



City of Ypsilanti

Parks & Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: July 11, 2017

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

1. **Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm, July 11, 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, and Ashanti Harris. Also present was Joe Meyers, City of Ypsilanti Commission Liaison and Pete Murdock City Council member. Visitors Colette Hemker from YMCA. The following have an interest in the skate park at Prospect Park: Rob Briggs, Gray Clark, Rits Sier, Molly Prochaska, Allan Khorsheed, Kyle Hunter and two other visitors.
2. **Approval of Agenda** Motion of approval by Commissioner Malmer and seconded by Commissioner Barrie.
3. **Approval of Minutes** There were no minutes from the previous meeting available.
4. **Introductions/Public Comment** Kyle Hunter informed us that Mayor Edmunds had suggested he come to the meeting as he has interest in the parks. He has turned in a request to be a Commissioner.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. **Adopt-A-Park Updates**
 - i. Candy Cane –College Heights Neighborhood Commissioner Sweet spoke with Peter Church about his latest submission. He has not heard back from Peter regarding a couple of questions he had.
 - ii. Peninsular Park- Friends of Penn Park have concerns that money goes to Riverside Park and not to them for their needs.
 - iii. Prospect Park-Members of the skate board community were present to present their plans for a Cook and Look fundraiser for the skate park. They also wanted feedback on what their next move should be for the skate park-whether to expand or move to different locations such as Waterworks Park or Grove St. lot. Mr. Meyers let us know that the Grove lot was

not available for use as it is a parking lot for the Boarder to Boarder Trail. Commissioners asked questions and were supportive of the group and suggested that the best route might be to just expand what they have. Suggested that they put together a more detailed plan of action and bring it back.

- iv. Frog Island-Bronze Beauties Commissioner Sweet check in with them. Have been there once. Mike Nix from Ypsilanti Running Company was to have a clean up day on the day of the color run but not sure if that happened or not.
- v. Ypsilanti International Elementary School-Buddy Bench in Prospect Park. Commissioner Thorburn showed pictures that the bench has already been installed.

b. Friends Group Updates

- i. Rutherford Pool- Commissioner Thorburn reported Kids' Triathlon is open for registration. We will be partnering up with Food Gathers to be part of Meet and Eat.
- ii. Senior Center- Commissioner Wilson reported the Center is having a corn roast fundraiser of August 5. Scaled back from past years both in food options and costs.
- iii. Freighthouse-Council Member Murdock said it is open and taking reservations. Still needs some work for full occupancy license.
- iv. Ypsi Baseball Project- Commissioner Malmer reported that the season is winding down and is in playoff time. Likely they will have work days in late August and September.

c. City of Ypsilanti Updates

Mr. Meyers reported that the parks fund has about \$8200 in it. He does not know if any of it is earmarked for anything.

d. Commission Sponsored Events

- i. Ypsilanti Fall River Day- September 24 Commissioner Sweet spoke on all of the events lined up for the day. Take out spot still needs some negotiation. There will be kid's fishing poles available donated by Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation. Shultz Outfitters will have a demo. Mr. Mann will present History of the Huron, Leslie Science Center will have their Birds of Prey, there will be a nature walk through the park area-to be determined, Senior Center will run a craft table, Fly Arts , Home Depot, YMCA, Ypsilanti Township and Washtenaw County Parks, Huron Watershed will all have booths and some activities. EMU Kayak Club will be in the river to assist or teach. There will be free cider and donuts. A \$1000 in contributions has been collected. There is hope that the price of kayaks can be offset. Closer to the dates

help will be needed to pass out flyers and distribute information.

e. **Recreation Programming**

- i. Ann Arbor YMCA Partnership- Summer Park Fitness Colette spoke on Fitness in the Park. This Saturday is yoga in Prospect Park. Blue Cross just sent out their letters advertising the events. She also reported the East Washtenaw Basketball League is starting back up. Thursdays is for middle school boys. Friday is for girls and high school boys. Time will be spent between fitness conditioning, open play, mentor to youth and tournaments. It costs \$5 to join. She also reported that the Ycamps at YCHS is full with waiting lists, there is still room in the EMU camps and Schooner Cove is being underwritten by Mckinley but only has two registrants.
- ii. EMU Partnerships Commissioner Sweet reported that his contact had graduated. He is working on setting up new contacts.
- f. **Ypsi Proud Day-** Commissioner Sweet and Malmer were part of the community. They stated that planning will start earlier this year and that there were some new people involved.
- g. **Parkridge Park Soccer Field-** Commissioner Sweet reported that he has not heard from the person who proposed it.
- h. **EMU Park Donation-** Commissioner Sweet reported that there is \$50 available from a project at EMU. Commissioners decided to give the money to the skate park.
- i. **Heritage Festival Park Projects** Commissioner Sweet reported that there will be around \$4000 donated from the Heritage Festival to spend in Riverside Park. Commissioners spoke of different ideas to spend the money on such as lights on the gazebo, signage off of Michigan Ave, picnic tables, signage on renting the park.
- j. **Other Old Business**

6. **New Business**

- a. **National Park and Recreation Month-July** Commissioner Sweet is trying to get the Proclamation of the City in the newsletter for mParks (Michigan Recreation & Park Association).
- b. **Riverside Playgroup Meeting Update** Commissioner Barrie reported on the Riverside Playground task meeting. There is some money that was leftover from Community Block Grants that the playground can use. The architect has donated their time but the group would like to compensate them. It has to have ADA adjustments made in the design.
- c. **Facebook Page** Commissioner Sweet reported that it needs some help.
- d. **mParks Ticket Program-** It is a partnership between Detroit's major sport teams and cities. You would be given a URL to go to

and a code word and when you purchase a ticket some money will go to the park system.

7. Partner Updates

- a. **Ypsilanti Trail Town**-Reviewing Ypsilanti Plan
- b. **Bike Ypsi – No updates**
- c. **Non-Motorized Commission – No updates**

8. Other Business- None

9. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

10. Adjournment 8:51pm Motion by Commissioner Barrie and seconded by Commissioner Malmer.

Next Meeting is August 8 at 7:00pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, Downtown Branch, 229 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti MI, 48197.