



City of Ypsilanti

Parks & Recreation Commission

Parks & Recreation

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: March 13, 2018

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Ypsilanti Senior Center, 1015 N. Congress St. Ypsilanti, MI. 48197

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm, March 13, 2018 at Ypsilanti Senior Center, 1015 N. Congress St. Ypsilanti, MI. 48197.
2. **Roll Call** Commissioners in attendance were Evan Sweet, Ashanti Harris, Ben Barrie, Conan Malmer and Cathy Thorburn. Also present were Joe Meyer, City of Ypsilanti Commission Liaison and EMU Board Fellow Cristina Neil. Commissioners absent: Delois Wilson, Linda Horne, Kurt Kohlmann and Amanda Marshall. In going forward, commissioners names will be listed on the agenda and a formal roll call will be taken.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was moved for approval by Commissioner Barrie and seconded by Commissioner Malmer. Passed
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were not read as there was not a copy from the previous meeting. Will be voted on at the next meeting.
5. **Introductions:** Michelle Shankweller was in attendance. Ms. Shankweller is head of the Frog Island Community Garden.
6. **Old Business**
 - a. **Adopt-A-Park Updates**
 - i. **Candy Cane-College Heights Neighborhood**-no report
 - ii. **Peninsular Park**- no report
 - iii. **Frog Island**- clean up will resume when the weather warms
 - iv. **Frog Island Update.** Commissioner Barrie and Ms. Shankweller reported on the work that is being done to improve the appearance of the garden to meet the standards required by the City code. The main issues seem to be the trash/leftover gardening containers, compost and the tires. The person in charge of the tires is aware that they need to be removed but is having a hard time disposing of them. They would like to put a shed on the premises but it will have to be approved by the City and Historical Committee. Public Services wants updates. There is a waiting list for the garden plots.

b. Friends Group Updates

i. Rutherford Pool-Commissioner Thorburn reported on the bathhouse grant process. She also mentioned the work that is being done with the Ypsilanti Community Schools. It was asked when the groundbreaking could actually take place and Mr. Meyers reported that it might not be until 2020 due to the grant cycle.

ii. Senior Center-The rental fee is under review. The number of rentals has increased. After researching similar venues it has been found that the Senior Center is at the bottom of the fee list. It currently costs \$50 per hour and that includes the kitchen. In the winter, you have to rent for three hours with two hours in the summer. The Center is looking for larger grants. They are looking to update the technology in the building.

iii. Ypsilanti Baseball Project-Opening day is April 21st in Recreation Park.

c. City of Ypsilanti Updates Mr. Meyers did not have a Water Street Trail update. The Pool Grant will be heard at the next City Council meeting. Lots of development is going on throughout the City.

d. Recreation Programming

i. Ann Arbor YMCA Partnership-Summer Park Fitness It should run on the second Saturdays April –September. Parks selected to host activities in are Recreation, Candy Cane, Prospect, Parkridge and Riverside. Costs will be \$5 per class or all classes for \$20. Blue Cross will be granting a subsidy to those who qualify.

e. Fall River Day Update-September 23 Bob K. is moving on. The Leslie Science Center and the Huron Metro Park traveling classroom exhibit were hits and we would like them back. The route will be the same. The hope is for another livery person so that we could run more boats down the river. The cost last year was covered by a \$2500 grant. It helped to provide for the advertising costs and to subsidize the boats. Evan has secured some monies and is interested in asking the Visitor and Convention Bureau for \$1,000. The official request has to go through the City.

f. Ypsilanti Proud Day- May 19 Captain meeting in next Thursday. Major projects considered are the mini soccer field at Parkridge. Pete Murdock is looking into an engineered woodchip for the playground at Prospect Park. He is looking into having the school district help with the cost as the playground is used during recess.

g. Outdoor Recreation/Canoe Livery Operations-April meeting. Submit any questions you might have about running a canoe livery or hosting one to Evan so that he can forward them to the presenters.

h. Park Priority Projects and Commission Goals- Two documents were distributed with possible priority projects and goals for 2018. Discussion occurred around whether general maintenance and care can be placed on the list. Mr. Meyers reported that we should have a project ready list ready so when the grant money is requested and released we can get started. Commissioner Sweet will start a Google doc so that work can be done before our next meeting.

i. Tree Planting in City Parks- Worthwhile Paper wasn't to plant trees in a city park. She would like to plant 100 trees. There is no ideal location for that many trees. Could she plant them in the nursery?

j. mParks Community Service Award Nomination

Commissioner Sweet suggested nominating the Little League for all their work they have done to improve the ball fields and promote the sport in the city.

k. Other Old Business- Commissioner Sweet asked Mr. Meyers about an mParks invoice. Mr. Meyers reported that he is waiting for the city to approve it.

7. New Business

a. Commissioner Committee Placements- Commissioner Sweet passed around the document that listed the committees and the placement of the commissioner on those committees.

b. Adopt-A-Park friends of Neighborhood Parks. This petition will be voted on at the next meeting as Commissioner Malmer had to leave and we then did not have a quorum.

c. WISD and Michigan Fitness Foundation Project- This was a pilot program that we were asked to participate in. Commissioner Sweet with the help of city employees were able to fill it out. Our lowest score was in maintenance and safety.

d. Skate Park- Trevor (elementary teacher in Ann Arbor and skateboard enthusiast) along with a YCS student are looking into grants to improve the skate park. They emailed Councilman Murdock regarding grants to make a more permanent park. There is a meeting this Thursday. No further information.

e. Riverside Park Inclusive Playground-progress has been made on making it more inclusive to all and meeting the requests of the residents. A public input on this phase needs to be held. The surface covering has not been decided. It is hoped that this project will be completed this summer.

8. Other Business-Council member Pete Murdock (or Prospect Neighborhood) is looking into a rental of a summer porta-john.

9. Commissioner Comments/Announcements-None

10. Adjournment- 8:45 pm Due to no quorum, Commissioner Sweet closed the meeting.