

**City Of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm, December 8, 2015 at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue. Commission members present were Linda Horne (Chair), Bob Krzewinski, Eric Maes, Conan Malmer, Nicole Putala, Evan Sweet and Cathy Thorburn. Also attending was City Council member Pete Murdock.
2. Approval of agenda and previous minutes – A motion was made by Conan, seconded by Cathy, to approve the agenda, passing unanimously. A motion was then made by Cathy, seconded by Conan, to approve the December meeting minutes, passing unanimously.
3. Introductions
4. Old business
 - a. Adopt A Park Updates
 - a.i – Friends Of Peninsular Park – Pete gave an update on fixing the steps and shelter repairs. Bob will send another message out on Facebook/e-mail indicating that the group is reorganizing, needs new officers and for anyone interested could contact him or attend the next Commission meeting. Information about the Friends of Peninsular Park is on the “Friends” tab of www.ypsiparks.org.
 - a.ii – Disc Golf – No updates. Conan will do a reach-out to groups connected with the Waterworks Park for updates.
 - a.iii – Ypsilanti Running Company – No updates.
 - a.iv – Friends of Prospect Park – No updates.
 - a.v – Heritage Park Neighborhood Association – No updates.
 - b. Friends groups updates – Conan is looking into a Little League group working on improvements and using the Prospect Park baseball diamond. Pete discussed the possibility of summer-only additional park maintenance staff. Conan also reported on the Ypsilanti Baseball Project to improve City baseball fields.
 - c. City Of Ypsilanti updates – Cathy reported the Rutherford Pool is working on a new budget. Pete indicated the start of construction for the County Parks Eastside Recreation Center has been delayed a relatively short time while financing is resolved. Pete also indicated that block grant funds have been released from the County for purchasing new playground equipment for Hefley and Mattingly playgrounds. Also, a new signaled pedestrian crossing of Washtenaw Avenue near Eastern Michigan University and the water tower should take place in the spring.
 - d. Commission sponsored events
 - d.i – Friday Night Movies – Ypsilanti Historical Museum basement annex Fridays at 7pm and co-sponsored by the Commission.
 - d.ii – New Years Day Walk – Walk had 36 participants. Bob & Nicole will work together on the Commission holding other walks during the year, perhaps some in conjunction with the downtown library.
 - d.iii – Fall River Day – Bob will set up a dedicated meeting on this in March.
5. New business
 - a. 2016 Priorities – A discussion was held on 2016 priorities for the Commission, with items discussed at this meeting in italics as indicated below...
 - Peninsular Park – Step replacement, shelter roof repair, general park improvements
 - Riverside Park –Improve drainage, repave paths and open the Cross Street entrance gate for parking
 - Ypsi River Day (10/9/16) – Canoe rental, displays with assistance of the Huron River Watershed Council
 - Adopt-A-Park Application – Simplify and have where individuals/groups can submit in an email format – *Evan will call Stan Kirton to work on this.*
 - Mattingly – Clear, signed east/west entrances to park, new playground equipment, trash cans/benches, park fencing repair

- Frog Island – Improve amphitheater for events (i.e. power supply)
- All Parks – Uniform signage that is visible and refurbished if already in place
- Dog Park – At least one in a City Park – *Pete will check on this.*
- Baseball Diamonds – Improvement, maintenance and increased use of
- Funding – Explore funding sources for parks improvements and recreational programs

Pete also mentioned that the Commission should monitor developments associated with a Depot Town passenger train stop as this could affect Frog Island Park.

- b. Riverside Park Playground update – Minutes from the last meeting of this Commission subcommittee were distributed by email to members and are attached below. This group will have another public meeting in February. Pete also discussed possibly opening up the north end of the Park to vehicle access and parking. In years past there had been problem with littering and other problems when the gate was open to cars.
 - c. Ypsi PRIDE Day – Evan detailed plans he is working on for Parkridge Park for May's PRIDE Day. .
6. Partner updates
- a. Ypsilanti Trail Town – Bob gave an update on a Huron River Watershed Council Trail Town meeting held in Ypsilanti on January 5th. The Council will also hold a Water Trail Partners meeting at the Ann Arbor REI store on January 20th which Bob will attend.
 - b. Bike Ypsi – General meeting on January 17th which Bob will attend.
 - c. City of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee – Bob distributed copies of the Committees priorities for 2016.
 - d. Eastside Recreation Center – Updated under agenda item 4 c.
7. Other business – Linda and Bob will attend a meeting at City Hall on January 13th with City staff and a representative of the Michigan Parks & Recreation Association on potential recreation programs. Eric indicated he is working with all local Scout groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cubs) on a City wide service day on a date separate from Ypsi PRIDE Day. Temporary Ypsilanti ice skating rings were also discussed.
8. Adjournment – A motion was made by Conan, seconded by Cathy, to adjourn the meeting, passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm. The next meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday of February (2/9/16) at the downtown Library.

Play Riverside Task Force Meeting Notes December 2, 2015

3pm - 4pm, MAde Studio, Ann Arbor

Present: Maria Arquero, Liz Dahl MacGregor, Jen Maigret, Joe Meyers (City of Ypsilanti Planning Dept), Teresa Gillotti, Cara Talaska, Bonnie Wessler

MAde Studio presented their work on the project since the public meeting. Upon further research of the intended site, they found the “cleanest ground” for a potential playground, i.e. with fewest utilities and other site prep issues to consider, within the parks plan's larger potential site: an area west of a small tree and bench on the site.

They outlined their work to address three major concerns identified during the public meeting: accessibility, swings, and a slide.

Re: Accessibility, MAde suggested a focus on universal design concepts--making the playground attractive to all people regardless of age or disability. MAde asserted playlines would be robust enough for all kids, incorporating universality in swings and slide in discussion below. Task force discussed need for entry from parking lot and/or access to playground from walking path, estimating additional costs around \$3K.

Re: swings, MAde presented several prefab options that could be integrated into plans effectively and inexpensively, as well as some options in line with universal design principles. Task force agreed on simple prefab swing option with 4 to 6 swings possibly including limited mobility swing, depending on funds available. MAde estimated costs for a 4-swing unit at \$1200.

Re: Slide, MAde estimated costs for an embankment slide at \$30K due to site prep costs. The task force decided to include a prefab slide in the initial playground proposal, with an option to add an embankment slide at a later date.

MAde then presented two rough proposals for the task force's consideration. Proposal A included two benches, two playlines ranging in height up to 6-7' off the ground, prefab swings, and a prefab slide in a unified area with an estimated cost of \$40K. Proposal B included an embankment slide separating "islands" of playlines and prefab swings at an estimated cost of \$45K, not including site prep for embankment slide. The task force discussed potential maintenance issues created by wear and tear on areas between islands, desirability of embankment slide along with prohibitive costs. The task force decided Proposal A, potentially with option to add embankment slide at later date, would best fit the city's needs. Task Force estimated total project costs at \$50K, within Passport and Patronicity budgets.

MAde studio agreed to flesh out proposal A, present to task force at the end of January, and present at another public meeting in February. Task force also discussed need to decide on color at next public meeting.

Bonnie agreed to check with city personnel for additional utilities on-site and draft contract with MAde. Teresa also agreed to help draft city's contract with MAde. Cara agreed to take minutes and schedule next meetings.