suggest amendments or new policies as needed.
- **Recommendations:** They make recommendations to the governing body (such as a city council or county board) based on their deliberations and analysis of issues.

## 3. Decision-Making:

- **Voting:** In some cases, commissioners may have voting power on decisions or recommendations that the board makes.
- **Consensus Building:** Commissioners work together to reach a consensus on issues, balancing different viewpoints and interests.

## 4. Community Representation:

- **Advocacy:** Commissioners often serve as advocates for the community, ensuring that the board's decisions reflect the needs and concerns of the public.
- **Outreach:** They engage with the community to gather input and feedback, which they bring back to the board for consideration.

## 5. Oversight and Accountability:

- **Monitoring Implementation:** Commissioners may be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the board's recommendations or policies.
- **Ensuring Compliance:** They ensure that the board's actions and decisions comply with relevant laws, regulations, and ethical standards.

## 6. Meeting Participation:

- **Attendance and Participation:** Commissioners are expected to attend regular meetings, participate actively in discussions, and contribute to the board's work.
- **Preparation:** They must review materials and prepare for meetings to engage in informed discussions.

## 7. Reporting:

- **Communication:** Commissioners may be required to report on the board's activities to the governing body or other stakeholders.
- **Documentation:** They help document the board's decisions and recommendations through meeting minutes, reports, and other records.

## 8. Leadership:

- **Committee Leadership:** Some commissioners may chair or lead specific committees or working groups within the board.
- **Mentorship:** Experienced commissioners often mentor new members, helping them understand their roles and responsibilities.

## 9. Ethical Conduct:

- **Conflict of Interest:** Commissioners must disclose any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from decisions where they have a personal stake.
- **Integrity:** They are expected to act with integrity, upholding the trust placed in them by the community and the governing body.

## 10. Strategic Planning:

- **Long-Term Vision:** Commissioners contribute to the board's strategic planning efforts, helping to set long-term goals and priorities.

September 12, 2024

Director Clint McDaniel,

We, the Commissioners of the Inkster Parks and Recreation board are writing to convey our growing concerns regarding several critical issues that have been brought to our attention by both community members and fellow Commissioners.

### Community Concerns

First and foremost, there have been numerous complaints from the community regarding the condition and management of Dozier Parks and Recreation facility. The issues include:

- **Cleanliness:** The facility, including tables, chairs, and common areas, is often not properly maintained. Trash has been observed sitting in the lobby for extended periods, and the parking lot is not consistently cleaned, which detracts from the overall experience for visitors.
- **Faulty Equipment:** There have been reports of faulty equipment in the upstairs bathroom, particularly locks that do not function properly, compromising privacy for users. This is a significant concern that needs immediate attention.
- **Staff Conduct:** The community has also expressed dissatisfaction with the conduct of the staff, noting that they are often unwelcoming and unresponsive. There have been multiple instances where phones were not answered, leading to frustration among those trying to engage with the facility.

### Internal Board Challenges

In addition to the concerns raised by the community, we, as Commissioners, are facing significant challenges that hinder our ability to effectively serve our roles:

- **Lack of Communication and Inclusion:** Several Commissioners feel that they are not adequately informed about key issues, events, and developments within Parks and Recreation. This includes not being kept up-to-date on important matters such as the facility's budget, upcoming events, and any ongoing issues within the department. As a result, some Commissioners are considering resigning from the Board, feeling excluded from discussions and decisions that directly impact our work.
- **Role of the Commissioners:** One of the main roles of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners is to review monthly budget reports and expenditure reports. However, the lack of access to this critical information is preventing us from fulfilling our duties effectively. This is a matter of serious concern, as it directly impacts our ability to oversee and guide the department's operations.

### Recommendations for Improvement

To address these concerns, we recommend the following actions:

1. **Immediate Facility Inspection and Repairs:** Conduct a thorough inspection of the facility to address cleanliness, maintenance, and the faulty equipment in the upstairs bathroom, particularly the locks.
2. **Staff Training and Accountability:** Implement additional training for staff to ensure they provide a welcoming and responsive environment for all visitors. This should include clear protocols for phone communication and overall customer service.
3. **Improved Communication with the Board:** Establish a more transparent and consistent communication process to ensure that all Commissioners are informed of important matters, including the facility's budget, expenditure reports, and upcoming events. This is essential for us to effectively fulfill our roles.
4. **Regular Updates and Involvement:** Schedule regular meetings that involve the Board in discussions about the direction and operations of the Parks and Recreation Department, ensuring that we are fully engaged and able to fulfill our oversight responsibilities.

We hope to work collaboratively to address these issues and restore both the community's trust in our facilities and the confidence of this Board in our shared mission. We look forward to discussing these matters further and to seeing the necessary improvements implemented.

Thank you for your attention to these pressing concerns. We anticipate your prompt response and are committed to working together to enhance the services and facilities that are so vital to our community.

