Southern Lakes Regional Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District

Fenton Community & Cultural Center
150 S. Leroy St., Fenton, MI 48430
Board of Commissioners Meeting- Friday, January 23rd, 2026
7:30am

Call to Order
Chairperson Lockwood called the meeting to order at 7:30am

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance/Roll Call
Present: Patricia Lockwood, Rob Kesler, Chris Reid, David McDermott
Called In: Brenda Simons
Excused: Elizabeth Armstrong
Roll Call: Lockwood declared there was a quorum with four board members
Staff Present: Tyler Carpenter, Shirley Priestap
Public Present: None

Call to the Audience
None Present

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of November 21st, 2025 regular meeting minutes
- Approval of December 19th, 2025 regular meeting minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report:
  - Bills paid prior to January 23rd, 2026, in the amount $91,995.08
  - Payroll paid prior to January 23rd, 2026 in the amount of $53,212.69
  - Financial Statements for December 2025

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Kesler to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Roll Call:
Reid Aye
Lockwood Aye
Kesler Aye
McDermott Aye

Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Lockwood stated that Discussion Item 9(a) Staff Salary/Title Updates will be postponed until the next meeting when Simons, the Personnel Committee Chair, is present.

Director's Report
Carpenter gave an update on the Choice One pathway stating construction on Phase 2 has begun and progress will continue throughout the winter too. He stated he's been attending the Biweekly meetings with DPW, Ellen Glass, Lynn Markland and the contractors. He noted the contractors have installed portable traffic lights at their cost to keep the construction area safer for workers. Lockwood stated the City of Fenton's Treasurer has record of all the pathway's funds and will be issuing checks to begin paying for the construction and that the matching funds will be due. Carpenter stated he and Priestap have a meeting scheduled with the Treasurer to discuss pathway grant funds. Lockwood also noted that LAFF has been notified by Genesee County that the next phase – Phase 3 – will be taken over by the county and that LAFF will continue to fund raise.

Carpenter noted his community interactions highlighting the meetings at all three municipality's board meetings and their park boards. He stated Fenton Township's social media coordinator has offered to work together with SLPR sharing program and event information on their site. Carpenter said he intends to talk with the City of Fenton's marketing coordinator to do the same. He also discussed his meeting with the new Lake Fenton School's superintendent stating Belcher is open to expanding SLPR's use of their fields for programs. Carpenter plans to meet with the LF Athletic Director to discuss a feeder program partnership.

Carpenter also noted his meeting with the SLPR programming staff to brainstorm ideas. A discussion followed re: an ice rink in Fenton. The board requested more information on that possibility. He noted the resubmission of the bid for the Keepers of the Shiawassee's Hogan Road project and noted the DDA grants for both City of Fenton and City of Linden are in the works for the upcoming summer concert series and events.

The previously approved amount for the purchase of a van was discussed and Carpenter stated there was a delay because the one on order had been totaled during transport, but another van had been located. He stated the cost was less than the $35,000 that was approved and requested to use the remaining amount to have the new van wrapped in a colorful, more obvious SLPR logo.

FCCC and the ongoing issue with the leak in the office kitchen was discussed. It was the board's consensus to get other bids and to include Kesler in the bidding process since that is his business specialty. It was the board's recommendation to contact the SLPR attorney for an opinion if there is a conflict with Kesler bidding on the job.

A discussion followed re: installing directional signage at FCCC that would communicate to patrons what is happening in the building and where to go.

Accounting Coordinator's Report
Priestap gave a report on the end of year financial statements and noted that the net income may change pending a couple of nonmaterial adjustments. She stated the 9-month Choice One Bank CD earned $9,426.31 in 2025 for a balance in the account of $222,293.14. And in the Choice One money market investment earned $13,396.67 for a balance in the account of $341,076.21. She noted there are still a couple loose ends on the books; interest on the second Choice One CD and the 25% facility calculation to FAPS based on the rental agreement.

Priestap also stated the recreation expenses that are supported by the program profits are $128,367 for 2025 and that the budgeted net income (after management goals) of $3,927 has been exceeded. She noted the current unaudited net income is $137,337.78 – to be designated towards the management goals via journal entries.

She noted that health benefits were over budget due to the addition of a new employee; the director's salary due to the hiring of a new Executive Director and the overlap; and employer cost for FICA due to additional wages. She also noted that the state unemployment taxes are down because our rate was lower than expected and the same is true for the liability insurance. Support staff and vehicle repair were lower than expected as well. And revenue was better than expected due to an increase in interest on investments and administrative fees collected.

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Kesler to accept the Executive Director and Accounting Coordinator reports.
Motion Carried:
4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Programmer's Report
Priestap listed the top five programs in 2025: Fitness, Dance, Misc. Recreation, Instructional Soccer and Swimming in that order, stating that overall, the programs are doing well except for the Senior program which relies on grants, and the Open Gym program which is our one nominal fee program that has high facility rent expense that our fees can't cover. Carpenter stated he'd be meeting with FAPS to discuss how to alleviate the cost by having a SLPR staff member get any required certifications to monitor the building without the need of a school custodian.

Priestap announced a partnership with the Henry Ford Genesys Health Club to add a Spinning Bike Bootcamp class to the fitness schedule, using their facility to host the program.

Discussion Item (a): Staff Salary/Title Update
Postponed until February

Discussion Item (b): Future Board Meeting Attendance
Carpenter stated there were three dates in 2026 when he could not attend the board meetings. It was the board's consensus to change the dates for the March, September, and October meetings to these dates: March 20, September 18 and October 16. These dates will be updated on the website calendar as well.

Action Item (a): City of Linden Appointees
Postponed until February

Action Item (b): Election of Officers
The slate of officers was presented.
Chair: Reid nominated Lockwood for Chairperson, seconded by Kesler. Lockwood accepted. No further nominations.
Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Vice Chair: Kesler nominated Simons for Vice Chairperson, seconded by McDermott. Simons accepted. No further nominations.
Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Secretary: Reid nominated McDermott for Secretary, seconded by Lockwood. McDermott accepted. No further nominations.
Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Treasurer: Lockwood nominated Kesler for Treasurer, seconded by Reid. Kesler accepted. No further nominations.
Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Action Item (c): Committee Assignments
The committee positions were filled as follows with Lockwood as the Chair, a member on each:
Finance/Site Location: Kesler, Chair; Armstrong, Member
Operations & Programs/Community Relations: Reid, Chair; McDermott, Member
Personnel/Policy: Simons, Chair; McDermott, Member

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Kesler to approve the committee assignments as presented.
Motion Carried:
4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Commissioner Comments
None.

Next Meeting
Regular Monthly Meeting: Friday, February 27th, 2026 at 7:30am

Adjournment:
Chairperson Lockwood adjourned the meeting at 8:45am

Respectfully Submitted, David McDermott, Secretary
Recording Secretary, Shirley Priestap