



**CITY OF HOLLAND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
HOLLAND CITY HALL - Training Room, 2nd Floor
June 4, 2026 at 5:30 PM**

International Relations Mission Statement

Mission Statement

We build and maintain meaningful relationships between the people of Holland and the wider world through cultural, educational, and professional contact.

Vision

The City of Holland connected to and growing with the wider world.

Values

- **Respect:** We commit to the highest levels of courtesy and fairness for those who serve on this commission and those whom this commission serves.
 - **Reliability:** We fulfill our commitments to ourselves, Holland residents, its government, and our local and global partners.
 - **Collaboration:** We seek great ideas and resources in our community and beyond our borders.
 - **Hospitality:** We strive to make Holland a welcoming community for everyone.
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A. Call to Order

B. Mission, Vision, Values

C. Roll Call

D. Special Presentation. None

E. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Approval of the May 14, 2026, meeting minutes. **Call to Vote.**

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F. Next IRC Commission Meeting:

The next International Relations Commission meeting will be July 2, 2026, in the City Hall Training Room at 5:30 p.m.

G. City Council Liaison Update

H. Student Representative Update

I. Chair Report

1. Parque Holland Playground Options. **Call to Vote.**

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J. Department 2026 Strategic Goal Update

1. World Affairs Council Great Decisions. Completed.
2. Reel Time Films Series. Completed.
3. International Festival of Holland for 2026. Completed.
4. International Fashion Show. Completed.
5. Sister City/Friendship City Review Process. Completed.

K. Commission FY 2027 Strategic Goals

1. Goal 1: Create Quarterly Calendar Update.
2. Goal 2: Build a stronger relationship with Santiago de Queretaro/City of Assen.

L. Other Business

M. Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: La Ciudad de Holland proporcionará servicios necesarios como interpretación, traducción, ayudas auxiliares, lenguaje de señas, y cintas de audio de materiales impresos para personas con discapacidades. Favor llamar con siete (7) días de anticipación a la Ciudad de Holland, Esther Fifelski, Oficina de Relaciones Humanas para obtener estos servicios 616.355.1322 o por correo electrónico a e.fifelski@cityofholland.com.

The City of Holland will provide necessary services and auxiliary aids, such as signers for hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials, to individuals with disabilities, upon receipt of seven-day prior notice. Person with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids services should contact the City of Holland by writing or calling: Human Relations C/O City Clerk's Office contacting Esther Fifelski, Human Relations Director, 270 S River Avenue Holland, MI 49423, telephone (616) 616.355.1322. Document(s) available for translation upon request.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: In addition to addressing the Commission during public hearings and under "Public Comment," members of the Audience may address the Commission, on items after a motion is pending on a particular item, by addressing the Chairperson. Audience participation shall be five minutes or less per item.

CELL PHONES: Please be courteous and turn cell phones off during the meeting.



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International Relations Commission
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May 14, 2026
5:30 p.m.

Present: Chair Start and Commissioners Cuellar, Hoekstra, Neal, O’Malley,
Others: Student representatives Yazlen Ochoa, Ano Mangwiro, and Komi Ke. City Council Member Lyn Raymond and Staff Member Esther Fifelski.
Absent, excused: Commissioners Slauer and Pierce.

- 2026.05.01 Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Chair Start.
- 2026.05.02 Mission, Vision, and Values.**
- 2026.05.03 Roll Call.** See above.
- 2026.05.04 Public Comment.** None.
- 2026.05.05 Special Presentation.** Allison Hoving Baraza, Founder and President of Empowering Youth Global Connections was our featured speaker. For more information visit: <https://evgc.org/>
- 2026.05.06 Approval of April 2, 2026, meeting minutes.** Motion to approve the April 2, 2026, meeting minutes by Commissioner Neal, support by Commissioner O’Malley. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- 2026.05.07 Next IRC Monthly Meeting.** Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor Training Room at City Hall.
- 2026.05.08 City Council Liaison Update.** The city budget has been approved.
- 2026.05.09 Student Representative Updates.** Yazlen Ochoa will be attending Loyola University. Ano Mangwiro will be attending Grand Valley State University, and Komi Ke will be returning to the International Relations Commission and be serve on the 2026/2027 Core Council.
- 2026.05.10 Chair Report.** Chair Start reminded the commission, former Commissioner Bonadies was set to be Chair in July. Therefore, we will need a new Chair and Chair Elect in July.
- 1. Election of the Commission Chair.** Commissioner Pierce sent a video expressing interest in serving as Chair. Commissioner Neal made motion to appoint Commissioner Pierce as Chair. Motion supported by Commissioner O’Malley. **Motion carried unanimously.** Commissioner Pierce will begin her role as Chair at the July 2, 2026 meeting.



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2. **Election of the Commission Chair Elect.** Motion to appoint Commissioner Neal as Chair Elect by O’Malley, support Commissioner Cuellar. **Motion carried unanimously.** Commissioner Neal will formally begin his duties at the July 2, 2026 meeting.

2026.05.11 FY 2026 Department Report Update. Fifelski reported the department has completed all their goals including the International Fashion Show, not originally on the FY2026 goal list. Commissioner Pierce was super helpful in helping complete this goal. Below is the FY2026 Goal Update:

1. **World Affairs Council Great Decisions. 100% complete.** Next event scheduled in Winter 2027. We had two great topics, but only one was popular. Fifelski suggests commission take more time to review the speaker options we have. **No further updates until November/December 2026.**
2. **Reel Time Film Series Update at the Knickerbocker Theater. 100% complete.** Films will be pre-selected during the summer. **No further update until November 2026.**

2026 Reel Time Film Series. Final Film Update:

- A. Dear Future Children, Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The turnout for the youth film was 22. Fifelski reported the youth pick was not well attended. We had 29 attendees.
 - B. No Other Land, Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Fifelski reported there were over 130.
 - C. Porcelain War, Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Fifelski reported we had 66 attendees.
3. **International Festival of Holland FY2026. 100% complete.**
 4. **International Festival of Holland FY2027. 15% complete.** October 10, 2026, 4 to 7 p.m.



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2026.05.12 Commission FY 2026 Goal Update.

Goal 1: Create Quarterly Calendar Update. Bob O’Malley reported he has plans to meet with Erica at the World Affairs Council on the Academic World Quest.

Goal 2: Support the Creation of Welcome Center. We cannot financially support the creation of a Welcome Center, but the commission may provide word of mouth support and letter of support that aligns with our vision.

Goal 3: Build a stronger relationship with Santiago de Queretaro and City of Assen. Fifelski reported she had not received the quotes for Parque Holland. Commissioner Hoekstra reported he had received quotes for Parque Holland and will send them to Fifelski so they can be added to next month’s agenda.

2026.05.13 Other Business. None.

2026.05.14 Adjournment. There being no further business meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. by Chair Start.

Respectfully submitted,
Esther C. Fifelski
Human Relations Director
Human/International/Youth Services

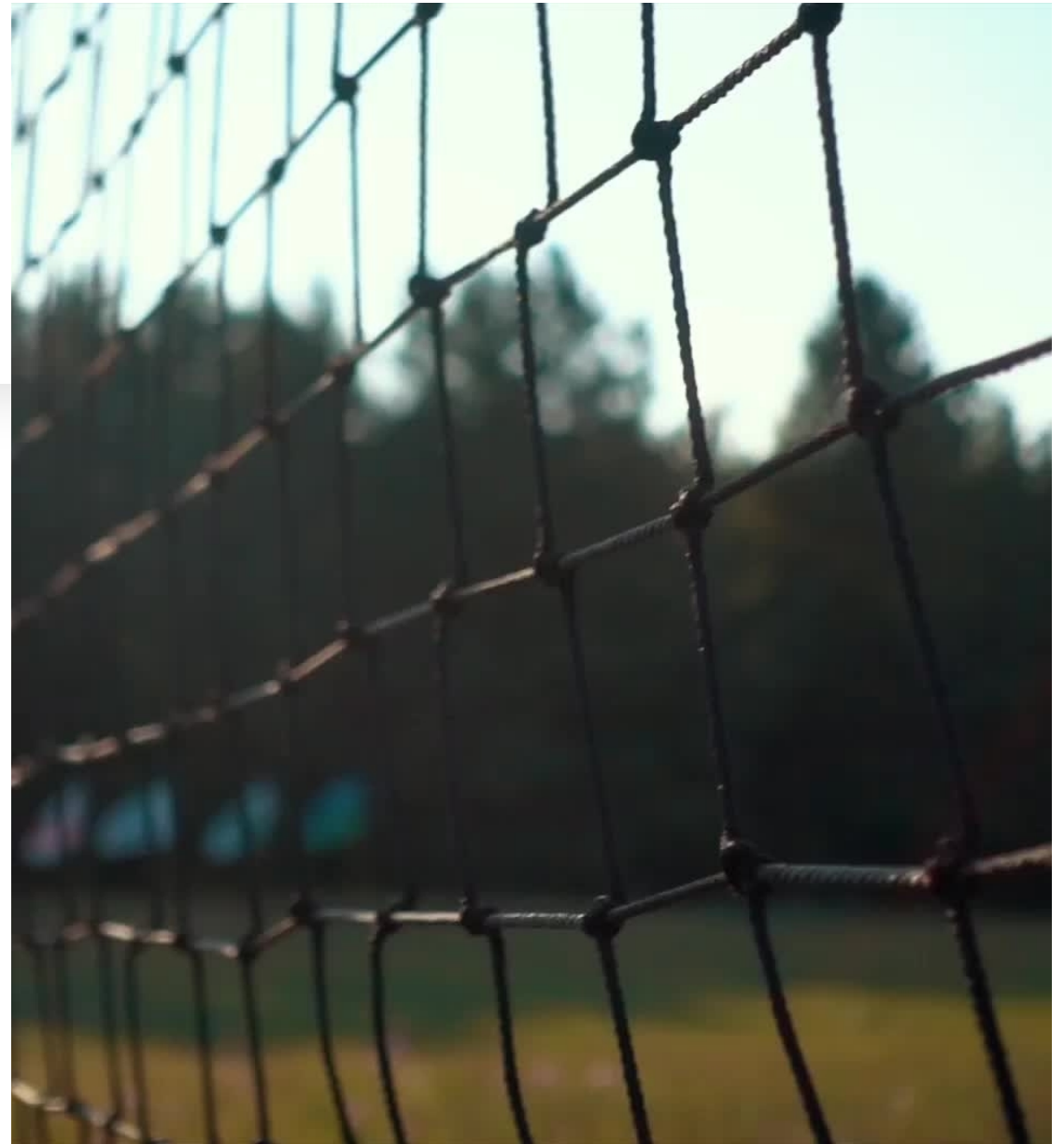


Playground Equipment Quotes

Holland Sister City- Santiago de Queretaro, Mexico
Project: Parque Holland



- Partnership with Sinclair Recreation, LLC for playground equipment & design.
- Sinclair Recreation is a Michigan corporation incorporated in 2003 with the main office located in Holland, MI.
- Three options presented – *all options include similar equipment in the renderings.*
- Quotes do NOT include the following:
 - Installation
 - Removal
 - Surfacing
 - Freight through Mexico



Intellectual property of GameTime, a PlayCore Company. The site shown in rendering is an interpretation and may not reflect exact site conditions.



Option A

Option A

- Cost \$77,055.02
- Two playscapes
 - Main playscape
 - Smaller playscape for younger children
- Simple playscape design
 - Funnel bridge
 - Wave climber
 - Bongos
 - Rock wall climber
 - Leaning wall
 - Zip slide



Intellectual property of CDM Smith, a Playcore Company. The drawings are rendering & an interpretation and may not reflect exact site conditions.



Option B

Option B

- Cost \$98,046.09
- Two playscapes
 - Main playscape
 - Smaller playscape for younger children
- Moderately complex design
 - Rock climb wall
 - Bongos
 - Spiral steps
 - Crunch bar
 - Funnel bridge
 - Schooner climber



Intellectual property of Daini's Inc., a Playworks Company. The size shown is rendering & an interpretation and may not reflect exact size conditions.



Option C

Option C

- Cost \$98,078.98
- Two playscapes
 - Main playscape
 - Smaller playscape for younger children
- Moderately complex design
 - Rock wall climber
 - Sloped funnel climber
 - Chain link climber
 - Sky wheels
 - Bongos
 - Funnel bridge

