



City of Ypsilanti

Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 11, 2017

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm, April 11, 2017 at the Ypsilanti District Library, Downtown Branch 229 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti MI, 48197. Commissioners in attendance were Conan Malmer, Evan Sweet, Cathy Thorburn, Delois Wilson, Ben Connor Barrie, Kurt Kohlmann and Ashanti Harris. Also present was Joe Meyers, City of Ypsilanti Commission Liaison.
2. **Approval of Agenda** - Motion of approval by Commissioner Barrie and seconded by Commissioner Kohlmann.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – March 14, 2017 Approval of minutes motion by Commissioner Malmer and seconded by Commissioner Barrie.
4. **Introductions / Public Comment** - Guest Dan White from Little League. Mr. White wanted to update the Commission about the work and events planned by the Little League. April 15th there will be work completed at both Candy Cane Park and Recreation Park on the ball fields. Dirt will be spread and fences repaired/replaced. Mr. White has asked that the Commission take some sort of active sponsorship of the Little League. The Little League has put thousands of dollars of materials and work into the fields. There are a lot of travel teams popping up into the area and there is a concern that the travel leagues will offer money to the City for use of the fields and then the Little League will have no place to practice and play. The City is also charging the Little League \$500 for the opening day use of the Park. Mr. White does not feel it is an appropriate charge and is looking to have it removed or reduced. Commissioner Malmer stated that if the Little League didn't do the work the fields could not be properly maintained by the City. The City doesn't have the money or manpower. Commissioner Malmer suggested we come back to the idea of support of the Little League at a future meeting.

5. Old Business

- a. **Welcome New Commissioners** - Was done earlier
- b. **Adopt-A-Park Updates**

- i. Candy Cane-Commissioner Sweet and Malmer met with Peter Church who had submitted a Adopt A Park application that had been turned down by the City. Both were under the impression that he was going to submit a new application and was going to be at tonight's meeting. We were not informed of a new proposal and Mr. Church was not at the meeting.
- ii. Peninsular Park-Anne Brown sent an email regarding the progress of the Friends Group.
- iii. Prospect Park-No information. Commissioner Sweet will check with the skateboard group as we thought they were going to start with their work.
- iv. Heritage Neighborhood-Commissioner Wilson did not have anything to report

c. Friends Group Updates

- i. Rutherford Pool- Commissioner Thorburn reported that the pool is in the process of getting the pool up and running for the season. She had just attended an event at Perry School to promote the pool. Reminded the Commissioners that the Pool was a recipient of \$10,000 over three years from the Washtenaw County Parks. The Senior Center and Parkridge Community Center also will receive the money.
- ii. Senior Center-Commissioner Sweet stated that they have just finalized the bylaws to form a 5013c. This will help the Center receive funding. The Annual Corn Roast fundraiser was not a success last year and they are not sure if they will hold it again.
- iii. Freighthouse-taking reservations for rentals
- iv. Ypsi Baseball Project-Commissioner Malmer reported that the YMCA will be holding T-ball events/camps on Thursdays in Parkridge Park. There is hopes that the YMCA and Little League can work together in the future and support each other.

d. City of Ypsilanti Updates- Mr. Meyers said the website is up to date with Commissioner information. Rutherford Pool will send him information to update the Pool information.

e. Commission Sponsored Events

- i. Friday Movie Night-No known information
- ii. Ypsilanti Fall River Day – Confirmed – Sept. 24 EMU Kayak Club will put on a paddling demo. Trip will be from Riverside to Ford Lake. Access site for take out on Ford Lake will need to have permission granted. Mr. Meyers will look into it. The event will take place in Riverside and put in at Frog Island.

f. Recreation Programming

- i. Ann Arbor YMCA Partnership – Summer Park Fitness-Flyers are available. Registration is now open.
- ii. EMU Partnerships-The student that Commissioner Sweet worked with for Yoga in the Bark (Park) last year is graduating. He thinks that we can still work something out with EMU.

iii. Free Fishing Weekend-Commissioner Sweet has reached out and at this point nothing is planned.

iv. Washtenaw County Partnerships-Touched on this earlier. Commissioner Sweet attended a meeting to “thank” them for the funds given to Ypsilanti.

g. **Parks & Recreation Month** – July- Commissioner Malmer motioned to and Commissioner Wilson seconded to send the Proclamation for July to be recognized as Parks & Recreation Month in the City of Ypsilanti to be approved by the City Council. After Mr. Meyers receives the minutes he will get the Proclamation on the council’s agenda for a vote.

h. **Ypsi Proud Day** – May 20, 2017-Commissioner Sweet urged other commissioners to sign up and work at a site around the city. Commissioner Sweet will meet with Brad Holman and Amanda Holisinger from the Department of Public Works and city regarding possible projects in the parks.

i. **City Website – Up to date**

j. **Other Old Business**

6. New Business

a. **Little League Representative** Update Already covered

b. **Washtenaw County Funding** Already covered

c. **Meet Me At The Park Grant**-Mayor Edmonds urged the city to look at this grant

d. **YMCA Programs**-Fitness in the Park and T-Ball already covered

e. **Parkridge Park Soccer Field**-A commissioner from the Historical Commission wanted to look into a smaller type of field. Commissioner Sweet could not remember the exact type of field. It was quite involved.

f. **mParks Community Service Awards**-Commissioner Sweet nominated Tyler Weston and Anne Brown for annual mParks Community Service Awards for all the work they have done in Ypsilanti. They are recipients of the award. It will be presented in Lansing. Next year, the whole Commission will get involved in the nomination process.

g. **Church Service Project** – May 7-Rachel Egghermann of Ypsilanti reached out to the Commission for service project for her church for May 7th.

Commissioner Sweet spoke with her about projects in Waterworks and Peninsular Park. Commissioner Sweet wondered if Commissioners could meet the groups in the parks.

h. **Big Yellow Chair** – Next park location discussion was held about whether it should be in Recreation Park for the opening of Little League, then moved to the pool area and then to Parkridge for August. Prospect Park was also brought up as that is where Ypsilanti Proud picnic will be. It was decided that the DPS would not want to have to move the chair too many times and that the Commission would like to the chair to be in a visible area of Prospect Park this year.

7. Partner Updates

- a. **Ypsilanti Trail Town** – Reviewing Ypsilanti Plan-Plan is drafted and when done will become an Addendum to the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.
- b. **Bike Ypsi**-Spring Ride is May 7th
- c. **Non-Motorized Commission**-No news

8. Other Business

- a. Commissioner Thorburn brought up the fact that Kohls has grants for 501 non-profits to use their employees as volunteers. \$100 per volunteer-up to five volunteers.
- b. Commissioner Thorburn inquired about the community garden in Frog Island. She noticed that there was a request for a grant that someone from the garden wanted people to support.
- c. Mr. Meyers wondered if there was a new commissioner package that is handed out. The answer is no but we could get them a copy of the Master Plan.

9. Commissioner Comments / Announcements - None

10. Adjournment Motion made by Commissioner Barrie and seconded by Commissioner Harris to adjourn the meeting, passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

The next meeting will be held May 9th at the Ypsilanti District Library, Downtown Branch, 229 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti MI, 48197