

Southern Lakes Regional Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District

Fenton Community & Cultural Center

150 S. Leroy St., Fenton, MI 48430

Board of Commissioners Meeting MINUTES- Friday, April 24th, 2026

7:30am

Call to Order

Chairperson Lockwood called the meeting to order at 7:35am

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance/Roll Call

Present: Patricia Lockwood, Brenda Simons, Chris Reid, Rob Kesler

Absent: David McDermott, Elizabeth Armstrong

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

Staff Present: Tyler Carpenter, Shirley Priestap

Public Present: Jacob Mauer and McKenna Dutkiewicz via zoom

Call to the Audience

None present

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of March 20th, 2026 regular meeting minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report:
 - Bills paid prior to April 24th, 2026, in the amount \$84,076.76
 - Payroll paid prior to April 24th, 2026 in the amount of \$36,782.06
 - Financial Statements for March 2026

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

Roll Call:

Lockwood Aye

Simons Aye

Reid Aye

Kesler Aye

Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Fenton Road Regional Trail – Phase 3 – MDOT TAP Grant Application

Jacob Maurer and McKenna Dutkiewicz were present via zoom to present and explain the need for a resolution of support from SLPR and local municipalities to move forward with the grant process. He prepared a resolution for approval with SLPR's stated commitment. Carpenter explained the Genesee County Road Commission is stepping in as the agency to replace the City of Fenton in the fiduciary role. Maurer further explained that SLPR is stating their commitment to overruns up to \$200,000 should there be any. The upfront engineering costs are covered by funds held by the Mott Foundation which will be

signed over to Fenton Township to meet those needs. SLPR would not have to incur any immediate costs and if so, would be reimbursed by the Township from those funds held.

A discussion followed re: the back out process to which Mauer explained that if it was determined that the project was no longer feasible, SLPR can back out up to a point.

A discussion followed re: monitoring the trail for motorized vehicles to which it was noted that local jurisdictions would be the acting agency should there be a need for enforcement.

Action Item: Approval of the Resolution: Support of the Genesee County Road Commission and authorization of submission of a MDOT TAP Grant Application

Motion by Kesler, seconded by Simons to approve the resolution to support Genesee County Road Commission, acting as the ACT 51 Agency in support of the Fenton Road Regional Trail project, and authorizes submission of an MDOT TAP Grant Application for \$1,927,249 as presented.

Roll Call:

Lockwood Aye

Kesler Aye

Simons Aye

Reid Aye

Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Carpenter stated that Mauer and Dutkiewicz have been an amazing support system with the trail project. He also stated he's confident all will go well because they are in the background helping every step of the way.

Mauer invited Carpenter and any board members to an upcoming Trail Training in Arkansas to learn from experts about legacy trails, 5 year master planning, trail construction, maintenance, and management on June 24th and 25th. He explained a \$1,700 stipend would be provided to the team to offset costs. It was the board's consensus that SLPR has budgeted for training and that Carpenter should go. Kesler stated he's available and would go as well. Both Reid and Lockwood cannot attend. Carpenter will also ask the other board members if they'd be interested in attending.

Director's Report

Carpenter gave an update on Phase 2 of Choice One Trail progress stating it's moving right along nicely and is slated to be completed on time in August. He also informed the board of meetings he attended emphasizing several meetings about the pathway and highlighting meetings with Fenton Township re: SLPR programs and events at the civic center and parks development. He also stated an evening fitness program is scheduled at the Loose Center this summer. Also noted was the plan to offer 'pop up' programs and activities utilizing the van as not just transportation, but as a promotional tool. The hiring of a summer college intern was noted and a plan to have her develop and initiate the pop up events and to assist with all summer events. There is no progress on the disc golf project, and a meeting with Above Par is scheduled for May.

The FCCC and the transfer of governance to the City of Fenton were noted and Carpenter stated he'd met with City Manager Marklin to discuss building maintenance projects that are high priority.

Finance Manager's Report

Priestap noted the bills paid prior to the meeting were high this period and included the van wrap, dance recital costumes, and seasonal payments to AAU volleyball coaches and coordinators. She also stated that programs are very consistent with 2025 first quarter numbers with some growth in AAU Volleyball under the coordination and management of Courtney McMillan, SLPR's Program Coordinator.

The 2025 audit of both SLPR and FCCC were completed without issue and will be presented at the May 22nd meeting. Priestap noted the finance committee had a conference call with the auditors prior to their field work. She also noted she's been assisting the City of Fenton in gathering information about the FCCC budget and providing financial reports.

Discussion Item (a): Fenton Township Rec Center/Park Development

Carpenter gave a presentation outlining SLPR's need for a recreational facility. He highlighted SLPR's mission statement and discussed the limitations put on the organization because it is dependent on others for facility and field space. He described the potential for increasing leagues, programs, and expanding opportunities for the community. He showed that the location in the Township is central in that the proximity to the City of Linden and City of Fenton is within seven to ten miles.

A discussion followed re: Fenton Township's desire to develop property into a recreational facility and to assist in the funding with SLPR's input on the design and with SLPR's management. The presentation was well received, and Carpenter will bring it to the full board in May.

Commissioner Comments

None

Next Meeting

Regular Monthly Meeting: Friday, May 22nd, 2026 at 7:30am

Adjournment:

Chairperson Lockwood adjourned the meeting at 9:15am

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