

City of Ypsilanti Parks And Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2013

1. Call To Order – The meeting was brought to order at 7:05pm at the City of Ypsilanti City Hall, 1 South Huron Street. Recreation Commission members present were Anne Brown, Bob Krzewinski and Cathy Thorburn. Guests included Bonnie Wessler: City of Ypsilanti Planning Department, Rose Perush: Ypsilanti Jaycees, DeBorah Borden, Washtenaw County Public Health Department and Conan Malmer: Ypsilanti American Little League.
2. Introductions
 - a. Audience participation – A short presentation was given by Jeff Clark and Jesse Tack on planning for an “edible garden” in Recreation Park. Commission members applauded their work and preparation on this project and encouraged them to complete an Adopt-A-Park application as a next step and to meet with Stan Kirton of Public Services. Also Rose Perush of the Ypsilanti Area Jaycees informed the Commission of funds available from that group for park improvements.
 - b. Guest speaker: DeBorah Borden, Washtenaw County Public Health Department – DeBorah gave an update on smoke free parks, providing handouts, updates (Dexter, MI just instituted a smoke-free park policy) and answered questions concerning signage and enforcements. Commission members were supportive of making parks in Ypsilanti smoke free, but indicated that the Commission would have to make a specific request to City Council urging such an ordinance be adopted. The Commission will research this issue further placing it on the agenda for the April Commission meeting.
3. General Business
 - a. Agenda approval - A motion was made to accept the agenda by Anne Brown, seconded by Cathy Thorburn, passing unanimously.
 - b. Approval of February meeting minutes - A motion was made to accept the minutes by Anne Brown, seconded by Cathy Thorburn, passing unanimously
4. Continuing Business Items
 - a. Communications received – None.
 - b. Adopt-A-Park applications and updates – Bob Krzewinski is still working on having the applications placed online where they could be emailed for action. Anne Brown will also check with Public Services on the status of an application by Ypsilanti American Little League to adopt the Waterworks Park baseball area as a continuing project.
 - c. City and facilities updates – Cathy Thorburn gave an update on the reconstruction of the Rutherford Pool. Bonnie Wessler of the City Planning Department gave an update of the new Border To Border Trail bridge from Riverside Park south to the Water Street area.
 - d. Commission sponsored events – A discussion was held of potential Commission recreational events. It was also reported that the Commission will be a co-sponsor of weekly Friday night family movies at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum basement annex.
5. Old Business
 - a. Park Master Plan update – Bonnie Wessler gave an update on the draft update to the Parks Master Plan distributing new update material for Commission member review and comment. Bonnie will also send out the new draft language by email and urges comments be returned within a reasonable amount of time.
6. New Business
 - a. 2013 Commission priorities – Anne Brown will be sending out an email to Commission members with potential dates for a separate Commission work plan meeting. The work plan is expected to include Commission member recruitment, park capitol improvements, collaboration for recreational programming, park “Friends” groups contacts/updates and the just-discussed smoke-free park initiative.
 - b. Other – Conan Malmer, of the Ypsilanti American Little League, indicated there will be an annual cleanup of baseball areas at Candy Cane, Waterworks and Recreation Parks on Saturday, April 6th with the public invited to help and details at the group’s webpage, www.yall.us.

7. Adjournment – A motion was made at 8:10pm by Anne Brown, seconded by Bob Krzewinski, to adjourn the meeting, passing unanimously. The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, April 11th, 2013 at the downtown Ypsilanti District Library.