

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
PARK COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2022 REGULAR MEETING**

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

I. Call to Order

Commission Hodge called the meeting to order at 6:53 p.m. at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Tajalli Hodge, Jeff Neel, Brad Hine, Darrell Kirby

Commissioners Not Present: Starr Smith, David Streeter,

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

III. Determination of Quorum

Quorum present.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by Kirby

Seconded by Neel

Motion Carried Unanimously

V. Approval of Minutes – May 2, 2022 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve May minutes made by Hine

Seconded by Kirby

Motion Carried Unanimously

VI. Citizens Participation

None

VII. Reports

A. Staff Reports

Mike Hoffmeister, Residential Service Director

Loonfeather Park very close to being done – should be completed this week or next. Finish date of June 24.

Huron St. trail (west side of Huron Rd.) now under construction, almost done (the only tasks left south of Joe Hall Dr are concrete curing at post office and the church.)

North Bay Park needed electrical work on short notice. AF Smith contracted for the job.

Apple Ridge Park/Willow Run Acres community farm agreement finalized. DTE running a power line to power the irrigation well.

Township leadership and board will make a formal appointment to fill empty park board position created when Brad O’Conner moved out of state. Status of applications is unknown.

John Hines, Recreation Services Manager

Community Center construction update: Flooring is being installed in Room 305.

Received a check from NRPA grant to furnish Room 203.

Sports: baseball and T Ball starting next week. Spring sports are finishing up.

Serafinski Golf Outing scholarship funding event is scheduled for August 13.
Interviewing for two building attendants so will have a full front desk staff soon.

Robin Castle-Hine, Quality Assurance Specialist
Nothing new; jazz festival (Fridays from July 1 – Sept 2) is on track.

B. Commissioner Reports

None.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None.

IX. New Business

Parks orientation postponed till after new commissioner starts. Orientation and information meeting with Park staff to better understand budgets, processes, and priorities (also refer to Parks Master Plan.). Suggestion was made that perhaps it would be better to wait until early fall when things are slower and staff have more flexible schedules.

Discussion of Park Hours: current wording is “15 minutes after sunset” but causes confusion among park users. Robin proposed set specific times. Commissioner Hodge looked up sunset times. Mike Hoffmeister suggested setting summer close at 9 pm now for safety reasons then discuss additional winter times later.

Motion to change park closing of parks for summer hours to 9 pm
Motion made by Neel
Seconded by Kirby
Passed unanimously

Request Approval to allow US Geological Survey to conduct Phragmites, a tall invasive weed, research at North Hydro Park.

Kirk Kowalski, Research Ecologists, spoke. He’s a Wetlands research scientist, studying the invasive species Phragmites. There is a need to find a way to manage the plant, as it is a problem throughout N. America. Looking for management solution and partnering with Rutgers University. Currently working in Oakland County and in Sandusky MI, and would like to work at Hydro Park. Needs: access to site 2x – 3x week. Will apply non-toxic fungicide to see if it successfully controls plant.

Discussion: Hodge asked about herbicide license and training.

Allow research pending herbicide applicator license/training is necessary

Motion to approve the study, pending approval by the MI Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Motion made by Kirby.
Seconded by Neel.
Passed unanimously.

X. Public Hearing

None

XI. Announcements

None.

XII. Recommendations to the Township Board

Recommendation of new park hours to change to 9 pm to Township board.

Motion by Neel.

Seconded by Hine.

Passed unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Hine

Seconded: Kirby

Meeting Adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Jeff Neel, Secretary

Minutes approved by the Park Commission July 11, 2022