

City of Ypsilanti Parks And Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 14th, 2015

1. Call To Order – The meeting was brought to order at 7:02pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue by Commission Chair Linda Horne. Other Commission members present were Bob Krzewinski, Cathy Thorburn, Delois Wilson and Cal Winning. Also attending were City Council member Commission liaison Anne Brown and Joe Golder, who has turned in an application to serve on the Commission.
2. Introductions
 - a. Audience participation – Public Input – Teresa Gilllotti discussed work on a “playable landscape” area of Riverside Park, passing out an information sheet to Commission members. A group working on this project is raising \$2000 for an initial design plan and once completed, the group will request the Commission hold a public hearing on the playable landscape. The group plans to work through the City but may pursue an Adopt-A-Park group status.
 - b. Guest presentations - Representatives from the 24 Chains Disc Golf Club (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/24-Chains-DG/121912481181480>), whom had previously adopted Waterworks Park (through the Adopt-A-Park program), discussed needed improvements at the facility. These include vegetation removal to open up shoreline views, installing t-pads (<http://blog.augustaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Tee-Off.jpg>) and more garbage cans. The 24 Chains has a large volunteer workforce and is planning a fundraiser for Waterworks Park course improvements. The Commission commended the 24 Chains for their work, urged them to continue working through Stan Kirton at City Public Services and asked the group to keep the Commission apprised of their work as the Commission would like to help them publicize their activities.
3. General Business
 - a. Agenda approval – A motion was made by Cathy Thorburn, seconded by Cal Winning, to approve the April agenda, passing unanimously.
 - b. Approval of March meeting minutes – A motion was made by Cal Winning, seconded by Delois Wilson, to approve the March minutes, passing unanimously.
 - c. Other – Cathy Thorburn gave a report on the Ypsilanti “Bee City” meeting she recently attended.
4. Continuing Business Items
 - a. Communications received – None.
 - b. Adopt-A-Park applications and updates – None.
 - c. Parks Capitol Fee Fund projects/disbursements – Anne Browne said the newest report on the Fund should be out soon and will be distributed to Commission members.
 - d. City and facilities updates – The Senior Center will be having a new kitchen installed shortly. Tot Lot (Hefley and Mattingly) playground equipment should be upgraded this year.
 - e. Commission sponsored events
 - Friday night movies – 7pm, Ypsilanti Historical Museum basement annex – Still taking place with a schedule posted at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ypsilanti-Historical-Society/253543834382?sk=notes>
 - Ypsilanti River Days – May and October – The reasons for canceling a May River Day was discussed with Commission efforts now on an October day. Bob Krzewinski will contact the City of Ann Arbor Canoe Livery about assisting. Joe Golder suggested contacting the Sheriff’s Department Marine Explorers program for assistance for canoeists portaging thru the Superior and Peninsular dams if that route is chosen.
 - Inside Out DIA Art Program – Anne Brown gave an update on the joint Detroit Institute of Art/Huron River Watershed Council Inside Out Program (<http://www.dia.org/calendar/event.aspx?id=4456>) where reproduction paintings will be placed along public areas of the Huron River for a limited time starting in late July in time for the August Ypsilanti First Friday Art Crawl. Bob Krzewinski will work with Anne on a possible bicycle ride in conjunction with the Inside Out program.
 - f. Commission newsletter – Bob Krzewinski reviewed the Commission Spring Newsletter that with minor editing will be placed on the City web page and Facebook page. The newsletter will be published quarterly.

5. Old Business

- a. Friends of Parks group updates – Friends of Peninsular Park will be meeting the 1st Saturday of every warm weather month at the Peninsular Park picnic shelter for a 10am meeting. City staff, City Councilman Pete Murdock and Commission members met with Washtenaw Community College construction trades staff earlier in the month and WCC is very interested in helping repair steps and the shelter roof at Peninsular Park and possibly other Ypsilanti parks projects.
- b. Park signage – Repainting signs discussed with item deferred until next meeting when it is hoped that City Public Services staff can attend.
- c. New Commission members – Additional members needed, especially from the 1st Ward of the City. Delois Wilson will check into leads for that Ward.
- d. 2015 Commission goals
 - Peninsular Park – Step replacement, shelter roof – equipment repair (benches & grills) – Discussed in agenda item 5.a.
 - Park Signs – Refurbish or replace – Discussed in agenda item 5.b.
 - Waterworks Park – Repair Huron River non-motorized bridge deck – Washtenaw Community College construction trades may provide help on this item.
 - Riverside Park – Start process to improve drainage, repave paths and open the Cross Street entrance gate for parking – To be discussed at May meeting.
 - Steps – Repair steps leading to Riverside/Frog Island Parks – To be discussed at May meeting.

6. New Business

- a. Riverside Park – In response to Teresa Gillotti's presentation earlier in the meeting on a "playable landscape" in the Park, the Commission applauds this work behind this project by Teresa and other volunteers and look forward to collaboration between the group and the Commission.

7. Adjournment – A motion was made by Bob Krzewinski, seconded by Delois Wilson, to adjourn the meeting, passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm with the next meeting being Tuesday, May 12, 7pm at the downtown Ypsilanti District Library.