

1. PRC May Agenda

Documents:

[MAY MEETING AGENDA \(PRC\).PDF](#)

2. April Draft Minutes

Documents:

[02- 2022-04 PRC ACTION MINUTES.PDF](#)

3. Factory Bridge Name

Documents:

[03- PRC-FACTORY PARK-RFL_RESOLUTION.PDF](#)

4. Waterworks Ballfield Name

Documents:

[03.1 PRC-BALLFIELD-RFL_RESOLUTION.PDF](#)

[03.2 PRC-BALLFIELD-ANHUT FIELD REQUEST.PDF](#)

5. PRC Strategy For Review

Documents:

[PRC-STRATEGY-RFL_RESOLUTION.PDF](#)



City of Ypsilanti

Parks & Recreation Commission

Parks & Recreation

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: May 16, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: City of Ypsilanti City Hall, Council Chambers. 1 S. Huron St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call
 - Commissioner Connor-Barrie P __, A __.
 - Commissioner Collins P __, A __.
 - Commissioner Thorburn P __, A __.
 - Commissioner Navarre P __, A __.
 - Commissioner Sweet P __, A __.
 - Commissioner Merlos P __, A __.
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes – April 18, 2022
5. Public Comment & Presentations
 - a. Community Service Award Presentations
 - i. Friends of Rutherford Pool
 - ii. Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club
 - iii. Bob Krzewinsk
 - iv. Pete Murdock
6. City of Ypsilanti Updates
7. Friends Group Updates
 - i. Rutherford Pool
8. Old Business
9. New Business
 - a. 2022 Community Service Award Nominations
 - b. Spring St. Park Signage
 - c. Special Events Policy
 - d. City Newsletter Content
10. Other Business / Commissioner Comments / Announcements
11. Adjournment

City Hall: 734-483-1100

Public Services Department: 734-483-1421

Park Special Events: 734-482-9825

Pavilion Rentals – 734-482-9825

City of Ypsilanti
Parks & Recreation Commission
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
www.cityofypsilanti.com
parke@cityofypsilantimi.com

Senior Center: 734-483-5014
Rutherford Pool: 734-482-4401
Parkridge Community Center: 734-483-7700
Ypsilanti Freighthouse Rental: 734-482-9825



Action Minutes Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting

7:00pm, Monday April 18 2022
Council Chambers

The Regular Meeting of the City of Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order on Monday April 18 2022 at 7:05pm in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Secretary Thorburn, Commissioner Navarre, Chair Sweet, and Commissioner Merlos

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Connor-Barrie, Commissioner Collins

AGENDA

- I. Call To Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
Commissioner Navarre moved, seconded by Commissioner Merlos, to approve the agenda as submitted. On a voice vote, the motion carried.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. March 21, 2022
Commissioner Merlos moved, seconded by Commissioner Navarre, to approve the minutes with typographical corrections as discussed. On a voice vote, the motion carried.
- V. Public Comment & Presentations
None.
- VI. City of Ypsilanti Updates
- VII. Friends Group Updates
 - A. Rutherford Pool
 - B. Senior Center
- VIII. Old Business
 - A. mParks Community Service Awards
 - B. City Council Session regarding Parks and Recreation
 - C. MDHHS Funding, Michigan Active Communities Grant Update
- IX. New Business
 - A. Upcoming Park Clean Ups
- X. Other Business / Commissioner Comments / Announcements
- XI. Adjournment
Commissioner Merlos moved, seconded by Commissioner Navarre, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm. On a voice vote, the motion carried.



From: Bonnie Wessler, Project Manager

Subject: Potential Name of Parkland at Factory Street Bridge

The City has recently received a small grant to help improve access to the Huron River. The small park at the east end of the Factory Street Bridge needs a sign for wayfinding purposes; however, this park does not appear to have ever been named.

The naming and renaming of parks is governed by Chapter 94, Sections 161-170 of City Code. The code requires that prior to City Council naming (or renaming) a park, it come first to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Here is a list of potential names for consideration; the Commission may of course choose to add their own suggestions:

- Bird Island
- Goose Landing
- Breadcrumb
- The Nest
- Carl's Cove
- Ornithologist Park
- Charlie White Park
- Don Steindorf Park

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Recommendation of Approval to City Council



REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION
16 May 2022

From: Bonnie Wessler, Project Manager

Subject: Requested Renaming of the Baseball Field at Waterworks Park

The Ypsilanti American Little League has recently performed a complete renovation of the baseball field at Waterworks Park. In recognition of both the renovation and the history of the Ypsilanti American Little League in Ypsilanti with regards to gender equality in Little League, they are requesting that the City officially designate this field as the "Bill Anhut Memorial Field."

This request is attached.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Recommendation of Approval to City Council

Wessler, Bonnie

From: Akers, Ronald
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 14:18
To: Wessler, Bonnie
Subject: FW: Waterworks Park - Field Name

FYI

From: Nicole Wimmert <nwimmert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 2:03 PM
To: Akers, Ronald <rakers@cityofypsilanti.com>
Cc: Joseph Valerio <jvalerio@umich.edu>
Subject: Waterworks Park - Field Name

Attention: This email was sent to the City of Ypsilanti from an [external source](#). Please be extra vigilant when opening attachments or clicking links.

Ron:

We would like to ask the City of Ypsilanti- Parks and Rec to consider formally naming the field @ Waterworks Park "Bill Anhut Memorial Field".

The league has grown from 150 to over 300 kids in the last year. Previously we have used Recreation Park and Candy Cane Park baseball diamonds. However, our program needs now exceed the number of games we can host at those parks alone. In addition, we plan to offer softball next season and envision bringing even more kids into the program with the use of the new field.

William "Bill" Anhut was President of Ypsilanti American Little League (now known as Ypsi Arbor American or YALL) during the early 1970s. He was also a local attorney @ the time. During this time girls were prohibited from playing baseball with Little League. However, when Carolyn King, a local 12 year old girl asked Bill if she could try out he thought it was only fair to give her a shot. She beat out 15 other boys for a starting position that season and was drafted to the Orioles. However, Bill's decision to allow her to play caused an uproar in Williamsport, PA (Little League headquarters) and they revoke the league's charter for his decision. Bill took a stand for Carolyn and all of the girls like her. He fought with the help of the City and other league officials for Carolyn's right to play baseball. His efforts paid off and in 1975 Little League reversed their rule prohibiting girls from playing baseball. His role in helping establish fair and equal play is a huge part of not only the league history but also important to the history for the city of Ypsilanti.

Carolyn King spoke fondly of him when we talked a few weeks ago. The most striking part of our conversation was when she told me "He (Bill) told me I couldn't try out because Little League didn't allow girls to play... but when I turned around to walk away from the table, I felt him tap me on the shoulder and pin a (try out) number on my back... and that was the end of it (the controversy) for me. I was put on a team and I got to play baseball. As a young girl, I never knew all the trouble Bill and the other adults were going through because he just let me play. I have nothing but fond memories of him and his wife Mary Clare".

I believe it says a great deal about Bill's character that he took a stand for a little girl he had never met before. He not only took a stand but he saw it all the way through, despite it making national news and being a point of controversy.

Many Ypsilanti residents and park goers have thanked the league for restoring the field @ Waterworks Park. Additionally, many people have commented on what an amazing individual Bill Anhut was. We hope his legacy will continue to live on in Ypsilanti and we kindly ask you consider formally naming the field "Bill Anhut Memorial Field" in his honor.

Thank you for your time!

Regards,

Nicole Wimmert
President- Ypsi Arbor American Little League (YALL)



From: Bonnie Wessler, Project Manager

Subject: Strategy to increase visibility and engagement in the Ypsilanti community parks and recreation offerings

City Council has held as a goal in both 2021 and 2021 to re-establish the Parks and Recreation Department. Council held a work session on 12 April 2022 to discuss the specific concerns, goals, and outcomes related to parks and recreation. From that discussion, staff took away several overarching problem statements, and has worked to address each. Staff seeks input and approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission; once given, staff will take a revised strategy to Council for their review and direction.

Problem Statements

1. Need for improved communication about existing events & recreation opportunities within the community, including parks
2. Desire for additional programming of events/recreation opportunities in our parks and downtowns, filling in programming grants
3. Budget & consistency concerns regarding sponsored events
4. Clarity regarding process for requesting sponsorships/fee waivers
5. Clarity regarding overall process for reserving space for events

Discussion

1. Need for improved communication about existing events & recreation opportunities within the community, including parks

Potential solutions identified:

- a. Update City website to make information about the park system, facility and programming partners, and special events (both upcoming events and how-to) more accessible and legible
 - i. Status: Complete. "Parks and Recreation" now listed as a department and information previously under several umbrellas now collected in one space.
<https://cityofypsilanti.com/842/Parks-and-Recreation>
 - ii. Responsible party: DPS/Bonnie for setup; Communications/Tom for maintenance/updates.
- b. Include information from our facility and programming partners in the newsletter.
 - i. Status: Complete/ongoing. Facility and programming partners have been made aware that they have an "open door" to submit information to the monthly newsletter.
 - ii. Responsible party: Communications/Tom
- c. Include community events held at the Freighthouse in the City calendar and in the newsletter.
 - i. Status: In progress. Tom is being onboarded into the Freighthouse booking system for visibility.
 - ii. Responsible party: Communications/Tom
- d. Include events from our facility and programming partners (Rutherford Pool, Parkridge Community Center, Senior Center) proactively on the City website calendar and in the newsletter.
 - i. Status: complete/ongoing. The Communications Manager places all public events from the Rutherford Pool, Parkridge Community Center, Senior Center, and Freighthouse on the City events calendar. <https://cityofypsilanti.com/calendar.aspx?CID=22>

- ii. Responsible party: Communications/Tom
- e. Include events that have been properly reserved in our parks and facilities proactively on the City website calendar and in the newsletter. "Properly reserved" means fully paid for (or sponsored), insurance submitted, etc.
 - i. Status: Complete. This was already current practice to place on the City calendar; these events will now also be included in the newsletter.
 - ii. Responsible party: YPD/Wendy
- f. Include public community events from "outside" entities, not within our parks or facilities, on the City calendar.
 - i. Status: *Input requested*.
Outstanding questions/clarifications:
 - Should events held by a *single commercial business* that are free and open to the public (ex, seasonal market, open mic night, etc) be included?
At this point, we are not including these events.
 - Should events held by a *non-profit cultural or educational institution* (RAC, museums, YCS, Eastern) that are free and open to the public be included?
At this point, staff are including these events that are within the City.
NOTE: Many YCS events (ex, Jazz in the Parking lot) are technically out of the City. Should those events that are out of the City be excluded, should we include those that are "close" (YHS, Chappelle, WIMA/WIHI)?
NOTE: Should we keep a list of approved nonprofit cultural or educational institutions?
 - Should fundraising events from a *non-profit cultural or educational institution* be included?
At this point, staff does not plan to list these events unless they are open and free to the public.
 - Should open hours of nonprofit cultural or educational institutions be included?
At this point, staff plans to list the institutions on the website but not maintain the open hours on the website.
 - ii. Responsible party: Communications/Tom

2. Desire for additional programming of events/recreation opportunities in our parks and downtowns, filling in programming grants

Potential solution identified:

- a. Community Development Manager will identify potential programming gaps (ex: live music, children's activities) and solicit potential partners to fill them.
 - i. Status:
 - ii. Responsible party: CED/Chris

3. Clarity regarding process for requesting sponsorships/fee waivers

Potential solutions identified:

- a. Review and update the current sponsorship portion of the adopted events policy to reflect more accurately past practice. Bring to PRC for review/recommendation then Council for review/adoption.
 - i. Status: Under review.
 - ii. Responsibility: PRC (DPS/Bonnie, YPD/Wendy, CED/Chris), Council (CED/Chris)

4. Budget & consistency concerns regarding sponsored events

Potential solutions identified:

- a. A budget line item, reflective of past years' sponsorship levels, has been developed and will be added to the 22/23-23/24 budget.
 - i. Status: Complete.
 - ii. Responsibility: Finance/Rheagan
- b. Review and update the current sponsorship portion of the adopted events policy to reflect more accurately past practice. Bring to PRC for review/recommendation then Council for review/adoption.
 - i. Status: Under review.

- ii. Responsibility: PRC (DPS/Bonnie, YPD/Wendy, CED/Chris), Council (CED/Chris)

5. Clarity regarding overall process for reserving space for events

Potential solutions identified:

- a. Update City website to make information about the park system, facility and programming partners, and special events (both upcoming events and how-to) more accessible and legible
 - i. Status: Complete. "Parks and Recreation" now listed as a department and information previously under several umbrellas now collected in one space.
<https://cityofpysilanti.com/842/Parks-and-Recreation>
 - ii. Responsible party: DPS/Bonnie for setup; Communications/Tom for maintenance/updates.

Approximate Timeline

- First: this strategy
- Second: review of those items marked "complete" or "input needed" (PRC -> Council)
- Third: Special Events sponsorship policy review & adoption (staff -> PRC -> Council)
- Fourth: Special events budget amendment for whatever fallout needed (Council)
- Fifth: execution & periodic review of progress (potential for inclusion in PRC annual report)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval