

City of Ypsilanti Parks And Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 9, 2014

1. Call To Order – The meeting was brought to order at 7:05pm, Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue. Commission members present were Anne Brown, Bob Krzewinski and Cathy Thorburn.
2. Introductions
 - a. Audience participation – None.
 - b. Guest presentations - A presentation was given on the non-partisan activities of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters by staff from their Ypsilanti office, with some discussion of the League possibly being able to help out with Ypsilanti parks projects. DeBorah Borden of the Washtenaw County Health Department gave an update on local smoke free parks and will supply the Commission with additional resources, including a list of all Michigan cities with park smoking bans.
3. General Business
 - a. Agenda approval – A motion was made by Cathy Thorburn to accept the agenda, seconded by Anne Brown, with no objections.
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes - A motion was made by Cathy Thorburn to accept the July 2014 meeting minutes (there was no August meeting), seconded by Anne Brown, with no objections.
4. Continuing Business Items
 - a. Communications received – None.
 - b. Adopt-A-Park applications and updates – Anne Brown submitted for approval (with no objection) of the Commission of an Adopt-A-Park application for a new group known as “Friends of Peninsular Park”. Projects for this new Friends group will include park cleanups, making sure remedial and regular maintenance takes place, checking on the status of the nearby dam and possibly making the powerhouse building a historic structure.
 - c. Parks Capitol Fee Fund projects/disbursements – No update this meeting but reports on this fund will be available at future meetings.
 - d. City and facilities updates – Cathy Thorburn reported that the Rutherford Pool had 20,000+ users this summer, but some previous users had not returned. Discussions were held on increasing pool usage for 2015.
 - e. Commission priorities – No update.
 - f. Commission sponsored events
 - Friday night movies – Starting up again Fridays, 7pm, at the Huron Street Historical Museum and co-sponsored by the Commission. Movies announced over the Commission Facebook page.
 - Labor Day walk – Went well with good press coverage.
 - Ypsi Fall Huron River Day – Tentatively set for Sunday, October 19th pending the participation of a canoe rental concession.
 - New Years Day walk – Planned for 11am New Years Day.
 - g. Commission newsletter – Anne Browne will send out a newsletter template to Commission members for this soon-to-be quarterly publication.
5. Old Business
 - a. Smoke free children's City parks resolution to City Council – After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Bob Krzewinski, seconded by Bob Krzewinski, that the following resolution will be forwarded to City Council for action...

Whereas, the negative health effects of smoking, both to smokers and non-smokers encountering second-hand smoke, is well documented, and

Whereas, smoking also brings about a litter problem with cigarette refuse not only being unsightly but also harmful to birds and other wildlife, and

Whereas, children should not be subjected to second hand smoke in parks specifically meant for children and their parents

Therefore Be It Resolved that the City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Commission recommends to City Council that City Ordinance 78-100 – Other (Park) Prohibited Activities be amended to include the following language...

Smoke, light or carry a lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette or other smoking device of any kind at the Charles Street, Edith Hefley, and Carrie Mattingly Tot Lot playgrounds only, “No Smoking” signs shall be posted in these children's playgrounds.

The resolution was approved unanimously. Also discussed was the matter of electronic cigarettes in parks and the disappointment that an electronic cigarette vendor had a large display at the Heritage Festival.

- b. Friends of Parks group updates – Discussion was held on setting up a possible “Friends of Frog Island/Riverside Parks” mainly to help with trash pickup. Also Bob Krzewinski will look into possible local park projects by the Michigan State University Extension Service Master Gardener program.
- 6. New Business
 - a. Park signage – Parks signs around the City are in need of refurbishing and Bob Krzewinski will check on possibly volunteers renewing the signs.
 - b. Mattingly Tot Lot – A field trip will be made to this park to review access problems and the state of playground equipment
 - c. Friends Of Peninsular Park – Discussed and acted on earlier in the meeting (agenda item 4.b).
- 7. Adjournment – A motion was made by Anne Browne, seconded by Cathy Thorburn, to adjourn the meeting and with no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 14th, 7pm at the Michigan Avenue District Library.