



*Parks & Recreation*

# City of Ypsilanti

## Parks & Recreation Commission

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### Meeting Minutes

Date: March 9, 2021

Time: 7pm.

Location: Meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID 19 closure. It was recorded and hosted by the City of Ypsilanti Staff Bonnie Wessler.

1. **Call to Order** Commissioner Sweet called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. **Roll Call** Introductions of Commissioners with new procedure of location and county of person while on Zoom meeting. Present were Evan Sweet (City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), Cathy Thorburn (City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), Ben Connor-Barrie (City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), Dillion Navarre (City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), Kurt Kohlmann (City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), Julia Collins (City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County). Absent was Cherisa Allen Bonnie Wessler from the City was present along with City council member Steve Wilcoxon
3. **Approval of Agenda-** It was moved by Commissioner Kurt Kohlmann and seconded by Commissioner Connor-Barrie to approve the amended agenda. Roll call vote, Passed.
4. **Approval of the Minutes** –February 9, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Connor-Barrie and Commissioner Dillon Navarre seconded approval. Roll call vote, Passed
5. **Introduction/Public Comment & Presentations – None**
6. **Old Business -None**
7. **Friends Group Updates**
  - i. **Rutherford Pool** -Staff and board members have been researching what other pools are doing in the local area and what the Washtenaw County Health Department is issuing as guidelines. A final decision has not been made about what the calendar will look like. Mr. Wilcoxon was very helpful with connecting us with some of the city staff for questions we had. A new board member came on.
  - ii. **Senior Center-** MOU between the center board and the City was approved by city council. The board will have expectation to abide by. There is no set opening date.
8. **City of Ypsilanti Updates-**

Ms. Wessler reported that a survey was done in Recreation Park for feasibility studies for paths.

Mr. Wilcoxon reported that a steering committee meeting will take place tomorrow. There will be members from engineering firm, restoration committee and city staff. It will create more land in the park. There will need to be public engagement meeting regarding how the new land in the park will be used/developed.

Ms. Wessler reported on the Frog Island Grant. It will be worked on in three phases. The first phase is the northern end. Improvements like upgrading kayak and fishing areas. Making paths accessible. Make a path from trails down to the walking track. Currently, there is not one. Update storm water facilities. Second phase is the middle and would be to improve parking. Third phase is the south end. Bridge the space between Freight house and Frog Island amphitheater. Create flex place for the farmer's market and parking.

Ms. Wessler confirmed that porta potties are in the parks usually April to September. Riverside Park keeps theirs until November.

## **9. New Business**

**a. Adopt-A-Park Application** Riverside Park-EMU Honors College. Commissioners had concerns over who was going to maintain the plantings and when were they going to start as the college year is almost over. It will be preferred that they work in the afternoons during the week as a DPW member has to supervise. The rain garden in Depot Town could be a spot for maintenance work. Ron will give the final ok.

**b. Huron River Day Update** Pam, the marketing director from the Huron River Watershed Council told commissioner Sweet that there would be temporary interpretive signs placed in Riverside and Frog Island park. The event should last around a month. Potentially, Peninsular Park and Water Works Park could be included. We will wait to see if the Ann Arbor Parks open their livery and what the State is saying about gatherings for our Fall River Day. It would be scaled back and there is some money still left. We still do not know what the State will say about gatherings.

**c. Ypsilanti FIT Assessment FIT= First Impression Tourism** Commissioner Sweet met with a fellow Jada Love from the City. A group from the MSU extension will come into the city and evaluate/rate the area. They will give a review of their findings. An application has been completed and submitted.

**10. Other Business-** Commissioner Navarre asked for follow up for the proposal of signs to be placed in the park. Signs were to help non-verbal kids communicate while at the park. Ms. Wessler had checked with families that the signs were designed for and feedback was that the signs might not be as useful as intended. Kids will not want to stop playing and go over to a sign to communicate.

Commissioner Sweet received an email from the resident in College Heights that wanted to turn the tennis courts into Pickleball courts. Mr. Wilcoxon had a verbal conversation with the resident. The resident was to gather more information on what would need to be done. A court in Ypsilanti Township has been converted.

Ga Ga Ball pit- Ms. Wessler will check into the status of the project.

Commissioner Sweet will forward information on pool facilities management courses to Commissioner Thorburn and she will pass onto the FORP board.

None

**11. Commissioner Comments/Announcements-** None

**12. Adjournment** 7:52pm. Moved by Commissioner Kohlmann and seconded by Commissioner Collins

**Next Meeting:** April 13, 2021 If we are still under COVID 19 restriction it will be held via Zoom.