



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING – Working Session

Date: April 19, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Digital Meeting

Members Present: Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President (attending from Pittsfield Township, MI); Janis Bobrin, WCPARC Vice President (attending from Ann Arbor, MI); Daniel Ezekiel, WCPARC Secretary/Treasurer (attending from Ann Arbor, MI), Ricky Jefferson (attending from Ypsilanti Township, MI), Robert Joerg (attending from Delta Township, MI), Robert Marans (attending from Ann Arbor Township, MI), Jason Morgan (attending from Ann Arbor, MI), Brenda McKinney (attending from Superior Township, MI), and Evan Pratt (attending from Ann Arbor, MI)

Members Absent: Jo Ann McCollum

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Ann Ziolkowski, Communication Manager; and Hannah Cooley, Management Analyst.

Others Present: Toni Kayumi, CEO of the Ann Arbor YMCA; Amy Heydlauff, Executive Director of the Five Healthy Towns Foundation

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Heather Jarrell-Roe, Ypsilanti Township Clerk, offered her support for the East Washtenaw YMCA project.

3. Discussion

A. Healthy Washtenaw Initiative

Mr. Vaughn reported on the important role that recreation/wellness centers play in our community and gave an overview of the three largest facilities in the County: The Meri Lou Murry Rec Center (WCPARC), The Ann Arbor YMCA, and The Chelsea Wellness Center. He emphasized a demonstrated need for a community recreation center in the Ypsilanti area and referenced the results of a recent community survey indicating strong community support. Mr. Vaughn described an initiative based on a partnership between WCPARC, The Ann Arbor Y, and the Five Healthy Towns Foundation (5HF) where the three agencies would collaborate on the construction of a new East Washtenaw YMCA and pursue expansion/renovation of the Meri Lou Murray Rec Center and the Chelsea Wellness Center. This could be

accomplished by eliminating competition between the three agencies and combine resources to leverage both private and grant funding.

Mr. Vaughn introduced Toni Kayumi, CEO of the Ann Arbor YMCA, and Amy Heydlauff, Executive Director of 5HF. Ms. Kayumi and Ms. Heydlauff each gave a presentation highlighting their respective organizations and the facilities that they operate.

Mr. Marans commented that the presentations were very impressive and asked if the YMCA partners with Jewish Family Services to assist with immigrant families and marginalized communities? Ms. Kayumi responded that they have partnered on many programs, including English as a second language and teaching job skills.

Ms. McKinney commented that she appreciated the presentations and the investments made in the community by all three agencies. She suggested that we pursue federal grants for the proposed projects.

Mr. Jefferson asked if all the programs that are proposed for the new Ypsilanti YMCA are also housed at the Ann Arbor YMCA. Ms. Kayumi responded that most of the programs and amenities that are proposed in Ypsilanti are also found at the Ann Arbor YMCA.

Mr. Ezekiel commented that is admirable to focus on communities that are disconnected or marginalized. You often do not even know the huge impact that you have in a life.

Mr. Pratt Commented that he would be interested in seeing the updated feasibility study for the proposed East Washtenaw YMCA. We need to make sure we have a viable project that can eventually be self-sustaining.

Mr. Jefferson stated that since he joined the Commission in 2012 his goal has been to promote for the construction of a new recreation facility in the Ypsilanti area. He asked how many membership scholarships the YMCA gives out per year. Ms. Kayumi responded that she does not know the exact number, but the value is typically around \$350K per year.

Mr. Marans commented that he was happy to hear that we are considering reciprocal memberships that would be accepted at multiple facilities.

B. 2021-2026 Construction Planning

Ms. Leikam presented the Capital Improvement Plan for the next five years and gave an overview by facility which included past projects from the recent years.

C. Budget and Fund Balance Discussion

Mr. Brooks provided an overview of the various millages and other funding sources that support WCPARC and how capital improvements are planned and financed. He explained that the annual CIP budget was typically around \$3.5M and was funded by the development millage. He pointed out that WCPARC historically does not bond for larger capital projects but elects to build up sufficient fund balance to pay for projects.

Ms. Scribner thanked staff and guests for an excellent presentation and a productive working session. Mr. Morgan seconded the comment.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.