



Village of Lawrence
157 N. Paw Paw St.
Lawrence, MI 49064
PH: 269-674-8161 Fax: 269-674-3004
www.lawrencemi.org



Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes
157 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI 49064
May 4th, 2025

Present: A.Lorenzo, T.Reynnells,M.Carpp, D.Gribler, T.Griffin
D.Vanzoran
Meeting started: 6:30pm

1. Village Park Playground: 🔍 Deed and Legal Documentation

- Search ongoing for original deed, last seen in the 1970s.
- Contacts include Paul DeYoung, Joelle, and real estate attorneys.
- Supreme Court research request may take 2–3 weeks. Supreme Court judgment on park dedication being considered as substitute for deed.

📄 Grant Application

- Land Water Conservation Fund grant application submitted for \$301,200.
- Total project cost: \$602,400.
- Application deadline: April 1, 2025.
- Awards expected: December 2025.

🔧📅 Project Timeline

- Grants awarded Dec 2025
- Grant agreements expected April–June 2026 (if awarded).
- Construction to begin in Fall 2026 or Spring 2027 depending on funding

2. Fundraising Strategy

💰 Donation Processing

- Donations must go through Village of Lawrence office.
- Funds deposited at Arbor Credit Union.
- Electronic options (Zelle, PayPal, QR codes) being evaluated.
- Concerns over transaction fees (e.g., 3% on credit/debit cards).



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Sponsorship Packages

- Tiered level ideas (e.g., \$1,000, \$20,000, \$50,000).
- Options for anonymous or named recognition.
- Sponsors may receive marketing visibility.
- Need for cohesive park signage and branding emphasized.

Campaign Outreach

- Sponsorship flyer campaign running through January 2026 and possibly beyond.
- Distribution could be planned with summer tax bills.

Donation Coordination

- Meetings scheduled with Rich Glista, Theresa, Arbor, and council (maybe May 6 and May 8, 2025).
- Goals: clarify processes, platforms, and record-keeping.

3. Parks & Recreation Planning and Budgeting

Coordination and Meetings

- Focus on resolving deed and document issues with Theresa and Rich.
- Supreme Court records may be needed.
- Expected resolution within 2–3 weeks from May 4, 2025.

Budget Overview

- 2025 village budget includes \$5,000 allocation and \$5,000 from Township.
- Mike C. reports township might just pay \$5,000 to PPRWT contract up front so funds don't flow into the following year.
- Village paid \$3,177 for 2025; current balance owed to Pawpaw River Water Trail is \$3,763.

Park Signage

- CJ (Mary Webster's son) to repaint the Kids' Palace sign. Alicia to call CJ and inquire scope and budget for what CJ would like to do because signage letters need repair before paint.
- Committee will reimburse for paint/materials once CJ confirms plans.



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Park Master Plan

- Updates include:
 - 1st-Village park playground
 - 2nd-reorient courts.
 - DDA looked into moving basketball courts, adding pickleball courts. Goal: improve access to bathrooms and pavilion. Concerns about costs (e.g., \$220,000 quoted from Abonmarche for concrete and fencing). Dale G will look into other options

Millage Discussion

- Consideration of revisiting parks & rec millage (previously defeated).
- Estimated to raise \$50,000–\$54,000/year.
- Exploring grants and county support to strengthen future proposals.

4. Grant and Fundraising Timeline Strategy

Strategic Considerations

- Debate over starting fundraising before vs. after grant award.
- Concerns about donor motivation and council fund requirements.
- Group to consult with Rich Glista and Theresa about timelines and direct deposits.
- Plans to print flyers, create QR codes, and send fundraising reminders
- Next meeting scheduled for August 10, 2025 at 6pm.

Motion by Griffin to end meeting. Second by Carpp. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.