



# City of Ypsilanti

## Parks & Recreation Commission

### Parks & Recreation

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#### Meeting Minutes

Date: March 21, 2022

Time: 7pm.

Location: Meeting was held at the Council chambers in City Hall at 101 S. Huron Ypsilanti, Mi 48197. It was recorded and hosted by the City of Ypsilanti Staff Bonnie Wessler.

1. **Call to Order** Commissioner Sweet called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Roll Call** Present were Evan Sweet, Cathy Thorburn, Ben Connor-Barrie, Dillion Navarre, Brian Merlos and Julia Collins City of Ypsilanti employees Bonnie Wessler, Ron Akers and Dave Balkley from City staff were present along with City Council member Steve Wilcoxon.
3. **Approval of Agenda**- It was moved by Commissioner Navarre and seconded by Commissioner Merlos to approve the agenda. Roll call vote, Passed.
4. **Approval of the Minutes** – December 15, 2021, minutes. Moved for approval by Commissioner Connor Barrie and Commissioner Navarre seconded approval. Roll call vote, Passed
5. **Introduction/Public Comment & Presentations** – None
6. **City of Ypsilanti Updates.**

Ron Akers Public Services Director introduced Mr. Balkley as the new Foreman of Parks and Services. There are now four employees for the Parks.

This summer the projects at Parkridge are hoped to be wrapped up. Finishing up the pavilion work, building a concrete assessable ramp, fences, and nets at the basketball court and placing a barrier between the Harriet Street parking lot and the park to prevent driving onto the grass.

A Michigan Enhancement grant of \$50,000 has been awarded to improve the baseball field at Parkridge.

The next park of focus will be Prospect Park.

Recycle bins have been placed in the parks with more to be added.

DTE will fix ruts that their tree trimming trucks made.

Council has proposed a memorial bench to former Mayor and Councilman Pete Murdock and his wife Grace Sweeney be placed in Prospect Park. Later in the meeting we voted to support the project with a resolution. Proposed by Collins and supported by Connor Barrie. Voted on and passed.

Park sign graffiti can be resurfaced for several hundred dollars.

Councilman Wilcoxxen is looking for grants for Peninsular Park.

**7. Friends Group Updates**

**i. Rutherford Pool** -Commissioner Thorburn reported that the busy pre-season has started. The board doesn't believe that any formal COVID protocol will be needed this year. A project to replace the tarps in the grass area may need a building permit. Thorburn is looking into it.

**ii. Senior Center-** Still pursuing grant applications. Focusing on intergenerational programs and respite care for grandparents who care for kids. Still looking to do a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Commissioner Sweet is retiring from the Senior Citizen board.

**8. Old Business**

**a.** MParks Conference and Facility Design Award for Rutherford Pool was collected by Commissioner Sweet last month. It will be delivered to the Pool board.

**9. New Business**

**a. MDHHS Funding Michigan Active Communities Grant** \$18,000 is available through a grant. Deadline is mid-April. Plan to work with the Huron Watershed to boost river recreation access. It must be spent by the end of September. Our planned day for Huron River Day in Ypsilanti is September 25.

**b. City Council Park Funding Meeting** April 12 at 7pm there will be a meeting to discuss funding for items and needs of the Parks. One item to be discussed are bathroom facilities. Place is to be determined.

**10. Other Business/Commissioner Comments/Announcements**

April 27<sup>th</sup> 7pm Freighthouse will be a Townhall meeting to discuss Peninsular Dam removal. Reports from exports will be shared.

August 27<sup>th</sup> 9am-1pm there will be a Electronics Cleanup at EMU. They need volunteers.

**11. Adjournment 7:44**

**Next Meeting:** 7:00pm April 18, 2022 City Council chambers at 101 S. Huron St. Ypsilanti, Mi 48197

Resolution to support City Council's Memorial Bench:

Whereas Pete Murdock and Grace Sweeney were staunch supporters of the Ypsilanti community and of Prospect Park in particular,

Whereas the Parks and Recreation Commission wishes to honor their legacy now therefore be it resolved that the PRC supports the installation of a memorial bench in Prospect Park to honor the legacy of Pete Murdock and Grace Sweeney.