

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
PARK COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2021 REGULAR MEETING**

Park Commission Agendas and Minutes are available on the township website at <https://ytown.org/park-commission>

I. Call to Order

Commission Chair Streeter called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. via virtual public Zoom meeting.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Brad Hine, Tajalli Hodge, Darrell Kirby, Jeff Neel, Brad O’Conner, Star Smith, David Streeter

Commissioners Not Present: none

Staff Present: Mike Hoffmeister, Angela Verges, John Hines, Robin Castle-Hine

III. Determination of Quorum

Quorum present

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Darrell Kirby

Seconded by Star Smith

Motion Carried Unanimously

V. Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve February 1, 2020 minutes made by Darrell Kirby

Seconded by Brad O’Conner

Motion Carried Unanimously

VI. Citizens Participation

None

VII. Reports

A. Staff Reports

Mike Hoffmeister: 1) Loonfeather Park renovation plan will be made available soon. 2) Solomon Diving hired to inspect boat launch at Ford Lake Park - found 5 pipes sticking up and concern about concrete slabs sliding into lake due to voids under slabs. No decision yet about how to proceed. Also looking into adding more boat launches. 3) Hewen’s Creek has largest ironwood tree in state – considering commissioning a plaque to commemorate. Also looking into expanding parking. 4) Investigating installing fence along Harris Road Park baseball fields abutting Amtrack route. There is a meeting on Wednesday with MDOT to explore options and hope is to get this done sometime during the summer. 5) New YMCA MOU moving forward to offer joint programs. 6) The skate park has been officially awarded a Facility Design Award by mParks.

Discussion: Mike Hoffmeister informed participants that the township budgets for maintenance, repair, and upkeep and that is a major source of funding for many projects, along with grants and awards from various agencies.

Angie Verges: Sierra Club will lead nature walks in April and May, more to follow. Applied for \$2500 Archery grant to purchase equipment. Applications being accepted for park rangers and

attendants. Brad O’Conner asked about limitations to events and gatherings at parks due to Covid restrictions. Angie said no new directions yet from governor/state.

Robin Castle: the township needs maintenance workers, park rangers and attendants, and golf grounds workers. Rosie the Riveter festival still on track. Tajalli Hodge asked about numbers of staff needed; varies by job but more is better to cover for vacations, etc.

B. Commissioner Reports

Brad Hine visited all proposed locations for dog parks. Thinks commissioners should visit as a group. Tajalli Hodge mentioned that if quorum (4 of 7) were to meet, it would constitute an official meeting and would need to be publicly posted 2 weeks in advance. David Streeter to investigate regulations.

Tajalli Hodge gave an update on Sugarbrush Park/Native Garden mParks grant for \$2500. Investigating additional grants for this program.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Dog park–Chris Nordstrom: Carlisle Wortman. FAQ document discussion: Noise study, safety, sanitation, and location are main issues. Injuries are rare; dog owners are largely self-policing. Sanitation and run-off into lake are concerns but local dog parks in Saline and Whitmore Lake have not had any problems. Also, there are ways to set up barriers to filter run-off before entering the lake. Heritage, Ford Lake, or Lakeside are currently the 3 top locations. Ford Lake seems the best option due to gated entrance, parking, and facilities. Heritage has sufficient parking but close to residences and major location for sports and playground – and would involve lots of underbrush removal. Lakeside Park has insufficient parking and facility is heavily used by local rowing teams throughout summer and early fall.

Details of plan: <https://en.calameo.com/read/0051076738fb6c2bdb77a>

Web site for community feedback/exposure: <https://www.ytowndogpark.com/>

Tajalli Hodge expressed concerns about placing too close to roadways. Brad O’Conner asked about water availability; Chris Nordstrom replied water is not required but adds significant cost. Jeff Neel asked about rowing usage at Lakeside: Hoffmeister says heavily used throughout summer and into fall. Brad Hine asked about liability in case of dog bites, etc. Ford Lake is gated so can ensure that dogs are licensed, and prominent signage is extremely important in setting rules, addressing liability issues.

Chris Nordstrom will revisit Board after first survey closes to discuss results.

IX. New Business

Request for Spicer Group to apply on behalf of Ypsilanti Township for a Land and Water Conservation Fund MDNR grant to make improvements to Clubview Park. The tennis courts at Clubview Park have deteriorated to the point they are unsafe for use. The proposed improvements project is consistent with our Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

X. Public Hearing

Public comments regarding the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application for improvements to Clubview Park. The township applied for two MDNR grants but was only awarded one grant; Spicer Group to help with proposal and application.

Official hearing opened at 7:45 pm

Motion to approve authorization of Spicer to help with application made by Brad O'Conner,
Supported by Darrell Kirby.
Passed unanimously

No citizens in attendance
Hearing closed at 7:47 pm.

XI. Announcements

None

XII. Recommendations to the Township Board

Recommendation to adopt a resolution to authorize submittal of a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant through the MDNR for improvements at Clubview Park. The resolution also commits to the required local match. Total project cost is estimated at \$295,000. This grant has a 50% local match requirement, so the grant will fund \$147,500 and will require \$147,500 of local funds.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Tajalli Hodge
Seconded by Darrell Kirby
Motion Carried Unanimously
Meeting Adjourned at 7:48p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Jeff Neel, Secretary
Minutes approved by the Park Commission on April 5, 2021