

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI
PARK COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 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 6:31 p.m. at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Tajalli Hodge, Jeff Neel, Brad Hine, Ed Burnett, David Streeter

Commissioners Not Present: Starr Smith, Darrell Kirby

Staff Present: John Hines, Mike Hoffmeister

III. Determination of Quorum

Quorum present.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by Hine

Seconded by Neel

Motion Carried Unanimously

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

Motion to approve minutes made by Streeter

Seconded by Hine

Motion Carried Unanimously

VI. Citizens Participation

None

VII. Reports

A. Staff Reports

Mike Hoffmeister, Residential Service Director

- Loonfeather Park: new sub-contractor for ADA rail. 4 – 6 weeks till completion but the rest of the park is open.
- Citizen for Hewen’s Creek Park: citizens help with opening and closing of park.
- Sidewalk repairs are ongoing.
- Tennis court renovations. 2 separate grants – pursuing a package deal for design and may be able to package the construction contracts (depending on approval from agencies.) Community Center still in approval and Clubview approved.
- Crosses planted in front of Township Hall to show support for veterans. Looking to place 22/day representing the number of daily veteran suicides. Check with John if interested in volunteering.
- Green Oaks Golf Course in good shape. Retrieved 370 golf balls from irrigation system (from vandalism.)

Mike Hoffmeister reporting for Robin Castle-Hine, Quality Assurance Specialist

- Rosie The Riveter event was a success. Sponsored by DTE and OHM. 82 total booths and generated revenues of \$2260. \$300 profit from parking fees.

- Ford Lake Summer Jazz Festival. Very successful despite a few rainy dates. 3800 cars parked. John Lawrence generates money from sponsorship revenues.
- Park Season officially over; great work from staff. 3400 parking tickets issued but only 2 went to court.
- Park revenues up \$18,000 in 2022 season.

John Hines, Recreation Services Manager

- Community Center renovations are complete.
- Scholarship supported by DTE. Award 50% of registration fees for children for a year. No limit to numbers but \$250/child/year.
- Serafinski Golf Outing scholarship funding event is scheduled for August 13; tee off at 9 am. Looking for more players.
- Cornhole tournament August 27th. 9 teams. Looking to host another in the fall.
- Registrations for fall programs trending up.

Robin Castle-Hine, Quality Assurance Specialist

- Tree struck by lightning at Ford Lake Park has been cleared.
- Jazz festival (Fridays from July 1 – Sept 2) going on for last 2 weeks. Low attendance because of rain but no issues. is on track.
- Rosie Show slated for July 23rd and accepting applications for displayers/vendors.

B. Commissioner Reports

Tajalli Hodge: 1) Chicago parks experience – could Township supply large games (like jenga) that families could check out? 2) West Willow Farmer Market supplier of fresh produce asked to insure parking? Miscommunication and misunderstanding according to John Hines. 3) Sugar Brook Park weeding and tree planting events planned (discussed later in the meeting.)

VIII. Unfinished Business

Continued discussion of park hours: Commissioner Hodge will conduct survey, 8 responders, and results are:

Safety Issues: dark, being alone, large groups, irate citizens, drugs,

Corrected: earlier closing times, support for closers, better signage (and in multiple languages), enforce tickets,

Help? Larger signage, clear hours, commissioners visit, better lighting

Hardest to close: those with water sports, consumption of alcohol

Incidents: fires (South Hydro), hostility,

Suggested hours: varied responses. 9 pm in summer, dusk otherwise.

Discussion: Steve LeDuca (Bemis Rd, west of Hewens Creek) Closed gate during first part of summer and experienced same issues. Went to park multiple times to avoid locking people in. Also felt unsafe on some occasions. Posted signs help. Mike Hoffmeister: when gates are locked, people park on Bemis Road. Suggestions are to check with other communities and with Washtenaw County sheriff's office about supporting park staff efforts.

IX. New Business

Resolution 2022-10: construction at Community Center Park (2020 – state and feds are behind in processing grants

Motion to approve Resolution 2020-10 made by Streeter

Seconded by Hine

Motion Carried Unanimously

Three Year Tree Maintenance Agreement with ReLeaf Michigan. 10 trees paid for by DTE, will plant in Sugar Brook Park.

Motion to approved maintenance agreement made by Streeter

Seconded by Burnette

Motion passed unanimously.

X. Public Hearing

None

XI. Announcements

Park review and orientation meeting immediately after meeting.

XII. Recommendation

Motion to recommend Resolution 2020-10 to township board made by Neel

Seconded by Streeter

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to ReLeaf Michigan recommend to board Hine

Second Streeter

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Streeter

Seconded: Burnette

Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Jeff Neel, Secretary