



City of Ypsilanti

Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 14, 2017

1. Call To Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm, March 14, 2017 at the Senior Center 1015 Congress Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 Commissioners in attendance were Linda Horne, Cathy Thorburn, Conan Malmer, Deloris Wilson and Evan Sweet. Guest – Joe Meyers, Community Development Department of Ypsilanti and Kurt Kohlmann of Depot Town area-future Commissioner

2. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes – A motion was made to approve the agenda and previous minutes by Commissioner Malmer and seconded by Commissioner Horne.

3. Introductions – Joe Meyers is our new liaison from the Community Development Department of Ypsilanti. Kurt Kohlmann lives in the Depot Town area and has applied to be a Parks Commissioner. He is expected to be approved on March 21st, along with two other people.

4. Old Business -

a. Adopt A Park Updates

i. Friends of Peninsular Park – Anne Brown has not found much interest per Commissioner Sweet.

ii. Friends of Prospect Park No Updates

iii. Heritage – No updates

b. Friends Groups Updates -

Rutherford Pool – Commissioner Thorburn reported that she is working on a new webpage for the pool. She is looking for help identifying groups for the week of the fourth of July for water safety clinics.

Senior Center – Commissioner Sweet reported that John Barr came to the Senior Center to help draft the nonprofit status paperwork. There is still a need to have people in assigned positions. Barr will also help write the applications.

Ypsi Baseball Project – Commissioner Mamler reported that they will help out at Parkridge during Ypsilanti Proud. He believes that Opening day is the third weekend in April and that it is at Recreation Park.

Freight House-Commissioner Sweet reported that he tried to reach out to see if someone affiliated with the Freight House would attend. No one showed. Their webpage indicates that they are taking reservations and hope to have an event this weekend.

- c. City of Ypsilanti Updates – Commissioner Thorburn asked Mr. Meyers about the new signage around town. She wondered if the Pool could be added to the sign. He doesn't believe that they are able to add more places to the sign. The signs were for destinations that people came to Ypsilanti for but tended to get lost trying to find. Mr. Meyers stated that the Water street trail was going to be worked on but now that it is snowing and the ground is frozen it will have to wait a little longer. The plan is to remove some of the top layers of dirt and replace with fresh dirt. The fence has already been approved.
 - d. Commission Sponsored events
 - i. Friday Movie Night – No information. Commissioner Putala was going to check on happenings but was not in attendance, tonight.
 - ii. Ypsilanti River Day – Commissioner Sweet, a former commissioner and Pam from Huron Watershed Council met. Dates suggested are September 24th or October 1st. Timing would be from noon to 3pm and the trip would be from Frog Island to Ford Lake. The price has not been set. We are not sure if Cheryl from the Ann Arbor Livery is still interested. Huron Watershed Council may help find ways to pay. The next meeting is in April.
 - e. Recreation Programming
 - i. Ann Arbor YMCA Partnerships- Summer Park Fitness dates are close to being set.
 - ii. EMU Partnerships Commissioner Sweet has made contact with Jade from EMU. She is interested in other summer opportunities like we did last year with Yoga in the Park.
5. New Business
- a. Commission Recruitment
 - i. Ypsilanti Community Schools Commissioner Sweet contacted some people within Ypsilanti Community Schools about the need for youth commissioners.
 - ii. Eastern Michigan University There may be some students at EMU in the Social Work department that need some community involvement experience. Commissioner Sweet is in contact.
 - iii. Neighborhood Groups Commissioners Sweet and Malmer will attend the Prospect Park neighborhood meeting to discuss their plans for Ypsilanti Proud Day and summertime. The Ypsilanti Proud post-picnic will be held in Prospect Park this year.
 - iv. Facebook Page- Commissioner Sweet has been doing a great job at keeping the page updated with new and interesting material.
 - v. Friends Groups-No updates
 - b. Recreation Programming
 - i. Free Fishing Weekend there are two a year. Michigan DNR hosts two Free Fishing Weekend per year. One in February and one in June. Commissioner Sweet has contacted Schultz Outfitters about seeing what we could do to get kids involved in fishing that might

not have the opportunity.

ii. Huron River Day-No plans. Commissioner Sweet will check with Pam from the Watershed Council.

iii. Washtenaw County Partnerships - Commissioner Sweet provided a memo from the County regarding past and future plans in Ypsilanti. Commissioner Sweet will attempt to attend the April 2nd meeting but they have now moved them to 2pm.

c. Parks and Recreation Month –July - It is to raise awareness of parks. A Proclamation would help. Commissioner Sweet put together a Proclamation and will email it out after he makes some changes. Plan on voting on it next meeting then it will be sent to the Council.

d. Ypsilanti Proud Day is May 20, 2017. Registration is now open. Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Chamber has asked Commissioners Sweet and Malmer to their breakfast to speak on last year's project of Parkridge Baseball field.

e. City Website-Joe and Beth in City Hall have been very helpful updating the webpage.

f. mParks(Michigan Recreation & Park Association Commissioner Sweet receives weekly newsletters about Parks information from around the state. He will mail them out to other Commissioners.

g. Other New Business-none

7. Partner Updates

a. Ypsilanti Trail Town – Commissioner Sweet says that there is a plan in progress. Bonnie Wessler from the City said that their plan can be an addendum to the City's Park Master Plan. Watershed Council members want to come to Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and share their plan.

b.Bike Ypsi – No updates, we believe their spring ride is soon.

c.Non- Motorized – No updates

8. Adjournment – Motion was made by Commissioner Horne, and seconded by Commissioner Malmer to adjourn the meeting, passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm with the next meeting being Tuesday April 11, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 W. Michigan Ave.