

Southern Lakes Regional Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District

Fenton Community & Cultural Center

150 S. Leroy St., Fenton, MI 48430

Board of Commissioners Meeting MINUTES- Friday, February 27th, 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, Brenda Simons, Chris Reid, David McDermott, Elizabeth Armstrong

Called In: Robert Kesler

Roll Call: Lockwood declared there was a quorum with five board members

Staff Present: Tyler Carpenter, Shirley Priestap

Public Present: Jacob Maurer, Division Manager – Genesee County Planning Commission
Mckenna Dutkiewicz, Planner - Genesee County Planning Commission

Call to the Audience

None present

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of January 23rd, 2026 regular meeting minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report:
 - Bills paid prior to February 27th, 2026, in the amount \$121,667.04
 - Payroll paid prior to February 27th, 2026 in the amount of \$39,180.82
 - Financial Statements for January 2026

Motion by Reid, seconded by Simons to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call:

Reid Aye

Lockwood Aye

Simons Aye

McDermott Aye

Armstrong Aye

Motion Carried: Ayes, 0 Nays

Jacob Maurer, Division Manager for the Genesee County Planning Commission, presented the map for 'Phase 3' of the non-motorized regional trail, highlighting the next phase along Fenton Road. He stated he'd been on the pathway project for the past 13 years and noted this phase is scheduled with a project year of 2027-2028. He also presented the MDOT financial request summary listing the grant funds and

the match funds for a total project cost of \$5,224,161. He listed the current match fund detail noting the current short fall is \$680,000.

Maurer stated MDOT requires an official resolution stating SLPR continues to support the project and that the short fall would be covered. He also noted the resolution gives assurance of who is providing the matching funds and who is providing the trail maintenance. Lockwood stated most of the funding comes from MDOT and DNR grants. Maurer noted that the resolution is required by the end of May and informed the board that SLPR can back out anytime before the final signing. Reid explained Fenton Township would assume the role of fiduciary – a pass through for the funds that would then go to the Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC). It was the board's consensus to move forward with the resolution at the March meeting. A discussion followed re: clarification that SLPR would be responsible for covering the gap in funding. Maurer stated he would provide the resolution for the board's approval.

Maurer also discussed 'Phase 4' of the trail which is in part a section of Owen Road. He noted that the GCRC has scheduled a road expansion project for that section of Owen Road where the trail is planned. He explained that there's an opportunity to add a 5' sidewalk that would coincide with the project on the north side and that the funding gap for the sidewalk project was \$80,000. He asked SLPR for the same resolution of support for this project, stating the benefit of doing this now would save having to get easements and construction for a trail along that same stretch in the future.

It was the board's consensus to discuss the 'Phase 4' sidewalk section with the LAFF board. A discussion followed re: asking Fenton Township to find residents to sit on the LAFF board.

Action Item (a): City of Linden Appointees

The City of Linden reappointed Brenda Simons and Elizabeth Armstrong to the SLPR Board.

Motion by Lockwood, seconded by Reid to accept the appointees.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Action Item (b): Approval of Special Licenses

Priestap stated there are three upcoming SLPR events that would be serving alcohol and she prepared the special license application for submission to the State. She listed Saturday, July 25th for Art Walk; Friday, October 9th for the Witches Ball; and Friday November 13th for the Ladies Night Out Dance.

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Armstrong to approve all three special liquor license applications for the upcoming events.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Action Item (c): Allocation of Net Income to Designated Funds

Priestap presented the net income amount for 2025 and stated per the budgeted management goals, it would be allocated to the designated funds as follows: \$40,176.66 to the Equipment Fund and \$91,042.32 to the Facility Fund.

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Armstrong to approve the allocation as presented.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Discussion Item (a): Salary/Title Update

Personnel Committee Chairperson Simons shared that she recognized the strong work performance of Accounting Coordinator Priestap. Based on that performance and the expanded scope of responsibilities, she recommended to the committee that Priestap's title be changed to 'Finance Manager'. Simons also noted that the committee met to review comparable positions and salary ranges, and as a result, recommended a salary adjustment commensurate with the proposed title change.

Motion by Simons, seconded by McDermott to approve the changes in title and salary as presented.

Roll Call:

McDermott Aye

Lockwood Aye

Simons Aye

Reid Aye

Armstrong Aye

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Director's Report

Carpenter stated that he meets with the engineers and contractors biweekly to get updates on the progress of the pathway construction of Phase 2.

Carpenter noted his community interactions highlighting the meetings with Fenton Township and the Keepers of the Shiawassee about the Hogan Road launch. He also noted meeting with Vince Lorraine and Mike Deem to discuss program opportunities held at the Fenton Township Civic Center. Carpenter explained that SLPR is planning for summer programs at the beach and pop-up events to test the location.

Carpenter also noted that the grant request to the Fenton DDA would be presented in March for the upcoming summer events: Farm Market, Concerts in the Park, Art Walk, Rev Up Fenton Car Show, and Family Nights. He noted that he had met with Chief Slater and Lt. Forbush to discuss the car show dynamics.

Partnership with Genesee County Parks was noted re: meetings about the Disc Golf Course and possible other project ideas. Carpenter also noted a 2024 cargo van had been purchased from Randy Wise for the price of \$29,834 and that the old van was traded in for \$3,500. He said they are the sponsors of our Drivers Education vehicles and were excellent to work with for this purchase. Carpenter shared a photo of a possible design for a wrap around the van stating a full wrap would be much more visible than just a logo. It was the board's consensus to move forward with a design.

FCCC and the heating and cooling maintenance system were discussed and Carpenter stated that the current contract has expired and he will pursue a new contract with the same company that services the City of Fenton.

Carpenter reported that he had researched area ice rinks and stated what it would cost to install, store and the maintenance of owning one. It was the consensus it would not be worth pursuing further.

Accounting Coordinator's Report

Priestap noted the 2025 audit was scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, March 31st and April 1st stating that the finance committee is asked to meet with the auditors on that first day prior to the start of the audit process. She also noted that an audit of FCCC is scheduled for April 2nd.

She stated that the 4th quarter 2025 check in the amount of \$12,500 to the Loose Senior Center had been sent upon receipt of their quarterly financial statements. And a check in the amount of \$15,000 was sent to the City of Fenton for the previously approved pathway commitment to Phase 2. Priestap also stated the bills paid prior to the meeting were higher than usual due to the purchase of the van, the pathway commitment, the Loose Center, the Art Walk billboard, and the liability insurance. She also stated that the FAPS requested the SLPR scholarship be sent by February 6th payable to the Fenton Education Foundation and that she had sent the \$1,000 as requested.

Priestap presented historical millage information charting the growth over the past 26 years including the tax collections from each municipality, the Fenton DDA captures, and the percentage of tax collections from each municipality: 26.96 % from the City of Fenton, 8.77% from the City of Linden, and 64.27% from Fenton Township.

Commissioner Comments

Lockwood stated she was notified that the Loose advisory committee meeting had been cancelled.

Simons asked Carpenter how he felt about SLPR so far.
She also stated she would not be in attendance for the April meeting.

Reid stated she would not be in attendance at the March meeting.

Next Meeting

Regular Monthly Meeting: Friday, March 20th, 2026 at 7:30am

Adjournment:

Chairperson Lockwood adjourned the meeting at 8:55am

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