

Park Commission

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Sandy Andresen, Chair
Marcia Chapman, Vice Chair
Debbie Swanson, Secretary
Lawrence W. Johnson, Treasurer

Commissioners:
Elayne Black
John Hoops
Marsha Lathion
Monica Ross-Williams
Carissa Watson

2011 Annual Report



Loonfeather Park Pavillion

“Come Visit – Get Active – Leave Happy – YT Parks!”

Park Commission Common Goal: Quality Living, One Park at a Time

Park Commission Core Values

- *Maintain, preserve, and protect Ypsilanti Township park amenities*
- *Value partnering with the community to support and sustain Ypsilanti Township parks*
- *Promote nature, recreation, and health*

2011 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission

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Staff Support – Art Serafinski & Brian Durant

Pursuant to the Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission by-laws the following annual report lists the Park Commission's activities and accomplishments supporting the Park Commission's purposes as listed in the said by-laws.

- A. To develop a park master plan and to carry out programs for the acquisition, management, and control of parks and places of recreation of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti.**
- Supported early planning and budgeting for the update of the 5 – Year Master Plan due in 2013
 - Recommended using a consulting firm to help with this process
- B. To promote the development of a system of neighborhood parks and other places of recreation to serve the various neighborhoods within the Charter Township of Ypsilanti.**
- The Park Commission has addressed neighborhood park concerns that have been brought to its attention
 - Explored alternative park options for Pine Park and Dodge Court
 - Explored options for maintenance of tennis court surfaces in neighborhood parks
 - Recommended rotating playground inspection process so playgrounds in parks will systematically and consistently be inspected on an ongoing basis
- C. To promote the development of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti parks and other places of recreation in the Charter Township of Ypsilanti.**
The Park Commission has:
1. Supported advertising recreational uses of parks & non-motorized information by inclusion of parks information in township mailings sent to residents
 2. Adopted a parks slogan “*Come Visit – Get Active – Leave Happy – YT Parks!*”
 3. Ford Heritage Park
 - Supported extending water and sewage taps just beyond the property lines of park
 - Recommendation to the Township Board: The park commission feels very strongly and recommends that water and sewer be put in Ford Heritage Park while incentives are in place so that substantial savings can be realized.
 - Supported the creation of an engineered drawing for Ford Heritage Park with the following potential components: shelter in an octagon shape, two single use accessible restrooms with changing table, storage area, concessions area, and covered area for a few picnic tables. This drawing will be used to solicit potential support and/or grant funding for this project.
 4. Hewen's Creek Park
 - Created Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Michigan Mountain Biking Association – continued the process of reviewing the need for this document
 5. Supported Annual Park Permit Fees for 2011 for Ford Lake Park System and initiated a process for a yearly park commission review of parks fees prior to public advertisement of fee
 6. Continued to support the creation and implementation of unified signage in all township parks
 7. Explored options for maintenance of tennis court surfaces in community parks
 8. Planned for park commissioners to visit and assess the state of township parks during yearly spring park visitations
 9. Considered additional funding opportunities such as advertising in parks

D. To further and encourage cooperation between governmental units, private agencies, and private citizens toward these ends.

- Attendance at the Charter Township of Ypsilanti board meetings
- Initiated adopt a township board member by park commissioners in an effort to improve communication with one on one out reach and communication
- Requested involvement in decisions involving capital projects when money becomes available including types and locations of projects
- Recommended the township board review ordinances that regulate bow and spear fishing in township parks and take appropriate enforcement action
- Recommended for the 2012 budget the township board address the inadequate curb cuts in the areas referenced in Appendix B of the Non Motorized Study 2010 pages 6-7, 8-9, and 30-32.
- Recommended to the township board maintenance of minimum requirements for safety surfacing on our play structures
- Recommended Congress between Mansfield and Hewitt and the north side of Textile from Tuttle Hill to Teddy Bear Day Care as projects for Connecting Communities Non-Motorized Projects 2011
- Recommended 5 Foot Stripped Bike Lane for Non-Motorized – requested the township board adopt and follow the federal recommendation of a minimum of 5-feet for an on road striped bike lane
- Initiated sending courtesy copies of park commission minutes with recommendations to the township board highlighted to township board members each month via email in an effort to improve communication
- Water Conservation Advisory Commission (WCAC) – YTPC representation on this Commission. Commissioner Johnson served as the YTPC representative and provided regular updates to the park commission
- Presented Ypsilanti Township Non-Motorized Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway System Study to the township board
- Supported the Re-Imagine Washtenaw Avenue CIA (Corridor Improvement Authority)
- Supported township partnership with EMU to build a boathouse at Lakeside Park using Trust Fund grant monies for improvements to park
- Created List of Possible Projects and Worked with potential Eagle Scouts on service projects
 1. Restoring gazebo in Ford Lake Park – completion Fall 2011
- Supported continued expansion, development, and improvements to Rolling Hills County Park
- Supported EMU Rowing Team park usage at Ford Lake Park

- Participation in Ypsi Pride 2011 at Ypsilanti Township Park clean up sites - park commissioners also attended neighborhood watch meetings to promote and seek captains for YPSI Pride projects in our township parks
- Supported requests from local businesses to hold volunteer “work days” or “days of service” in the parks
- Supported organized activities in the parks – Township recreation programming, Ypsilanti National Little League (YNLL) Harris Park, league softball at Community Center Park, and Youth football & soccer at various parks
- Worked with YNLL board members to address concerns in Harris Rd Park
- Citizen participation and concerns shared at park commission meetings
- Supported the Friends of Rutherford Pool’s National Trust Fund Grant application by submitting a letter of support for the grant application
- Developed Plan to Solicit & Recognize Park Supporters/Boosters including criteria for recognizing park supporters/boosters

Additional Accomplishments

- Continued to update Park Commissioner bio information and pictures to township website
- Continued the placement of Park Commission minutes on the township website
- Continued the placement of park commission packets on township website
- Worked with township board to fill vacant park commission positions
- Reviewed various documents and requests of residents
- Completed and submitted 2010 Park Commission Annual Report to the board of trustees
- Elected Park Commission Officers (December 2011)
- Approved meeting times/dates for 2011
- Initiated the process of creating a resident’s advisory committee to the park commission by sending letters to residents who applied for the vacant trustee position to find potential interested residents
- Initiated the process of getting information from the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department about incidents occurring in township parks
- Held August 2011 Park Commission Meeting at Loonfeather Park – part of the meeting included a tour of the park and the opportunity to talk to residents using the park
- Explored ways to increase promotion of parks and communication with residents and the park commission considered potential ideas like blogs, links from website, and facebook
- Developed YT Park Commission Common Goal & Core Values

Park Commission Common Goal: Quality Living, One Park at a Time

Park Commission Core Values

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Future Additional Goals

- Fencing in Harris Park on the north side as a barrier between the railroad tracks and the park
- Establish a standing resident's advisory committee to the Park Commission
- Establish a system for documenting the history of the park commission: past, present, and future
- Continue to pursue grant funding opportunities
- Create a Preservation of Park Property Policy for preserving the integrity of park land and explore options for future planning for placement of maintenance and storage facilities not directly related to the parks being relocated to a non park locations
- Explore options with the township and businesses for creation of cooperative park usage space on the Seaver Farm Property
- Explore options for surveying our community
- Pursue Adopt Non-Motorized Areas & Parks Project - publicizing and working to get groups to adopt sections to maintain
- Advocate for non motorized plan for I-94 Huron Street Corridor