PROCEEDINGS OF

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Connect Senior Center
West Bloomfield, Michigan
Special Budget Workshop
Wednesday, October 7, 2026
6:00 PM **APPROVED**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 PM by Chairperson Brooks

ROLL CALL

Present:	Chair Robert Brooks Secretary John Erich Treasurer Terrance Adams Commissioner Merv Aronoff Commissioner David Barash Commissioner Amy Mindell – Excused – Left 7:00PM Commissioner Sally Wenczel- Excused - Arrived 6:22PM
Staff Present:	Kelly Hyer, Executive Director Chris Frey, Parks Superintendent Ashley Stokes, Recreation Supervisor Ashley Forton, HR Manager Meagan Tehako, Marketing and Events Manager Kahlia Chehade, Administrative Assistant Stephanie Smith, Finance Manager Austin Gapp, Finance Associate Carrie Manning, Recording Secretary
Absent:	None
Public:	None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC FORUM- None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Aronoff, seconded by Commissioner Barash to approve the agenda.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Absent: 1
Motion Carried: 6-0-1 (Commissioner Wenczel)

Review of 2027 General Appropriations Act Resolution

A redlined draft of the 2027 resolution was reviewed with the commissioners by Executive Director Kelly Hyer. A finalized copy of the resolution will be presented at the November regular commission meeting.

Presentation of draft of 2027 WB Parks Budget
Executive Director Kelly Hyer began the presentation with a high-level summary of revenue and expenditure changes from 2026 to 2027, then provided additional detail. She attributed most of the increased expenditures to cost-of-living adjustments, inflation, and higher health care costs. A few 2026 capital projects will carry over into 2027, along with new projects added to address maintenance needs. Lower revenue was attributed to loss of space due to the RAC closure, paving projects, and reconfiguring class offerings with the spaces and times available to hold them.

Parks Superintendent Chris Frey then reviewed each 2027 capital project, explaining the requested funding, project timelines, and speaking to the priority of each project. Together, he and Executive Director Hyer answered all questions from the commissioners. With the Connect Community Center planning and construction taking much of the time and effort in 2026, things should return to more normal timing until the building is finished. The 2027 capital request totals $2,796,000.

Review of PA 152 and employee health insurance options for 2027.
Executive Director Kelly Hyer reviewed the PA 152 resolution and discussed coverage for the 24 full-time Parks and Recreation employees enrolled in the current health insurance plan. Given the timing, the consensus was to defer any plan changes or employee contribution requirements until 2028. Employees currently pay $0 contribution to enroll in the plan, which is provided through West Bloomfield Township.

Review of the new Capitalization Policy.
Executive Director Kelly Hyer reviewed the policy, which establishes procedures for managing capital assets, guidelines for depreciating those assets, and standards for safeguarding and properly disposing of them. The policy will be presented for consideration at the November regular Commission meeting.

Review of 101-year capital planning schedule
This is a “living” timeline for the purpose of planning out future capital projects.

Review of next steps in the budget process.
A public hearing on the budget will be held at the October 28 West Bloomfield Parks Commission meeting. If no changes are required, the Commission will adopt the budget at its November 18 regular meeting, followed by Township adoption at its scheduled December 7 meeting.

ITEMS FROM THE OFFICERS

A. Items from the Chairperson

Chairperson Brooks commended Finance Manager Smith and Finance Associate Gapp for their work on the budget and for keeping everyone on track. He also thanked HR Manager Forton and Marketing and Events Manager Tehako for their foresight into the future when the Connect Community Center is completed as far as staffing and programming is concerned.

B. Items from the Secretary

Secretary Erich hoped for limited change orders in the future.

C. Items from the Treasurer

Treasurer Adams reminded everyone that the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission's goal is not to generate a profit. Once the future Connect Community Center is operational, the Commission will have a clearer understanding of its financial outlook.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Commissioner Wenczel attended the Farmington area arts awards and thought it could be something that West Bloomfield could adopt in the future.
Chair Brooks thanked Meagan Tehako for inviting him to speak at the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce event. He enjoyed the opportunity.

PUBLIC FORUM- None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:20PM.

Reviewed by,
John Erich

(As a record, an audio tape of this meeting in its entirety is on file and will remain at the Parks and Recreation offices where it may be heard.)