



**CITY OF YPSILANTI  
CITY COUNCIL/RECREATION COMMISSION  
STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT YPSILANTI CITY HALL  
ONE SOUTH HURON, YPSILANTI, MI 48197  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005  
7:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Farmer	Present	Council Member Richardson	Absent
Council Member Gawlas	Present	Council Member Filipiak	Present
Council Member LaRue	Present	Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson	Absent
Council Member Nickels	Present		

Moved by Council Member Nickels and supported to excuse the absences of Council Member Richardson and Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson. Motion carried.

**III. INVOCATION**

Mayor Farmer asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

**V. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

**VI. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Moved and supported to accept the Agenda.

VOTE

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2 (Richardson, Swanson) Vote: Carried

(Agenda as Amended)

**CITY OF YPSILANTI  
CITY COUNCIL/RECREATION COMMISSION STUDY SESSION AGENDA  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
ONE SOUTH HURON STREET, YPSILANTI, MI 48197  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005  
7:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER –**

**I. ROLL CALL –**

Mayor Farmer	P A	Council Member Richardson	P A
Council Member Gawlas	P A	Council Member Filipiak	P A
Council Member LaRue	P A	Mayor Pro-Tem Swanson	P A
Council Member Nickels	P A		

**II. INVOCATION –**

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –**

“I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

**IV. INTRODUCTIONS –**

**V. AGENDA APPROVAL –**

**VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –**

**VIII. JOINT MEETING WITH THE RECREATION COMMISSION -**

**IX. ROLL CALL – COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Chairman Weiss	P A	Commissioner Wilbanks	P A
Commissioner Winkelseth	P A	Commissioner Edmonds	P A
Commissioner Zuber	P A	Commissioner Jones-River	P A

**X. DISCUSSION ITEMS –**

**A.** Introductions and review of December items

**B.** July Joint Session recap

**C.** ~~Current State of Recreation~~ Regional Recreation Summit

1. Pool
2. Freight House
3. Senior Center
4. Parkridge
5. Recreation Park Ice Skating
6. Intergenerational Project

**D.** YARD – A concept for an umbrella organization to support recreation.

**E.** City of Ypsilanti – FY 2007-2008

**F.** Next Steps

**XI. ADJOURN – JOINT MEETING SESSION**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT –**

**VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no audience participation.

**VIII. JOINT MEETING WITH THE RECREATION COMMISSION**

**IX. ROLL CALL – COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Chairman Weiss	Present	Commissioner Wilbanks	Present
Commissioner Winkelseth	Absent	Commissioner Edmonds	Present
Commissioner Zuber	Present	Commissioner Jones-River	Present

Moved by Commissioner Zuber and supported to excuse the absence of Commissioner Winkelseth. Motion carried.

**X. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Introduction and review of December items**

Chairman Weiss made some opening remarks regarding happenings in the Recreation Commission. He stated that despite the elimination of the recreation budget in July of 2005 facilities have remained open, and some programs have even been expanded due to volunteer efforts. Chairman Weiss introduced Commissioners Edmonds and Jones-River as two new members of the Recreation Commission.

**B. July Joint Session recap**

Chairman Weiss reviewed items that were discussed in July. A regional summit was planned. Commission vacancies were filled. The life of the recreation facilities has been extended, and some services have even been expanded. Quarterly meetings were also discussed.

**C. ~~Current State of Recreation~~ Regional Recreation Summit**

Victor Chiasson from Eastern Michigan University provided an overview on the regional recreation summit named "Recreation 2026". The summit is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2006, from 8:15 a.m. until noon at the Morris Lawrence Center on the campus of Washtenaw Community College. The keynote speaker will be Leon Younger, a consultant in the consulting group Prose, who has been in the field of parks and recreation for twenty-nine years. He has created master plans, strategic plans, visioning plans, business and tourism plans, and has worked on a variety of different projects. Mr. Younger will perform roundtables on specific issues that recreation professionals believe are the most important to address over the next twenty years. The primary issues identified are funding, facilities, staffing, population changes, collaboration and transportation.

Mr. Chiasson announced that there would be a session on regional recreation authorities at the MRPA State Conference on February 14<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. He will provide the information to the Commission members.

Chairman Weiss next asked representatives from the different recreational facilities in Ypsilanti to present the state of those facilities.

## 1. Pool

David Bates presented a report on the state of the Rutherford Pool. He noted that the use of the pool is up 30% over the past year. He stated that there are continual discussions on continuing to expand programs to meet the needs of more people. Mr. Bates spoke with Walter Norris, Executive Director of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission, to discuss ways to work through that organization to get more people from other parts of the city involved in using the pool on a more regular basis. Swim lessons and transportation were items to be explored.

Mr. Bates indicated that this year the pool is within \$500 of meeting the budget.

The pool liner is beginning to show its age. Mr. Bates remarked that it is impossible to guess how much longer the liner will last. His estimate is that the liner will probably need to be replaced within the next two years.

Mayor Farmer inquired into the cost of the last pool liner. It was determined that it was last installed in 1996 or 1997, but the cost was not immediately available.

Chairman Weiss asked if CDBG monies coming from the county are appropriate for use on capital improvements on the pool. City Manager Koryzno stated that these funds could not be used on City Hall, the police department or buildings such as these. He said he would make some inquiries into the matter.

The question was raised as to how the cost of renovations would affect the price of the use of the pool and of scholarships. Mr. Bates answered that the scholarships were directly from the Ypsilanti Housing Commission, so this would continue to be at their discretion. With regard to the cost of using the pool, he stated that he felt it would be reasonable to raise the fee, but that any increase would be a modest increase.

## 2. Freight House

Leslie Chace presented a report on the state of the Freight House. She referenced the agreement that the Freight House has with the city of

Ypsilanti. She stated that the building has required extensive repairs. Because of the standards and procedures that are required to be met, and because of the extent of the work that is necessary, renovations are still in the process of being completed.

Ms. Chace mentioned the Farmers' Market that was opened. The farmers have been able to maintain their Project Fresh program and have added a nutrition education and demonstration program.

The first annual Fallapalooza Festival was held and actually cleared a positive balance. Ms. Chace noted that another part of their agreement with the city is to raise money to support the needed repairs. Minor repairs included abating asbestos that existed under the floors. A gas pipe was also found to be leaking. The city facilitated the repair of that gas pipe.

Ms. Chace updated the group on the SHPO grant that was awarded in February. She indicated that they are required to submit additional details on floor and beam work that needs to be completed. She stated that it is important to get the necessary repairs completed to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy.

Ms. Chace asked Council about five thousand dollars in matching funds from a CLG grant that was to have been designated to Freight House improvements beginning in 2004. Mayor Farmer said she would look into this. Ms. Chace also asked that the city provide continued support on maintenance issues.

Ms. Chace made reference to the operation and management agreement and asked that Council review it and make an effort to fulfill the obligations of the city detailed therein. She noted that the agreement states that the city is responsible for obtaining insurance for the property. The agreement also states that the city is responsible for providing inventory of all personal property on the premises. She asked for assistance in this regard as well.

Funds were left over from a previous CLG grant with SHPO according to Ms. Chace. She stated that these were to be set aside for Freight House improvements. She requested an exact amount.

### **3. Senior Center**

Rebecca Dunkle presented a report on the state of the Senior Center. She reported that the city is still paying for the infrastructure for the building, but does not support its staffing. Staffing has been supported partly through an intergenerational grant and partly through money received from Washtenaw County. This money is about to run out. So, the center is working on fundraising campaigns to raise around \$10,000

to support the center's staff. At this time, close to \$3,000 has been raised.

Council Member Nickels raised the question of the condition of a leak in the roof. Ms. Dunkle answered that the Department of Public Works is aware of the problem. City Manager Ed Koryzno added that roof repair is on the list to receive funding.

A green roof, a roof made of sod, was suggested to cut energy costs.

#### 4. Parkridge

Victor Randall and Commissioner Lonetta Jones-River presented a report on the state of Parkridge Community Center.

Commissioner Jones-River has been attending the meetings at Parkridge Community Center. They have two committees, one for programming and one for funding, with a total of around four members for each committee. The Funding Committee initiated a McDonald's Match, by which a day would be designated for McDonald's to match whatever money was spent at McDonald's and to donate this to the center.

The Ypsilanti Housing Commission is part of the drive to keep the center open. Executive Director Walter Norris has applied for two grants. They have not heard from HUD yet with regard to these grant applications.

Mr. Randall stated that the center is operating at a basic minimum service level at this time. Staff consists of three people. Staffing funds at this time will last only until the coming holidays. He noted that there are some possibilities for funding that would carry the center beyond the holidays. There is a significant amount of match funding still available from the Pfizer Community Fund. He believes that basic level funding can be sustained through the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Farmer asked where the committee meets. Commissioner Jones-River answered that they meet Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. at the Parkridge Community Center.

Commissioner Jones-River stated that two groups approached the center regarding programming. One group was the Church of God, who wanted to discuss programming. The other was Mr. Ron Davis, whose group is funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield. He wants to initiate a group for domestic violence, but would require a large portion of the facility for this use.

Discussion followed of winterizing the facility.

## **5. Recreation Park Ice Skating**

Chairman Weiss announced that a group in the Normal Park neighborhood has been meeting for a couple of months. They have put together a proposal, a flyer, and have begun soliciting neighbors, businesses and others to support the effort to build an ice skating rink. The group has been conducting a search for liners. Chairman Weiss says they are close to meeting the goal to purchase this liner. Volunteers have come forward to assist in the construction of an ice rink.

## **6. Intergenerational Project**

Angel Coleman provided a brief report on the Intergenerational Project, which was held on November 29<sup>th</sup>. She spoke regarding the importance of groups working together and having joint programming for youths and seniors. Through such efforts, programs were available for youths, for seniors and others in the community, all at minimal cost. She stated that people in the community are excited about working with such programming.

### **D. YARD – A concept for an umbrella organization to support recreation**

Chairman Weiss provided an overview of the Ypsilanti Area Recreation Development, a non-profit recreation support organization concept. This is a proposal to form a 501(c)(3) organization for the purpose of consolidating grass roots recreational initiatives, in addition to identifying funding and suitable facilities for sustainable recreational programming in the Ypsilanti area. The Recreation Commission strongly supports this idea.

Discussion followed on what it would take to achieve this concept.

### **E. City of Ypsilanti – FY 2007-2008**

Commissioner Lisa Zuber spoke of the Recreation Commission's hope that the city will continue to be able to sustain the funding of recreation to the level that it has to this point been able to achieve. She extended a thank you to Council for their support.

There was discussion of the cost of maintaining the city's recreation facilities.

### **F. Next Steps**

Chairman Weiss listed the next steps that will be taken with regard to recreation activities. He reminded Mayor Farmer of the need to fill a commissioner vacancy. Mr. Koryzno and Mr. Bruner will be the contacts for the issues discussed with regard to the Freight House property insurance, the support on DDA money and the net matching grant from CLG. Work will be done to look into obtaining CDBG monies for the roof on the Senior Center. It is planned to

move forward on cost-saving plans in the next month or two. He reminded Council that a one-page report on what the city spends on utilities facility costs has been requested.

A motion was made and supported to add the Freight House to the list for CDBG funds. Motion carried.

Lesley Chace requested a timeline on the decisions and the exact process. Mayor Farmer suggested that Megan Gibb, Director of Planning and Development, clarify and dispense information to the Friends groups and neighborhood groups.

Chairman Weiss asked for suggestions for a date for the next meeting. It was determined that the next meeting would be Tuesday, March 28, 2006.

Angel Coleman announced that she had accepted a position at a non-profit company in Philadelphia.

**XI. ADJOURN – JOINT MEETING SESSION**

Joint Meeting Session adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Council Member LaRue and supported by Council Member Filipiak to adjourn the City Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.