

Southern Lakes Regional Metropolitan Parks & Recreation District

Fenton Community & Cultural Center

150 S. Leroy St., Fenton, MI 48430

Board of Commissioners Meeting MINUTES- Friday, May 22nd, 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, Rob Kesler, David McDermott,
Elizabeth Armstrong

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

Staff Present: Tyler Carpenter, Shirley Priestap

Public Present: Allen Gamble of Lewis/Knopf via zoom

Call to the Audience

None present

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of April 24th, 2026 regular meeting minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report:
 - Bills paid prior to May 22nd, 2026, in the amount \$48,137.06
 - Payroll paid prior to May 22nd, 2026 in the amount of \$26,597.22
 - Financial Statements for April 2026

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Simmons to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call:

Lockwood Aye

Simons Aye

Reid Aye

Kesler Aye

McDermott Aye

Armstrong Aye

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

Presentation of 2025 Audit – Allen Gamble, CPA Lewis/Knopf

SLPR again received a "Clean" or "Unmodified" audit opinion—the highest level of assurance possible for its financial statements. Gamble explained revenue was up and expenses were down. He noted that SLPR had an increase in fund equity and that SLPR could easily sustain itself in business a full year without a source of revenue.

A discussion followed and Lockwood asked for an opinion on future audits to which Priestap stated continuing with Lewis/Knopf is her recommendation.

Action Item (a): Receipt of the 2025 Audit

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Kesler to accept receipt of the SLPR 2025 audit as presented.

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

Action Item (b): Approval of the MDNR Amendment to Extend the Dates for the Silver Lake Road Pathway Project

Carpenter explained that the current MDNR grant expired in 2023 and an amendment for each year (2024 and on) was required to be updated to the current year to receive the grant funds. He stated that he'd like the board to authorize Chairperson Lockwood to sign each document as they are received (one for each year) on behalf of the board.

Motion by McDermott, seconded by Kesler to approve the MDNR grant amendments to extend the dates for the Silver Lake Road Project and to authorize Chairperson Lockwood to sign the documents on behalf of the board to bring the grant to the current date.

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

Director's Report

Carpenter stated there are two grants from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint that are scheduled to be disbursed to SLPR; \$5,985 for Phase 3 of the pathway; and \$2,500 for the Senior program. He gave an update on Phase 2 of Choice One Trail progress stating it's still progressing and on schedule. A discussion followed re: the ribbon cutting scheduled for some time in September. It was noted that Fenton Township passed a resolution for Phase 3 and that the LAFF board welcomed new members from the Township. A discussion followed re: how each municipality will handle insuring the pathway. More information to follow.

He informed the board of meetings he attended emphasizing the Genesee County Parks meeting. He also noted the hiring of a college intern to assist staff with small projects like 'Rec on the Go' and to help boost marketing on social media. Fenton Township programming plans were noted as well as the new programs scheduled at the Loose Center. He stated the goal to create more program opportunities in both Linden and Fenton Township while working with them to prevent duplicating activities.

The progress on the disc golf course was discussed and Carpenter stated he met with Above Par golf and that the project is set to begin with the front 9 holes with a completion time of six weeks. He reiterated that Disc Craft is donating the baskets.

The transition of FCCC financial management to the City of Fenton was noted as was the plans to create a list of maintenance projects for the City.

Carpenter discussed the upcoming Trail Training in Arkansas that he and Kesler will be attending in June.

Finance Manager's Report

Priestap noted the 1st quarter check to the Loose Senior Center had not yet been issued and will be sent upon receipt of their financial report. She also explained the increase in expenses to the Planning Fees and Special Projects account stating it was due to the purchase of the van, the van wrap, and the check to the City of Fenton for SLPR's prior commitment to Phase 2 of the pathway.

She also noted the decrease in Youth Basketball leagues stating that this year there was just one team in comparison to prior years. Staff will be working with coaches to increase the program for next year. It was also mentioned that the open gym program continues to be in the red explaining SLPR likes to offer nominally priced programs, but the cost of paying the school for custodial costs makes it run at a loss.

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

Carpenter again gave a presentation outlining SLPR's need for a recreational facility, this time to the full board and it was well received. He 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. Carpenter stated at this point Fenton Township is looking for support from SLPR for the development of a park and recreation center at the TRRD location. He further stated it is the Township's intent to develop the property and would do so with SLPR's input during the planning if the SLPR board supports the project.

A discussion followed re: a plan and a timeline. It was the board's consensus that they support the development and potential location for a recreation center for SLPR but would like to be on the ground floor of discussions and would like a presentation from the Township on their plan.

Commissioner Comments

Simons stated she'd like to invite college intern, Emma Minock, to the next board meeting. She also stated that she'd be running again for Linden City Council.

McDermott said he loves the idea of park and would like the Township to get input from community coaches on field development.

Lockwood noted the bricks that Carpenter and Koledo laid at the Dog Park noting it was a fundraiser. She stated she would be absent from the June meeting and that Simons would lead.

Kesler stated Fenton Township is taking over the Dog Park and has budgeted for financial support.

Next Meeting

Regular Monthly Meeting: Friday, June 26th , 2026 at 7:30am

Adjournment:

Chairperson Lockwood adjourned the meeting at 9:05am

Respectfully Submitted, David McDermott, Secretary

Recording Secretary, Shirley Priestap