

Wallingford Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 @ 5:30pm
6 Fairfield Blvd, Wallingford
Room 4 Conference Room

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance: Don Crouch, Lori Cooke-Marra, Lars Edeen, Steve Rossacci.

Absent: Dave Anderson

Recreation Staff in Attendance: Director - Kenny Michaels

3. Public Comments (10 minutes total time)

Keith Massamino – Resident: Keith asked when the gym floor was installed and what was the cost? He also asked about hosting the Winter Garden Market at 6 Fairfield Blvd and why the Garden Market is taking Holy Trinity School’s previous Saturday morning spot. He is concerned about the foot traffic in the gymnasium. Don Crouch stated that it is Public Comment and instructed him to email Kenny Michaels his questions. Kenny Michaels stated that he will respond to his emails with the answers to his questions.

4. Approval of Minutes: September 10, 2025

A motion was made by Lori Cooke-Marra and seconded by Lars Edeen to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 10, 2025. Approved unanimously.

5. Introduction of New Commissioner: Dave Anderson

Don Crouch informed the commission that Dave has been appointed by the mayor. Dave was unable to attend the meeting. He will be at the December meeting. Crouch and Michaels went over some of his background. They look forward to having him join the Commission.

6. Reports

a. Director – Kenny Michaels reviewed his report with the commission. Report is attached.

b. Project Reports

i. Community Pool Park – Discussed in Director’s Report.

c. Chairman – Chairman Crouch stated that the 2026 Meeting Schedule will be voted on at the meeting on December 10, 2025.

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business

a. Holy Trinity School Gym Usage – Kenny Michaels reviewed the emails between he and Melissa Styche from Holy Trinity going back to August 22,

2025. Alternate times were provided to Holy Trinity on August 28, 2025. There was no communication or paperwork received from Holy Trinity after August 28th until October 17, 2025. Additional times were offered to Holy Trinity for Saturday mornings during November. Have not received a response as November 12th.

- Holy Trinity did not have any alternate suggestions for the Garden Market.
- Michaels met with Holy Trinity Principal Dr. Frechette to discuss the situation. Michaels asked if Holy Trinity would host the Garden Market at one of the church's event halls, Dr. Frechette suggested Michaels speak to the priest.
- Michaels stated that there is a misconception that the Garden Market is a For Profit Entity separate from the Parks & Recreation. Kenny clarified that it is a Parks and Recreation Program/Event.
- He reviewed the optional spaces within town that were considered for the Garden Market. They are looking to see if the Garage at the Police Department on North Main Street would be a feasible option. There was a brief discussion about using New Life Church or the YMCA. The schools are used during the week for practice, but not on the weekends. Holy Trinity told Michaels that the YMCA is too expensive.

9. Commission Around Town

a. Comments/Concerns –Lori Cooke-Marra updated that the invasive weeds in the grass at town soccer fields is getting better. Kenny said the new grass vendor has implemented their Fall 2025 treatment plan and are preparing a plan for Fall 2026. Fields may be closed, and some leagues/groups may need to change field locations.

Cooke-Marra also informed Michales of illegal bike trails in Tyler Mill. Michaels stated that without a Park/Preserve Ranger it is very difficult to enforce any real action. It is a “Ride at Will” trial system and mountain bikers know the inherit risk. The Trail Work Group is still active and working on trails and kiosks.

10. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 5:58pm. **Motion to adjourn made by Steve Rossacci, seconded by Lori Cooke-Marra. Unanimously approved.**

Next Meeting: December 10, 2025 @ 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Hoppes
Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary