



APPROVED

**CITY OF YPSILANTI AND
YPSILANTI PARKS AND RECREATION JOINT MEETING
SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER
1015 N. CONGRESS, YPSILANTI, MI 48197
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

City Council

Council Member Brown	Absent	Council Member Symanns	Present
Council Member Morgan	Present	Council Member Wilcoxon	Present
Council Member Murdock	Present	Mayor Bashert	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson	Present		

Council Member Murdock moved, seconded by Council Member Symanns to excuse the absence of Council Member Brown.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the absence was excused.

Park and Recreation Commission

Commissioner Delois Wilson	Absent	Commissioner Cherisa Allen	Present
Commissioner Cathy Thorburn	Present	Commissioner Amanda Marshall	Present
Commissioner Evan Sweet	Present	Commissioner Kurt Kholman	Present
Commissioner Ashanti Harris	Present	Commissioner Ben Connor Barrie	Present

III. INVOCATION –

Mayor Bashert asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

V. INTRODUCTIONS –

Mayor Bashert introduced the following individuals; Interim DPS Director Brad Holman, City Attorney John Barr, City Manager Darwin McClary, Economic Development Director Joe Meyers, Community Development Director Christopher Jacobs, City Planner Bonnie Wessler, and City Clerk Frances McMullan.

VI. AGENDA APPROVAL –

Council Member Wilcoxon moved, seconded by Council Member Symanns to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the agenda was approved.

City Council Joint Meeting
December 11, 2018

VII. PRESENTATION –

Border to Border Trail Construction Partnership Opportunities– Planner Bonnie Wessler

City Planner Bonnie Wessler provided an update regarding the Border to Border Trail.

Mayor Bashert stated this would produce \$900,000 for the trail of which the city would pay \$20,000. Ms. Bashert asked if this is the agreement with the city. Ms. Wessler responded in the affirmative. Ms. Bashert asked if this will come to Council for a vote in January. Economic Development Director Joe Meyers responded it is dependent on the direction given by Council.

Council Member Murdock stated the document states a draft agreement is attached, and asked where the draft agreement is. Ms. Wessler responded the draft agreement was removed. Mr. Murdock asked if the draft agreement will be on the December 18th agenda. Ms. Wessler responded if Council receives the information well than yes, if revisions are need potentially no.

Council Member Morgan asked if the funds would be to close those two gaps on the trail. Ms. Wessler replied the costs are roughly \$450,000 for Frog Island and \$400,000 for Grove. Mr. Morgan asked if the project would be done in phases. Ms. Wessler replied the project would be completed all at once.

Council Member Symanns stated it appears the city is getting great value for this project. She is in support of this project.

Commissioner Connor Barrie stated the Commission is supportive of this project.

Council Member Morgan asked what the cost is for maintenance for the Border to Border Trail, and what would be the cost with the proposed changes. Ms. Wessler responded once construction is complete maintenance would fall to the city. Mr. Holman responded the cost is very minimal because the trail is not maintained during the winter months. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked for clarification regarding winter maintenance. Mr. Holman replied they do not remove snow from the trail. Ms. Richardson asked if the trail would be usable in the winter. Mr. Holman responded in the affirmative, but it might change.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated he is in support of the trail, and commented on areas of the trail.

Mr. Holman stated the reason winter maintenance might change is due to the trail expanding and allowing for equipment to be used on the trail. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if DPS is proposing the city purchase small equipment in order to clear the path.

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

1. Sue Melke, 330 Chidester #409, stated a couple of years ago the city purchased a piece of equipment to remove snow from sidewalks. She asked if that fit on the trail. The spring of this past year DPS informed Council it had the materials to construct picnic tables and asked why that has not happened. She asked if the Frog Island connection is near the recycling center. Her concern is contamination and does not want to see a similar situation as Water Street.
2. Douglas Peterson, 1713 Roosevelt, stated the neighbor to the west of him has added fencing and landscaping that has overstepped property lines. He asked Council to take action, or provide direction.

3. Amber Fellows, Ward 3, stated there was funding available from the Tony Hawk foundation to purchase skate parks. The money has been earmarked for the eastside of the county. It seems like the possibility of having the skate park in the city is slipping away. She encouraged the city to show more interest in this grant funding.
4. Sarah Walsh, 113 Linden Ct., stated she is the Vice-Chair of the Non-motorized Committee. The Non-motorized Committee is in support of the Border to Border Trail.

IX. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR –

Council Member Murdock stated the County Parks and Recreation Commission is the recipient of the grant. They have selected a site for the park on Clark Rd, across from the Ypsilanti Township Senior Center.

X. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS –

- Park Restroom Evaluation Study

Commissioner Sweet stated the Commission has had an at length discussion regarding park rest rooms. If the restrooms are to be reopened the Commission advises not opening all of the restrooms. The estimates seem to be only for the construction of the restrooms, no other park updates are listed. The Commission suggests only opening restrooms in parks with hi foot traffic, and not the neighborhood parks. There is a huge staffing costs as well as supplies to operate all facilities. Mr. Sweet suggested opening up perhaps two facilities.

Commissioner Connor Barrie agreed with Commissioner Sweet that only two facilities should be opened.

Commissioner Sweet stated the portable facilities are used in communities around the state, and has been affected in Ypsilanti.

Council Member Symanns stated she has concerns about the cost to fix the facilities and then to maintain them. In some ways she would like to start with the neighborhood parks, but can appreciate starting with Riverside Park.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated when this was originally discussed by Council it was determined to be costly. The estimates are above just getting the bathrooms functional, and there could be a way to open the bathrooms without fixing everything listed. It struck him that the estimations did not include alternative plans outside of standard plumbing.

Commissioner Marshall stated many of the structures in place need to be fixed. The structures themselves are a danger, and aside from the functionality of the facilities safety is important. Even if the facilities operate the doors will need to be locked because it is a liability.

Council Member Symanns stated she would like to prioritize safety issues in order for the structures to be useable.

Mr. Holman stated he is in favor of parks having some restrooms, but he does not believe there needs to be facilities in all of the parks. Depending on what restrooms are determined to be opened, an assessment needs to be completed on what is needed in those specific facilities. Once that is done a procedure on how the facilities will be policed needs to be developed.

Council Member Morgan asked if Ann Arbor has posted signs for hours bathroom facilities are unlocked. Mr. Holman responded he believes at least in one location. Mayor Bashert stated locks that can be controlled remotely can be installed.

Mayor Bashert stated choices can be made seasonally about how to police the facilities. She hears a consensus that not every park needs facilities and the port-a-johns are functioning well. If the city does do something Riverside Park would be the one to start with. Council Member Symanns agreed, and it might be a good idea to examine new technology. Council Member Murdock stated to fix all of these facilities would be costly, and the city does not have the resources. The security and operational issues need to be thought through, if not the city could see a similar situation to what happened before with the facilities. He disagrees with prioritizing Riverside Park because it is an event park, and the events have capacity to have port-a-johns. He would rather another park be the first park to have a restroom. Commissioner Sweet stated the city has not seen how the new playground at Riverside Park will affect attendance in the summer. The Commission would place other amenities as a priority prior to exploring fixing the bathroom facilities.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the reason Council began talking about bathrooms in the parks is a result of public outcry. She is not saying have a bathroom in each park, although ideally that is what she would like, and work out a way to discourage vandalism. If there is a port-a-john in each park why are residents upset about not having facilities. If the city decides to use port-a-johns the city needs to figure out a way to secure them. Mayor Bashert stated during budget residents have stated the need for restrooms at the parks. Council directed staff to place port-a-johns at the parks this past season as a result. The question is if the port-a-johns are enough to solve this issue.

Council Member Morgan asked if there is criteria to address if a park is functioning as it is supposed to.

Mayor Bashert stated Council's next steps are Goal Setting, which begins the budget season, and determine if this is a priority. Mr. McClary agreed, some of the suggestions would need to be programed into the budget.

- Park Needs Assessment

Mayor Bashert stated every park needs weed suppression and new play surfacing under playground equipment.

Mayor Bashert provided a strategy to address the needs as listed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. She began the discussion with Parkridge Park.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the door for the restroom and storage area needs to be replaced. The playground area needs resurfacing, basically everything on the list for Parkridge needs to be work.

Mayor Bashert stated council was told the DPS had materials to construct picnic tables and park benches, she asked if those materials were still present at the DPS Yard. Mr. Holman responded no, the DPS does not have those materials. A member of the Parks and Recreation Commission asked if those materials are cost prohibitive. Mr. Holman responded no, and the issue is it would be easier to replace what is currently there then to repair it.

Council Member Symanns stated the repairs listed for Parkridge Park seem reasonable. She suggested the repair of the water fountain at that park be a low priority. Commissioner Marshall

interjected the water fountain is currently at around a forty-five degree angle, and very dilapidated. Something needs to be done in terms of safety, currently kids are jumping on it. Ms. Symanns agreed it needs to be made safe, but not concerned with it being a functional water fountain. Council Member Morgan asked how many water fountains are at the parks. Commissioner Conner Barrie responded zero. Mr. Morgan stated water fountains are important when participating in physical activity. He would like to see the cost for the replacement of the water fountains. Council Member Murdock stated at one time there was a water fountain at Prospect Park and it was vandalized than removed. Ms. Symanns stated most people are now used to carrying water bottles with them when they attend a park. She does not believe water fountains are a priority at this time.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated she is not certain what guardrail is referenced on the list. Commissioner Connor Barrie responded the railing by the school parking lot. Ms. Richardson agreed it needs to be repaired, and should be a higher priority. The gates at either end of the park need to repair, or replaced. Mr. Holman stated the gate on the south side will close, the gate by the school needs to be repaired. Ms. Richardson stated there needs to be a water fountain at every park for children. She asked when the tennis courts were examined at Parkridge. Commissioner Sweet responded the assessment was completed in the summer. Ms. Richardson stated the tennis court was supposed to be resurfaced. The group that has taken ownership of the park has tried to maintain the weeds in Parkridge. That groups issue is when the have cut down the weeds they have received pushback from the city. Mr. Holman stated a plan has been developed that includes the major parks. The basis of the plan is what is in "general sight", and agreement was made with that group the city would pick up the weeds that were stacked. The goal is to see everything in the park from the hill that policy caused some in the group to drop-off and DPS had to maintain the park. The DPS was only one staff member to maintain the city's park system. It is just a matter of organizing with those in the community that are interested in helping to maintain the park.

Mayor Bashert asked why there is only one employee to maintain all of the city parks. Mr. McClary responded funding and priorities, which can be discussed during goal setting. He stated a goal of providing better oversight of the park system and programs was stated when he asked Council to create a new Department of Economic and Community Development. That department would coordinate and organize the maintenance of the park system. That is one step to creating a Parks and Recreation Department, which is further into the future.

Mayor Bashert stated much of what is included in the list is for the parks to get mowed, and Friends Groups maintaining the parks. However, when the parks are mowed they should also be weed wacked. A person needs to be paying attention to growth under the playground equipment. At least two times during meetings Council has requested picnic tables and benches be added to the parks. Council was told it would happen and it hasn't which is frustrating. She agrees with the City Manager that part of the reason is because of lack of oversight. However, a lot of the things on the list are just a matter of neglect. Although, she understands staffing is an issue.

Mayor Bashert asked if adding additional trash cans should be a priority. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated there is a need for additional trash cans. Council Member Morgan stated there is often trash scattered throughout Prospect Park and there are many trashcans. The issue is a lack of cleanup. Ms. Bashert stated she picked up two bags of trash while walking through the Border to Border Trail. Mr. Holman stated trashcans are positioned in a way that provides for ease of use.

Mayor Bashert stated increasing public recycling will most likely come up during goal setting, and asked the Park and Recreation Commission their thoughts. Commissioner Marshall responded

this has been a discussion of the Commission. There has been research regarding grants, however, the city would need to be the applying body. Beyond that it needs to be determined who will pick up the recycling, and if the city has the staff to pick up recycling. She added the Commission wants recycling everywhere. Ms. Bashert asked if the city is missing opportunities to improve the parks. Ms. Marshall stated the commission does not have the processes setup in order to apply for grants in a timely manner.

Council Member Symanns supported the idea of having more opportunities for recycling in the park systems. She asked what the grants are, and if awarded what would activity would they provide funding. Commissioner Connor Barrie responded Snapple provides grants to communities for recycling by providing the jurisdiction with the bins, but there are other grants available. Ms. Symanns responded this could be used as a pilot program. Mayor Bashert stated Council has had discussions regarding the use of Bigbelly. The program is pricy but the cost be mitigated by having advertising on the bin.

Mayor Bashert expressed the play equipment needs better weed suppression and resurfacing in many of the parks. Council would most likely need to know the cost for budgeting. She asked for the cost of additional trashcans in the parks system.

Commissioner Connor Barrie explained the process of excavating, which would mean to remove the source of the weed, cover the area with a barrier, and resurface. Council Member Murdock stated that was the process in Prospect Park.

Council Member Murdock stated City Council authorized \$100,000 to be used for deferred maintenance projects in city parks. He would like authorization to spend some of those funds prior to the summer. There are not currently costs attached to projects, which would be helpful. He would like a list of priorities of what can be done to improve the parks. Much of the priorities can be completed by the DPS at minimal costs, others can be done in conjunction with Friends groups. That is what he was hoping to get out of this discussion. Mayor Bashert stated her understanding is a work session involves only discussions, no decisions. Ms. Murdock stated this is a regular meeting, but even if it is not a priority list can be created. Ms. Bashert stated Council could formulate a proposal from this discussion. Mr. Murdock interjected the Parks and Recreation Commission would need to recommend where to allocate those funds.

Mayor Bashert asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends to Council how those funds are to be allocated. Mr. McClary responded the Parks and Recreation Commission provides advice to City Council. He is not entirely certain what fund Council Member Murdock is referring, but the \$100,000 would be allocated by Council. It would be important to engage the Parks and Recreation Commission what priorities they see for the parks system. Council Member Murdock responded the City Manager should talk to individuals that have been involved in this process. The \$100,000 went into a fund that also is allocated funds created through park rentals. Mr. McClary responded he does not believe that was staff's understanding, but ultimately that is at the discretion of Council.

City Attorney John Barr stated City Council controls the purse of the city. He suggested safety concerns be made a high priority for liability issues.

Council Member Murdock stated the Parks and Recreation Commission can make a recommendation, but Council does not necessarily need to follow that recommendation.

Mayor Bashert asked for input regarding Recreation Park.

Council Member Symanns stated removing the curbing from the basketball courts should be a low priority. Commissioner Sweet stated the curbing is a trip hazard for those using the basketball court. The curbing also makes it difficult for the court to drain when it rains. Ms. Symanns understands, but when she is trying to prioritize. She added the trip hazard is open and obvious, but would defer to the City Attorney. She does not see removing the shuffleboard court as a necessity, and it could be removed later. Widening and paving the walking path would be nice, but really more of a luxury. She would rather add a path on the south side of the park.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson asked if the pavilions roof had been repaired. Commissioner Sweet responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Bashert asked how bad the condition of the baseball fence is. Commissioner Sweet responded he does not think it needs to be replaced, but does need some repairs. Ms. Bashert stated that should be a priority it is used heavily by the little league. The parking lot is in very poor condition, and asked if it could be included when DPS fills potholes. Mr. Holman responded, it needs to be resurfaced and sealed. Ms. Bashert asked for a cost estimate for that project. She asked for new barriers under the playground equipment.

Mayor Bashert introduced discussion for the Edith Hefly Tot Lot.

Commissioner Connor Barrie stated the Edith Hefly Tot Lot needs minimal attention. Mayor Bashert stated she has been asked for additional pea gravel for years, and asked for some to be added at minimal expense. Council Member Symanns stated she would love to see a picnic table and bench there.

Council Member Morgan stated in 2008 residents of Paradise Manor were saying they had been going to City Council requesting for two years requesting a line of sight be cut in order to see children on the playground. He helped to cut the line of sight down at Paradise Manor, and sees this is an opportunity to engage the people in the community. Council can cut cost be leveraging assistance from the community. People will invest their time and energy to improve their neighborhood. Mayor Bashert stated the DPS does have rules on what people are allowed to do if not employed by the city. This is based off of union rules and other liabilities that create a tension. This is a balancing act, and there needs to be a middle ground that all can be satisfied with the outcome.

Council Member Symanns stated the park system does get a lot of love from citizens groups.

Mayor Bashert introduced discussion regarding Candy Cane Park.

Council Member Symanns stated she would like to see the grills repaired in this park. Mayor Bashert stated it should be a fairly inexpensive item. Ms. Symanns stated the tennis courts have cracks, and they do get a bit of use in that park. There is also a backstop that could use some attention. Council Member Wilcoxen stated the backstop was an Eagle Scout Project. He asked how it was approved if there is certain things the DPS would not allow the public to do. Commissioner Connor Barrie responded he believes it is based off of the scope of work.

Council Member Symanns stated the playground equipment need to have the weeds removed from underneath.

Mayor Bashert state the tennis courts at Parkridge and Candy Cane need attention. She said the pathways and signage seem to be a luxury item for this park. Council Member Wilcoxen agreed, and mentioned the park is small enough that signage is not required. He explained the problem with the park is it is poorly drained. He stated when the city comes to remove the trash from the

cans it takes the longest possible route and badly damages the ground. Mayor Bashert stated the real solution is to fix the drainage in the park. Council Member Symanns suggested keeping cars off the grass. Mr. Wilcoxen agreed, but it is the underlying soil that is causing that. One of the safety hazards in the parks is that many of the trees need to be trimmed. Mayor Bashert asked how long has it been since the city has examined the health of its tree inventory. Mr. Holman responded it occurs regularly. City Planner Bonnie Wessler added the last time an inventory was completed by an outside company was 2011. Ms. Bashert asked how long a study of that nature is valid. Ms. Wessler responded it is good until conditions significantly change.

Commissioner Connor Barrie stated traffic in city parks is a common theme. There needs to be a way to address people driving on the parks.

Mayor Bashert asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission assessed how many picnic tables, benches, trashcans, and grills are needed. Commissioner Sweet responded there is not a specific number. Ms. Bashert asked for an estimate within the next month or two.

Mayor Bashert introduced discussion regarding Peninsular Park, and explained depending on what is to happen with the dam could affect this park. She doesn't know what there is to talk about until a decision is made regarding the dam. Council Member Wilcoxen stated he was at this park during the weekend and there is concern about the brush. This is a low cost item and should be taken care of. Ms. Bashert stated the brush is a result of invasive that grow at a tremendous rate, she agreed it should be maintained.

Council Member Murdock asked to include the picnic tables because they will not be impacted by what is decided to be done with the dam.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated whether the dam stays or goes, for safety reasons the stairs need attention.

Council Member Wilcoxen stated last he went to Penn Park there were several cars parked there and he was the only one in the park.

Council Member Symanns stated this might be the most unsafe park in the city. Although, she understands changes could happen as a result of the dam she does not want this to fall off the radar. Mayor Bashert responded this park and its issue will most likely rise to the top of the priority list. Mr. Holman stated part of the issue with the stairs is accessibility. Council Member Murdock stated the projects at Penn Park are going to take significantly more money to fix. These projects would probably require a park grant to fund, regardless of the state of the dam.

Mayor Bashert introduced discussion of the Prospect Park.

Council Member Morgan stated there is not adequate lighting in the park.

Council Member Murdock stated the discussion from Friends of Prospect Park was regarding the condition of the playground equipment in the park. He outlined the equipment needing attention. He stated there is no ADA compliant playground equipment, possibly a swing in the future. Both pavilions need painting and repairs, and some of the repairs to the bathroom can be done. There was a lot of talk about identification signage as in the other parks, he requested a historical marker to be repainted. There is a possibility of getting the Historical Society to pay for the sign, and possible information signs. He listed additional repairs the park would require. The major concern was for better park maintenance. There is also a want to repair the sidewalk along Oak St.

Council Member Morgan asked if the city is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act if playgrounds to not have ADA equipment. Mayor Bashert responded no.

Commissioner Sweet asked if the baseball diamond at Prospect Park get the use the others do. Baseball diamonds are very difficult to maintain. Council Member Murdock stated there used to be some young kids that played there, but not much anymore. It is mostly now used for football, and does not think it is regulation size.

Mayor Bashert introduced discussion regarding the Charles Street Tot Lot. She mentioned the need for the sandbox to have gravel instead of sand. She said there is nothing major listed.

Mayor Bashert introduced discussion regarding Frog Island.

Council Member Morgan stated the concrete stage is at that park, yet he does not see it listed. Commissioner Sweet stated the facility did not need any serious repairs. Mr. Morgan asked if there is a way to add a cover for inclement weather.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated there are a number of trip hazards on the Border to Border Trail, as well as people spending all night by the river. Mayor Bashert stated that is another discussion, but Council is aware of the homeless population in this city.

Council Member Symanns stated there is a lot of poison ivy close to the walkways in that park. Council Member Murdock stated when the trailhead is installed much of that will be removed.

Council Member Morgan asked if the tridge is a part of the park system, if so it could use some attention. Mr. Holman stated repairs were recently mad to the tridge. Mayor Bashert asked that the tridge be inspected. Council Member Wilcoxon pointed out some issues related to the bridge. Council Member Murdock stated there are lose boards by the Huron and asked that they be inspected.

Mayor Bashert stated the graffiti is not acceptable in city parks. Commissioner Marshall asked if a community mural would dissuade graffiti. Ms. Bashert responded there was a mural and graffiti is put on it, which is frustrating. Council Member Symanns stated she is in favor of murals, but possibly a section could be reserved for graffiti art. Ms. Bashert added that is possibly something the Parks and Recreation Commission could identify. Council Member Murdock stated the mural was commissioned by the Huron Watershed Commission and is their responsibility to maintain it.

Mayor Bashert introduced discussion regarding Candy Riverside Park.

Commissioner Connor Barrie stated some of the listed items have been completed.

Mayor Bashert stated Riverside is the city's festival park, but it is also a destination park. It is a very widely used park in the city, it has a lot of traffic.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated the walking path needs attention.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated the lighting in the park needs to be fixed.

Council Member Morgan stated that park needs water fountains.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked about the drainage of the park. Mayor Bashert agreed, but is not sure of the solution. However, the Huron Watershed Council is aware of the problem and is

researching a solution. Council Member Murdock stated the Eastern Leaders Group and Convention and Visitors Bureau at one time attempted creating a storm water drainage plan. However, when the organization lost its funding the plan is in hiatus.

Mayor Bashert introduced discussion regarding Carrie Mattingly Tot Lot.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated this park needs signage. It needs constant care to maintain the weeds in order to be able to see children while they play. The park also needs its equipment replaced, and more equipment. Commissioner Sweet stated when entering the park it feels as if you are walking up someone's driveway. The park needs to be more accessible, and agreed additional signage is needed. The park is named after a former employee, and the sign is incorrect.

Mayor Bashert introduced discussion regarding Waterworks Park.

Commissioner Sweet stated the baseball fence at this park is overgrown with brush. He added the baseball diamond is no longer used, and recommends the removal of the fencing. Mayor Bashert agreed, the fencing is becoming a hazard.

Council Member Murdock stated at one time a Little League representative wanted to do something with that park. Commissioner Sweet responded in the affirmative, but he believes that is no longer the case. Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson interjected the park is used for baseball, however, she does not believe they are sanctioned by a league. Mr. Holman agreed, and said all fields in the city are of interest to Little League. Mayor Bashert stated that creates an issue with removing the fence.

Council Member Wilcoxen asked the history of the compost at Waterworks Park. Mr. Holman responded the city was taking it to the Clark Road site. Since then the location has changed several times, and now the compost is at Waterworks. Council Member Murdock asked if that site is permitted for compost. Mr. Holman asked for clarification of what is meant by permits. Mr. Murdock responded the county requires a site go through a process for permit. Mr. Holman responded the county has signed off on the site.

- Use of Council Authorized Funds for park maintenance

Council Member Murdock stated he was hoping the Parks and Recreation Commission would recommend the replacement of equipment at Prospect Park so it could be installed by next summer.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER -

None

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION CHAIRPERSON -

- Commissioner Sweet stated it would be beneficial to put together a parks maintenance plan.

Mayor Bashert stated there needs to be a department head in charge of what is happening in the parks.

XIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION -

1. Debra Walker, 6166 First Rd., stated she is a member of Penn Park's Friends group and asked for Council not to forget about Penn Park when allocating funds. The park needs additional lighting and patrols of the park.
2. Brian Athey, 222 N. Lincoln, stated he is glad he attended this meeting. He stated the city needs creative ideas, and it would be helpful to get the Friends groups together to discuss solutions.
3. Sue Melke, 330 Chidester #409, asked the fee structure of the port-a-johns in the parks. She asked why the city is examining bathroom facilities with more than one toilet. It does not make sense to look the bathrooms at night, she would rather the homeless population be able to use those facilities than the playground equipment. She does not understand why the picnic tables are not constructed, and asked why the tables are in the park. The park system needs greater oversight, and a grant writer needs to be hired. She said advertising could be for the Bigbelly system. Line of sight needs to be improved of the park system. She does not understand why the stairs need to be replaced at Penn Park.

XIV. REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR -

Nominations:

Housing Commission

Heidi Franknehauser (reappointment)
810 N. Congress
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Zoning Board of Appeals

Tom Roach (new appointment)
912 Pearl St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

XV. ADJOURNMENT -

OFFERED BY: Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson

SECONDED BY: Council Member Symanns

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.