

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI  
PARK COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2023 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:** Jeff Neel, Starr Smith, Ed Burnett, David Streeter, Tajalli Hodge

**Commissioners Not Present:** Brad Hine, Darrell Kirby

**Staff Present:** John Hines

**III. Determination of Quorum**

Quorum present.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda made by Neel

Seconded by Smith

Motion Carried Unanimously

**V. Approval of Minutes** –Approval of April 3, 2023 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve minutes made by Burnett

Seconded by Streeter

Motion Carried Unanimously

**VI. Citizens Participation**

John Woodcock: question about opening of parks. Commissioner Hodge answered that Memorial Day is official opening. JW suggests posting signage for those opening hours and dates. Opposes Hewen’s Creek Park closing in winter – cross country skiing, ice fishing, etc. Parking is a major issue. Lots of traffic/crossing at Hitchingham entrance – Hitchingham is paved vs. Bemis unpaved/dirt. Asked County to provide signage for crossing – e.g., “Park Entrance 500 Ft” - but was told this is Township responsibility. JW asked about expanding park hours; TH replied that this is likely a staffing issue with the Township. Also suggested having some parks members walk the trails with John to see where signs should go. John Hines also offered to help address concerns.

**VII. Reports**

**A. Staff Reports**

John Hines, Recreation Services Manager and Interim Residential Services Director

- Community Center improvements update: insurance wrapped up from Belfor. All checks submitted from MML. Also discovered restroom issues to replace/fix since floors are already torn up. Will take another few months to fix all issues. Proposal to repair damaged flooring and other issues submitted by Belfor. At the last Township board meeting a line-item amendment to the budget was approved to track costs and fix damage.
- Golf course is open and pro shop is revamped. Few days of 100+ rounds but cold days are about 20. Tree contractor has help clear ice storm damage to trees.

- Ford Lake Park renovations to shelter. Planting “tree wall” along soccer field as an experiment. Exploring adding solar lighting along paths (especially given with Jazz Fest traffic.)
- Hewen’s Park discussion: already had conversation with citizens and Township leaders about same issues. Could residents open/close parks? Would need to address legal and safety issues with Board/Law Director.
- Outside athletic programs are booming. Over 300 players. 7 teams for both adult soccer and softball.
- Washtenaw CC offering ESL and GED programs. Was using only one room at Community Center but programs are expanding so will need three rooms in the fall.
- Most parks are open every day; mulching and mowing are done.
- Community Center gym will close May 15 for two weeks to refurbish gym – and include pickleball lines.
- Tennis courts refurbishing proposal submitted from Spicer for Clubview and Community Center.

### **B. Commissioner Reports**

Commission Hodge asked about Gault Village/Nancy Park baseball field needed upgrades. Turns out this is actually YCS property and John Hines informed YCS about the need to fix field.

Commissioner Burnett asked about Skate Park Parking. Branches placed on Midway but haven’t been picked up yet and so impact parking. John Hines will investigate.

### **VIII. Unfinished Business**

Recommendation for public hearing on park hours. Proposal/recommendation to Board was lost in administration changes, so Planning Director and Clerk/Supervisor has suggested having public hearing on new hours. Will plan to have public hearing at next park board meeting in June 5, starting at 6:00 pm.

### **IX. New Business**

None.

### **X. Announcements**

None.

### **XI. Recommendation**

None.

### **XII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Streeter

Seconded: Smith

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Jeff Neel, Secretary