
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, August 12, 2026

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Sally Gruppen, Mayor Pro Tem
John Query, Commission Chair
Thom Parker, Commissioner
Lynette Lam, Commissioner
Sue Lucas, Commissioner
Sabina Otteman, Commissioner

ABSENT: Ashley Kiekintveld, Commissioner

CITY STAFF: Kevin Plockmeyer, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director
Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant

GUEST: Tiffany Smith, MCSA Group
Melinda Whitten, MCSA Group
Brett Geertsma, Director, Zeeland Recreation

I. Approval of June 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Lynette Lam

Support: Sabina Otteman

All in favor, minutes approved.

II. Parks Master Plan – Section Reviews

Tiffany Smith & Melinda Whitten from MCSA Group presented the Goals & Objectives outlined in the new draft Master Plan. Zeeland Recreation Director Brett Geertsma also addressed the commission about the plan with his initial thoughts and his desire for continued proactive cooperation & collaboration with the city; would love to help brainstorm best uses of park spaces; he will continue to review the survey more thoroughly and share any additional thoughts with Commission Chair Query and Kevin Plockmeyer.

Melinda also presented an updated Capital Improvement Schedule snapshot:

- Vande Luyster Gazebo (repairs)
- Lawrence Park Phase I (playground)
- Huizenga Park (pathway, fishing access)
- Huizenga Park (shade sails in playground)
- Michigan Street Tot Lot (barrier free access)
- Paw Paw Footbridge (more viewing platforms, trail meet barrier free guidelines)
- Huizenga Park (skate park)
- Vande Luyster Gazebo (full renovation)
- Huizenga Park (basketball court)

Commissioners were asked to “dream big” and to think about other projects to add as they consider what to prioritize. Kevin Plockmeyer suggested revisiting sand volleyball courts & lighting at the pickleball courts at Huizenga Park. Commissioner Lucas stated that everyone looking at Huizenga Park together would be very helpful; staff will coordinate a bus tour of all city parks for their next meeting in September.

Mayor Pro Tem Gruppen asked if the schools would be open to the opinions of this group regarding their recreation projects; would love to enhance that spirit of collaboration, share more on both sides. Kevin Plockmeyer suggested that large, shared resource projects (i.e., something like a community pool or community center) could be opportunities to do that; continue to build on these relationships.

III. Lawrence Park Grill

The grill structure at Lawrence Park is in disrepair, has not been used in many years and staff would like the commission's thoughts on removing it. There is a plaque on the grill that staff would endeavor to return to next of kin of the family involved with the installation of the grill. Failing that, staff would offer it to the Zeeland Historical Society or store at the street garage. Commissioners did not oppose its removal.

VIII. Burial Report: (from packet since June 3, 2026)

Burials

13 at Lincoln – 1 Residents and 12 Non-Residents

2 at Felch – 2 Residents and 0 Non-Residents

Sales

1 at Lincoln – 1 Resident and 0 Non-Residents

1 at Felch – 0 Residents and 1 Non-Residents

Columbarium – 0 Residents and 2 Non-Residents

Transfers – 2 (Lincoln to Felch)

Sale Back to City – 1 at Felch

Other Items:

- **Church Street Project:** Kevin Plockmeyer informed the commission that due to this ongoing project, the Veteran's Section (at Lincoln Cemetery) still has no irrigation. The white flowers in the cross area have been removed and will be replanted next spring.

The meeting was adjourned @ 6:15 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

RECORDED BY:



Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant