

Park Commission

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Stuart Collis, Chair
Shauna McNally, Vice Chair
Debbie Swanson, Secretary
Elizabeth Corder, Treasurer

Commissioners:
Edward Burnett
Gloria Peterson
David Streeter

2017 Annual Report



“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*

2017 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission

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Elizabeth Corder, Treasurer Debbie Swanson, Secretary

Commissioners

Edward Burnett Gloria Peterson David Streeter

Staff Support – Angela Verges

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 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.**
- Used Parks 5-year master plan to guide parks discussions
- 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
 - Continued to address large groups using neighborhood parks for events by requiring safeguards and items needed to carry out such events
 - Continued to work with staff to insure playground inspection process be started and that someone within Township Parks and Recreation staff learn how to do the inspections needed to continue with annual inspections
 - Continued to work with staff to address areas found to be in need of repair from playground inspections
 - Supported improvements in Bud & Blossom Park
 - Supported Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (m-Parks) invitation for Township to be a part of a pilot program for safe routes to parks
 - Supported the removal of old play structure equipment from Tot Lot Park

- 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:

- Continued support for advertising recreational uses of parks & non-motorized information by inclusion of parks information in Township mailings sent to residents
- Continued use of parks slogan *"Come Visit – Get Active – Leave Happy – YT Parks!"*
- Following up on initiatives to enhance Township parks in the parks that are outlined the 5 – Year Master Plan
- Continued support of Township partnership with EMU for of the use of the boathouse at Lakeside Park.
- Continued researching options for spray pad components within current park system including creating a committee to explore the viability of building a spray park. Committee met with Washtenaw County Parks Director, Bob Tetens, to gain more information about how the county parks system created spray pads at Rolling Hills and at Independence Lake Parks.
- Worked with staff to plan for the removal of old play structures and to plan for replacement structures in Ford Lake Park

- 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
 - Requested involvement in decisions involving capital projects when money becomes available, including types and locations of projects
- Supported the Township Board and staff in maintenance of minimum requirements for safety on our play structures and supported schedule of playground inspections

- Supported a Follow Up Joint Spray Pad Project Committee including representation from township board and township park commission – committee members met with Robert Tetens from Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation to get further input and support for project – reviewed the current status and the viability of a spray pad park planning from the previous elected park commission
- Participation in Ypsi Proud 2017 at Ypsilanti Township park clean-up sites
- 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
- Citizen participation and concerns shared at Park Commission meetings
- Supported activities and events within the township parks including pickle ball tournaments in Ford Lake Park, “Wake & Rise” Event in West Willow Park, “Stop the Violence” Event held in Sugar Brook Park,
- Supported improvements in West Willow Park initiated by partnerships with the West Willow Neighborhood Association and the Ann Arbor Board of Realtors to build a small shelter near the playground - \$1,500 grant was received from the board of realtors to fund the project
- Explored ways to work with community organizations
- Explored possible sources for revenue increases in the parks – hosting events in the parks and possible fee increases
- Supported the staff proposal of Robin Castle-Hine to create and host the 1st Annual Rosie the Riveter Arts & Crafts Vendor Show held in North Bay Park, July 2017
- Explored the potential impact of the Nexus pipeline excavation on township park land drafted and approved a resolution against Nexus Pipeline excavation on township park land
- Supported Dylan Roe’s Eagle Scout Project in Hewens Creek creating an elevated section of the trail and directional signage on the bike trail path
- Reviewed the township geocaching policy and the Park Hours Ordinance
- Recommended the township explore the viability of creating a dog park within the township park system and requested information on potential sites
- Commissioners visited events in other communities to get ideas about possibilities that could be hosted in our parks like Music Festivals

Additional Accomplishments

- Continued the placement of Park Commission minutes on the Township website
- Continued the placement of Park Commission packets on Township website
- Reviewed various documents and requests of residents
- Elected Park Commission officers
- Parks Tour to see locations and current status of our township parks
- Reviewed the impact of the reduction of the park commission from 9 commissioners to 7 during the 2016 election cycle to the language in the park commission by-laws and reviewed proposed amendments to the by-laws to address the reduction of commissioners

Next Steps

- Continue the 5 Year Parks Master Planning Process in cooperation with the township board of trustees
- Continue exploring the creation of a dog park in the township including the possibility of cooperating with neighboring communities in creating this option for residents
- Continue to explore hosting events within the township park system