

Chair
Sandy Andresen
Vice Chair
Marcia Chapman
Secretary
Debbie Swanson
Commissioners
Emily L. Brown
Scott Martin
Annette Russell
John Shook
Janice Stewart
Bill Williams



Park Commission

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Playground Adventures Community Build Playground Dedication Ceremony
Playground Dedication and 3K Walk – September 2006

Park Commission 2006 Annual Report

2006 Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commissioners

Sandy Andresen, Chair

Marcia Chapman, Vice Chair

Debbie Swanson, Secretary

Emily L. Brown

Kirk McClure – appointed 3/21/06 to fill Wooten vacancy, term expired 11/20/06

Annette Russell

Janice Stewart

Charlene Wice – term expired 11/20/06

Kathleen Williams – resigned 9/14/06

Bill Williams – appointed 9/15/06 to fill K Williams vacancy

Ed Wooten – resigned 1/31/06

Staff Support – Art Serafinski and Dave Cooper

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.

- The Park Commission worked together with the township trustees and staff on the revised 5 Year Master Parks and Recreation Plan including reviewing draft chapters and compiled a list of potential parks projects for the Implementation Chapter of 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan

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 coordinated with township staff to create improvements in the following neighborhood parks: Lakeside, Nancy, Rambling Road, Sugar Brook, and West Willow. The neighborhood watch in each area was consulted about possible improvements given available funding. New playgrounds have been installed at each park. Renovations were completed in early spring 2006.
- Communication with township staff regarding status of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) grants used to fund improvements at Lakeside, Sugar Brook, and West Willow.
- The Park Commission has addressed neighborhood park concerns that have been brought to its attention - Appleridge – increased need for Port a Johns due to outside football league, Clubview: park vandalism –stolen tree and non permit large scale picnic event, Sugarbrook – activity in park and basketball courts,

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. Ford Heritage Park
 - Supported development of Phase III
 - Conducted numerous fundraisers for Playground Adventures including; The 3rd Annual Heritage Adventures Motorcycle Run in cooperation with Club 317 STAR – August 2006.
 - Solicited donations from community
 - Approached foundations for grants for Playground Adventures

- Solicited business and cooperate donations for Playground Adventures
 - Made presentations to service clubs for Playground Adventures
 - To date approximately \$267,399.54 has been raised towards the \$300K goal for Playground Adventures
 - Participated through representation in Pre Bid, Bid, and Contract Meetings for Playground Adventures
 - Participated and completed the community built playground “Playground Adventures” – June 2006
 - Participated in the Playground Dedication and 3K Walk – September 2006
3. The Park Commission has addressed community park concerns that have been brought to its attention: Ford Heritage: trash receptacles, traffic flow, signage, bike racks, shade, and poured in place (PIP) surface issues, Ford Lake Park: removal of non repairable dock,
 4. North Hydro Park
 - Development of North Hydro Park
 - Communicated with township staff regarding status of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) “Trust Fund Grant”
 5. Hewens Creek Park
 - Reviewed \$1000 Native Tree and Shrub Donation Proposal from Norm Roller of the MMBA
 6. Submitted project ideas for CBDG Funding in 2007-08 including Ford Lake Park, Harris Road Park, and Lakeside Park to Art Serafinski

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

- Maintained cooperative relationship with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation for the purpose of being the fiduciary of Playground Adventures funds
- Attendance at the Charter Township of Ypsilanti board meetings
- Participation in Ypsilanti Pride Day
- Ongoing correspondence with township board of trustees for the purpose of establishing stronger communication between our two boards
- Heard request from resident in the Oakland Estates Neighborhood for a dog park in township
- Heard presentations from and supported the Lincoln High School Huron River Radicals Michigan Envirothon team and resident Isobel

Gluck. Part of the envirothon is a community outreach project. The Huron River Radicals Team developed a Rain Garden Project that was placed in Ford Heritage Park.

- Communicated with a member of the Water Conservation Committee - Matt Williams shared his interest in learning more about obtaining grant funding. He was seeking information about the grants that had been obtained for park improvements.
- Heard concern from member of Ypsilanti National Little League (YNLL) regarding the need for an electricity notification system at Harris Road Park
- Researched and developed a Commemorative Tree and Bench Policy which allows residents to make donations within our township parks in honor of individuals – the first bench donated under this new policy was placed in North Bay Park in the Fall of 2006
- Representation at the county Trails and Greenways Workshops
- Wrote thank you cards to participants in the Playground Adventures community build
- Participated in a presentation on the Washtenaw Metro Alliance Parkland & Open Space Initiative made by Jeremy Lopatin of Carlisle/Wortman Associates consultant for this project and Patricia Denig – Director of Planning Services, Washtenaw County
- Heard a report by J. Bibby about local participation in the Rouge Rescue Day. The 1st site in township took place in wooded area between Bud and Blossom Park and Appleridge Park. Park Commission supports future participation in this yearly event.
- Supported organized activities in the parks – Township recreation programming, Ypsilanti National Little League, Pop Warner Football,

Additional Accomplishments

- Reviewed various documents and requests of residents
- Representation at the MRPA Conference – Detroit
- Approved Revised Park Commission By-Laws
- Representation at Recreation 2026 Community Roundtable Meeting
- Continued Park Commission Research
- Reviewed and discussed the 2007 Budget Memorandum and Five Year Budget Projection Worksheet prepared by Art Serafinski
- Reviewed 2007 Capital Improvement Project Analysis
- Reviewed Increased Park Fee Structure Proposal-proposal to increase fees was not supported by the park commission
- Reviewed interpretive signage for North Hydro
- Cooperation and support for the placement of Park Commission minutes on the township website scheduled to begin in January 2007
- Completed and submitted 2005 Park Commission Annual Report to the board of trustees in March 2006

- Promoted continuity on the park commission during 2 resignations, 2 appointments, and the election of two new park commissioners
- Reviewed 3 projects submitted to Washtenaw County Greenways Committee
 1. Grove Road Path Improvements
 2. Easement from YCUA for path/trail
 3. Continue paving around lake from North Hydro

Future Additional Goals

- Donor Recognition in the Community built Playground Adventures playground
- Improved communication with Charter Township of Ypsilanti Board
- Establish a process for residents to pursue ideas not included in Master Plan
- Develop and implement a plan prioritizing park improvements
- Research our park fee structure and make recommendations to the township board
- 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
- Establish and develop park commission responsibilities in the Commemorative Tree and Bench Policy
- Apply for at least one Access to Recreation Grant