



City of Ypsilanti

Parks & Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: May 9, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Ypsilanti District Library, 229 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Meeting Minutes:

1. **Call to Order**- The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm, May 9, 2017 at the Ypsilanti District Library, Downtown Branch 229 W. Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Commissioners in attendance were Conan Malmer, Evan Sweet, Cathy Thorburn, Delois Wilson, Ben Connor Barrie, Kurt Kohlmann, Ashanti Harris, Linda Horne. Also present was Joe Meyers, City of Ypsilanti Commission Liaison. Visitor Colette Hemker from Ann Arbor YMCA was present.
2. **Approval of Agenda** Motion of approval by Commissioner Kohlmann and seconded by Commissioner Horne.
3. **Approval of Minutes** Motion of approval by Commissioner Barrie and seconded by Commissioner Malmer
4. **Introductions/Public Comment**- Colette was introduced to the group
5. **Old Business**
 - a. **Adopt-A-Park Updates**
 - i. **Candy Cane**- No one has heard from Peter Church since his proposal was denied by the City.
 - ii. **Peninsular Park**-No updates
 - iii. **Prospect Park**- No updates. Assume there will be a group working during Ypsilanti Proud
 - iv. **Mattingly Park**-not to be called Heritage Neighborhood Delois states that it needs mowing. They put woodchips down but they tend to go every where and could use an edging.
 - b. **Friends Group Updates**
 - i. **Rutherford Pool**- Commissioner Thorburn reported that two weeks ago they collect \$5000 in pass sales and lesson sign ups. They are in the process of turning water on and starting set up. Joe Meyers will be given an electronic copy of the brochure to update the City's web page.

- II. **Senior Center-** June 3 there will be a jewelry and bake sale in conjunction with the Normal Park Neighborhood yard sale. 501c3 has been submitted to city attorney. The Center also needs more board members. The meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of the month. You don't have to be a city resident. Currently have six members. Commissioner Sweet is not sure what the limit is or if there is one.
- iii. **Freighthouse-** Open House May 13 9am-Noon
- iv. **Ypsi Baseball Project-** Safety fence is being installed before Ypsilanti Proud. It will run down the first base line. On Proud, trash pick up will occur on the field and on the Prospect field. Mr. Meyers stated that he is in conversation per our last meeting and the fees the Little League is being charged. This year nothing will change but he hopes there will just be a small nominal fee and a letter of memorandum of use.
- c. **City of Ypsilanti Updates-** Mr. Meyers reported the above and that he does not know the status of the Big Yellow Chair. Commissioner Sweet had spoke with Brad Holman and Amanda. Brad thought that Convention Bureau owned it. Mr. Meyers said that they bought it but gave it to the City. Joe will speak with Brad and Stan and try to clear things up.
- d. **Commissioner Sponsored Events-**
 - i. **Ypsilanti Fall River Day-** September 24 Commissioner Sweet met with Pam and Bob from the Watershed Council. Commissioner Sweet needs assistance with planning the day. He has commitment from Birds of Prey, Home Depot, YMCA and EMU Kayak Club. The kayak club will put on a safety demo for beginners. It was suggested that the Ann Arbor Rowing Club may be someone to reach out to. A Paddle Nation grant was applied for. The request was for \$1,000 bur they were so impressed with the grant it might be tripled.
- e. **Recreation Programming**
 - i. **Ann Arbor YMCA Partnership-**Summer Park Fitness Intro to Interval training is this Saturday. They only have three registrants. If there are not more registered by tomorrow it may be cancelled. Commissioner Thorburn put out Facebook blasts. Blue Cross Complete has not sent out their letters, yet. They will pay for the fee for their customers.
 - ii. **EMU Partnerships-**Nothing to report
 - iii. **Free Fishing Weekend-** June 10-11

- f. **Parks and Recreation Month-** July. Mr. Meyers reported that our proclamation made last month will be presented to the Council on May 16th.
- g. **Ypsi Proud Day-** May 20, 2017 Luncheon will be from 12-2 at Prospect Park
- h. **Meet Me at the Park grant-** we were too late to apply for it this year.
- i. **Parkridge Park Soccer Field** Mike from the Historical Commission is interested in building a small soccer field. There is one in Lansing. The area to use may be where the defunct tennis court is located.
- j. **mParks Community Service Awards-** Anne Brown and Tyler Weston were honored in Lansing for their help in the Ypsilanti area. Commissioner Sweet attended the ceremony also. The city picked up the tab as they are members of mParks.
- k. **Peninsular Park and Waterworks Park Service Project-** a local congregation came out to the parks to spread mulch and pick up trash and painted the gate at Peninsular Park. They may be interested in coming back next year.
- l. **Big Yellow Chair-**already discussed
- m. **Other Old Business-**none

6. **New Business**

- a. **Adopt-A-Park Application-Bronze Beauties-** Approved by Stan. Frog Island focus on trash pick up and possible painting of trash cans. Commissioner Malmar moved for approval and Commissioner Harris seconded.
- b. **Adopt-A-Park Application –Y.I.E.S.** want to purchase a Buddy Bench and have the City install the bench. We need more information. Concern that the bench not be able to be slept on. Commissioner Sweet will invite someone from the application to come to the next meeting.
- c. **EMU park donation-** a professor has a \$50 donation for a park from a prize she had from an assignment she issued. She suggested the purchase of a new trash can for Frog Island. The Commission is wondering if she would like to donate it to the Buddy Bench discussed above.

7. **Partner updates-**

- a. **Ypsilanti Trail Town-** no new news
- b. **Bike Ypsi-** Had a kick off ride last week
- c. **Non-Motorized Commission-** no new information

8. **Other Business**

- d. **Water Street Trail –** City council is meeting to discuss the Water Street area on May 23

- e. Question whether Frog Island could be flooded for ice skating. Mr. Meyers shared that Depot Town merchants are interested but it is not as easy as it sounds.
- f. Trinity Health had a fundraiser and \$18.5 million dollars was raised for the Ann Arbor Community Foundation for use with the aging. The aged in the 48197 and 48198 are likely to live less than people in other zip codes in the county.
- g. YMCA camps are full, already and have waiting lists. It will be housed at YCS High School this year.

9, Commissioner Comments/Announcements

10. Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm Motion made by Commissioner Horne and seconded by Commissioner Barrie

Next Meeting is June 13 at 7:00pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, Downtown Branch, 229 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti MI, 48197.