

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: City Hall - 1707 St Johns Avenue

I. Call to Order

At 4:33 PM, Mayor Rotering called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call:

II. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer, Blumberg

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Neukirch, Police Chief Jogmen, Assistant City Manager Taub, Communications Manager Bennett, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod, All Together (Kristian Gist), SWA (Ben Waldo)

III. Scheduled Business

A. Place of Remembrance Engagement Report and Unified Design Concept

Mayor Rotering provided opening remarks for the discussion. She requested a moment of silence to remember those victims that were lost.

Assistant City Manager Taub began the presentation. She requested All Together and SWA to provide their presentation.

Kristian Gist with All Together and Ben Waldo with SWA presented information regarding the Engagement Report and Unified Design Concept.

City Manager Neukirch provided information on immediate next steps and outlined the feedback that is being requested.

The Council, Ms. Gist, Mr. Waldo, and staff discussed appreciation for the integration into the proposed design as it relates to some of the Rose Garden elements, importance of a water feature, lighting elements, inclusion and recognition for those involved, assurance of the representation of all cultures, footprint of the area, the presentation that will be provided at the Historic Preservation Commission, and possible options for Port Clinton.

Mr. Waldo noted that tonight's discussion was very informative and provided guiding information for their team to move forward with the next phase of designing the Rose Garden space.

City Manager Neukirch noted that discussions regarding planning for Port Clinton renovations will be part of budget discussions with the Council. She confirmed that based on Council feedback, the staff will move forward with a sculpture for Port Clinton. The process will be similar to the process that was undertaken for the sesquicentennial sculpture.

IV. Adjournment

Councilmember Lidawer moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. Councilmember Blumberg seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, Mayor Rotering declared the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned its meeting at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk