



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the City of Linden Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Dietz at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held within Loose Senior Center located at 707 North Bridge Street, Linden, MI 48451.

ROLL CALL

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Aaron Wiens, Mike Dietz, Larry Allen

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: Heidi Fletcher

ABSENT: Sadie Kosin, Elizabeth Armstrong, Stephanie Shaw

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Grice, Director of Public Works; Kristyn Kanyak, City Clerk

(A) Excuse Absent Member(s)

Dietz excused Armstrong and Kosin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Allen, second by Wiens to approve the agenda as proposed. Motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(A) February 19, 2026 Special Meeting

Brief discussion regarding additional page included with minutes, Kanyak explained.

Motion by Allen, second by Dietz to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received from two representatives from the Keepers of the Shiawassee Organization; shared documents pertaining to request, and reviewed project details, donation amount received, for kayak launch and bench behind Down the Hatch. Requested city's permission for use and procurement of contractor to do the work; asked for consideration and interest. Brief discussion with Commissioners regarding bowling fundraiser.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dietz explained discussion with resident regarding fairy forest and ideas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(A) 2026 Events and Programming Updates

Dietz explained reasoning for the topic. Wiens provided an update on fly-tying event and

planning details; location/setup, number of attendees, sign up list and flyer.

Shaw entered the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Allen discussed Scouts attendance, with Commissioners and Kanyak. Fletcher discussed details for the Kite event on May 14; location options; event signage and promotion; handling of supply ordering, and brief discussion regarding business donation form, with Kanyak. Commissioners discussed Little Explorers being planned by Sadie, and shared suggestions for patriotic rock painting for America 250. Dietz discussed bat event details, working with GDL, discussion with Allen regarding bat houses. Commissioners discussed creation of a schedule/flyer and promoting events; Parks Facebook Page access and additional ideas for the senior kayaking event.

NEW BUSINESS

(A) Approval of Amended Bylaws

Dietz and Kanyak reviewed, brief discussion with Commissioners and Kanyak regarding quorum.

Motion by Shaw, second by Allen to approve the amendments to the Parks and Recreation Commission By-laws as proposed. Motion carried 4-0.

(B) Recommendation of Approval for Ordinance Amendments

Dietz and Kanyak briefly reviewed, Kanyak explained adoption process with Council.

Motion by Wiens, second by Dietz to forward a recommendation of approval of the amended Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance to the City Council, as proposed. Motion carried 4-0.

(C) Parks and Recreation Plan Objectives and Goals

Dietz reviewed reasoning for the topic and requested Commissioners review and come with ideas.

Grice provided an updates on the gazebo platform viewing project; budgeting for Eagle's Wooden Park improvements to play structure, pavilion and boardwalk. Shared photos for plans for pathway amenities chairs, swing; benches; additional enhancement plans within Kimble-Sharp Gazebo and Park and requested Commissioner's recommendations. Discussion with Grice and Commissioners regarding Public Works property land parcel, the Master Plan; and potential options for Bridge/Broad intersection, pending City Council approval.

Discussion with Commissioners, Staff and members from Keepers of the Shiawassee regarding their kayak launch project proposal and request; launch-type design options; procurement process, Commissioners shared concerns with chute design and asked about alternatives. Brief discussion with staff regarding motion.

Motion by Dietz, second by Allen to forward recommendation to City Council that the city accepts the project proposal from Keepers of the Shiawassee for kayak launch, with the understanding there may be a re-evaluation recommendation for design of chute. Motion carried 4-0.

COMMISSIONER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brief discussion regarding communication with businesses for events and involvement.

Kanyak explained establishment of agenda items for future meetings. Allen discussed Shiawassee River Shuttle's community involvement and event role/help, suggested tipping; discussion sharing thoughts and concerns, but could be talked about next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Allen, second by Shaw to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Dietz at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristyn Kanyak, City Clerk

Approved: _____