

City of Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Commission - Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 9, 2016

1. Call To Order The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm, at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue. Commission members present were Linda Horne, (Chair), Eric Maes, Conan Malmer, Nicole Putala Evan Sweet and Cathy Thorburn. Also attending was City council member Anne Brown. Bob Krzewinski was not in attendance but submitted notes on his activities via email to all members.
2. Approval of agenda and previous minutes - A motion was made by Eric, seconded by Evan, to approve the agenda, passing unanimously. A motion was then made by Eric, seconded by Evan, to approve the January meeting minutes, passing unanimously.
3. Introductions - None necessary
4. Old Business
 - a. Adopt A Park Updates
 - Friends of Peninsular Park-Anne Brown and Bob Krzewinski are setting up a “reorganization” meeting at the downtown Library, basement meeting room, for Monday, February 29th, 7pm. Needed is a Chair and Vice Chair for this group. Publicity will start to go out the 12th of February about the meeting.
 - Disc Golf- no report
 - Ypsilanti Running Company -no report
 - Friends of Prospect Park- no report
 - Heritage Park Neighborhood Association- no report
 - b. Friends Groups Updates - no report
 - c. City of Ypsilanti Updates- no report
 - d. Commission Sponsored events
 - Friday Movie Night –Movie nights at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum continue every Friday at 7pm and co-sponsored by the Commission
 - Ypsilanti River Day Update - Bob submitted that the Riverside Park use permit went in to the City in late January and still waiting for a response. Bob will set up a separate River Day Committee planning meeting for March.
 - f. Ypsi PRIDE Day-May 21st. Applications are not available, yet.
 - g. Other - Eric mentioned that the Saturday or Sunday before Ypsilanti Pride will be a day of volunteering for all Scouts in Ypsilanti. Time, location and activity has not been determined. Goal is to raise awareness of Scouting in Ypsilanti
5. New Business
 - a. 2016 Priorities
 - Peninsular Park – Step replacement, shelter roof repair, general park improvement
 - 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 were individuals/groups can submit in an email format

- 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
- Baseball Diamonds – Improvement, maintenance and increased use of funding - Funding – Explore funding sources for parks improvements and recreational programs

b. Other

- Adopt A Park – Application Update Evan met with Stan. Stan would like to keep the application pretty much as is. He needs all the information and signatures. Evan will attempt to make the form electronic so it can be filled out on line and sent to both the Commission and Stan. He will also separate out the application from the information packet. Once Evan has it revised we will need to send it to the City attorney for checking and then it will be placed on the City website.
- Dog Park-Brenda Stumbo could not meet with Linda and Pete Murdock. They will attempt to set up another meeting time and place.
- Community Development Block Grant- Anne will ask Pete what the status of the funds are. Anne explained what the grant is and how we apply for them.
- Baseball has no true funding. They are incorporated as a nonprofit but not tax- exempt, yet. Will look into Community Block Grant.
- M-Parks-Nicole and Linda attended the informational meeting. Ypsilanti would partner with five local communities to provide two programs: Walking with Ease for elderly/seniors and Come Out and Play for young kids. Park has to be smoke-free. Possibly hire one contractor to hire all employees. No cost to Ypsilanti.
- M-Parks Conference is February 18. Park commissioners may attend a 1 day training on the grant for free.
- Some Commissioners mentioned that they had responded to the Watershed survey about Peninsular Park. Nicole was going to check to see if the chemicals they are using would be bee friendly as we are a Bee City.

6. Partner Updates

- Ypsilanti Trail Town/Huron River Watershed Council- Bob attended a partners meeting in Ann Arbor on January 20th where the Council gave updates on projects along the Huron River.
- Bike Ypsi-no report
- City Non-Motorized Advisory Committee-Bob-Current short-term priorities include updating the City Non-Motorized Plan, increasing the amount of pedestrian safety signs at major intersections and constructing a bike lane on Forest Avenue between Prospect and Norris.
- WCP&RC – Recreation Center status update- Anne reported that YMCA is no longer interested in managing the facility if the County was to build the facility. The amount needed to build the facility has gone up. The City is looking to possibly work with a private company.

7. Other Business- Bob will be attending the Ypsilanti DDA meeting on February 18th and will bring up the issue of improvements (i.e. power supply, lighting, etc.) for the Frog Island Park amphitheater and more use of that area for events.

8. Adjournment- A motion was made by Anne, seconded by Nicole to adjourn the meeting, passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm. The next meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday of March (3/8/16) at the downtown Library.