

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-90**

Commissioner Rothstein moved, supported by Commissioner James, the adoption of the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDMENT OF THE RECREATIONAL  
AUTHORITIES ACT TO ALLOW CITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
TO FORM A RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Recreational Authorities Act, MCL 123.1131-123.1157, authorizes municipalities to form a Recreational Authority, and

WHEREAS, school districts are not identified as entities that can join or form a recreational authority, and

WHEREAS, the City of Big Rapids and the Big Rapids School District engage in cooperative efforts to provide recreational facilities and programs in and for the greater Big Rapids Community, and

WHEREAS, the City of Big Rapids and the Big Rapids School District are exploring opportunities to form a recreational authority through which recreational facilities and programs could be maintained, expanded, enhanced, and offered to more people, and existing buildings could be improved and modified to provide additional recreational facilities, and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Recreational Authorities Act is necessary to add "school district" to the list of entities that can join or form a Recreational Authority, and

WHEREAS, a bill proposing to amend the Recreational Authorities Act to include school districts has been introduced in the House by Representative Phil Potvin, and a similar bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate by Senator Darwin Booher.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Rapids City Commission supports and endorses the amendment of the Recreational Authorities Act to include school districts as authorized entities to join or form a recreational authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution should be sent to Governor Rick Snyder, the Michigan Municipal League, Representative Phil Potvin, Senator Judy Emmons, and Senator Darwin Booher.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Date: September 8, 2015

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WHEREAS, school districts are not identified as entities that can join or form a recreational authority, and

WHEREAS, the City of Big Rapids and the Big Rapids Public School District engage in cooperative efforts to provide recreational facilities and programs in and for the greater Big Rapids Community, and

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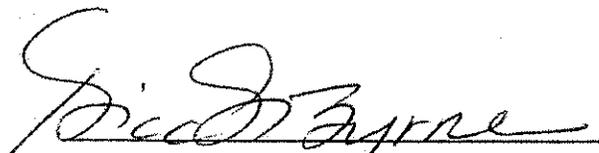
WHEREAS, a bill proposing to amend the Recreational Authorities Act to include school districts has been introduced in the House by Representative Phil Potvin, and a similar bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate by Senator Darwin Booher.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Rapids Public Schools Board of Education supports and endorses the amendment of the Recreational Authorities Act to include school districts as authorized entities to join or form a recreational authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution should be sent to Governor Rick Snyder, the Michigan Municipal League, Representative Phil Potvin, Senator Judy Emmons, and Senator Darwin Booher.

Resolved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015

Roll Call Vote: Passed: 6 Failed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Secretary, Board of Education

# **BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**14212 NORTHLAND DRIVE**

**BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307**

October 2, 2015

Mr. Mark Warba, Mayor  
City of Big Rapids  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Dear Mayor Warba:

Thank you for taking the lead in the proposed recreation authority. With the City of Big Rapids and the public schools working together this will be of major benefit to the area including Big Rapids Township. As you are aware, we have Highbanks Park in our township. This park is not only used for the ball diamond we have, but as a tubing drop off and pick up for the river tubers. I have not taken this to our board yet, but I feel strongly that we would like to include this property in the authority. I will do anything I can to help support this and would encourage our legislators to support legislation that would allow this to happen.

Thanks for your willingness to work together as a community and not as individual municipalities. We can accomplish so much more by working together with less expense to our taxpayers.

Thank you,



Bill Stanek

**Bill Stanek Supervisor**

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**[supervisorstaneh@bigrapidstowship.net](mailto:supervisorstaneh@bigrapidstowship.net)**



# FREMONT Michigan

*"NOW AND ALWAYS – A Fine City • A Great Community"*

September 11, 2015

The Honorable Senator Judy Emmons;  
Honorable Senator Darwin Booher; and  
Honorable Representative Phil Potvin,

The local governments in the community of Fremont have been collaborating on park and recreation projects and services since 2000. Fremont Public Schools used to serve on the original advisory committee until the Fremont Community Recreation Authority (FCRA) was established under the Recreational Authorities Act (PA 321) in 2013, which does not reserve school representation on an authority board.

FCRA was formed to repurpose an old high school facility, of which the school would have had to consider demolishing if they were not able to fill. The School's participation and commitment to our programming and facilities has always been essential to a successful community recreation program. But without a direct role in our Authority we are starting to see disconnect, perhaps because of the absence of their ability to be part of the decision making process.

School systems throughout the State are so intertwined in recreation and enrichment programs, because of the educational opportunities and facility usage partnerships that exist. Recreational programs for youth today are so vital to health and wellness in a community, so any obstacles or restrictions to community leader's involvement can prove detrimental.

Following Governor Snyder and the Legislator's direction for local government collaboration has proven to me challenging across the State, so when legislation based on that kind of collaboration restricts communities ability to fully collaborate, it becomes even more difficult to effectively involve all interested parties and accomplish its goals.

The Fremont Community Recreation Authority and City of Fremont urge you to consider the proposed legislation amending the Recreational Authorities Act to permit school participation in the governance of established recreational authorities.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Blake  
Fremont City Manager  
FCRA Board Chairman

Cc: Senator Goeff Hansen  
Representative Jon Bumstead

## Big Rapids Recreation Authority

Partnership between the City of Big Rapids and Big Rapids Public Schools to provide quality facilities and recreation programming to the Big Rapids Area. Authority may own and operate real or personal property, apply for grants, hire full and part-time staff, maintain property and collect fees for expenses. Authority jurisdiction shall be the same as the Big Rapids School District boundary.

- Ballot proposal – 2 mills
- Income – Approximately \$900,000 per year
- 2016 - Capital Projects
  - Downtown Farmers’ Market Pavilion/Ice Rink - 750,000
  - Community Center - 3,000,000
  - Multi-Purpose Field - 4,000,000
  - Renovation of Baseball and Softball Diamonds - 1,000,000
  - Relocation of Industrial Ballfields and Soccer Field - 750,000
  - Park Updates – Riverwalk Trail, NE Park Restrooms - 1,000,000
  - Total - 10,500,000
- Annual Operation and Maintenance – Budget \$500,000
  - 100,000 – Millage
  - 150,000 – City
  - 100,000 – BRPS
  - 150,000 – Fees and Memberships
- Assumptions
  - Authority Purchases Hillcrest from BRPS
  - Authority Purchases Fairman Pool from City
  - City Recreation Program and Staff are transferred to Authority
  - Authority does not provide grounds maintenance for any BRPS or City properties

# Supporters

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## Financial Impacts

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Author John L. Crompton (2010) Research Project: Measuring the Economic Impact of Park and Recreation Services, found the following:

"residents in a city who invested \$24 million in a new sports facility will get their money back on this investment in approximately 13 years from income they receive as a consequence of spending by visitors attracted to the community by that facility." (p.3)

## Health Impacts

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In November 2006 the American Recreation Coalition reported:

A new study finds that aerobic exercise may halt and even reverse the slow mental decline caused by aging. A report in the November issue of the Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences says that as little as three hours per week of brisk walking (at a pace slightly greater than 3 mph) increases the volume of neurons in the brain and the connections between them, resulting in improved memory, multi-tasking ability and concentration.

- City of Big Rapids
- Big Rapids Public School
- Michigan Municipal League
- Michigan Assoc. of School Administrators
- Michigan Assoc. of School Boards
- Spectrum Health of Big Rapids
- Big Rapids Little League
- Northland United Soccer Club
- Big Rapids Rocket Football
- Big Rapids Community Tennis Assoc.
- Big Rapids Women's Softball Assoc.
- Big Rapids Men's Softball Assoc.

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# Big Rapids Recreation Authority



City of Big Rapids

&



Big Rapids Public Schools

**"Partners for the Future"**

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## Contact Information:

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Big Rapids Public School Board Chair  
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Phone: 231-250-5450

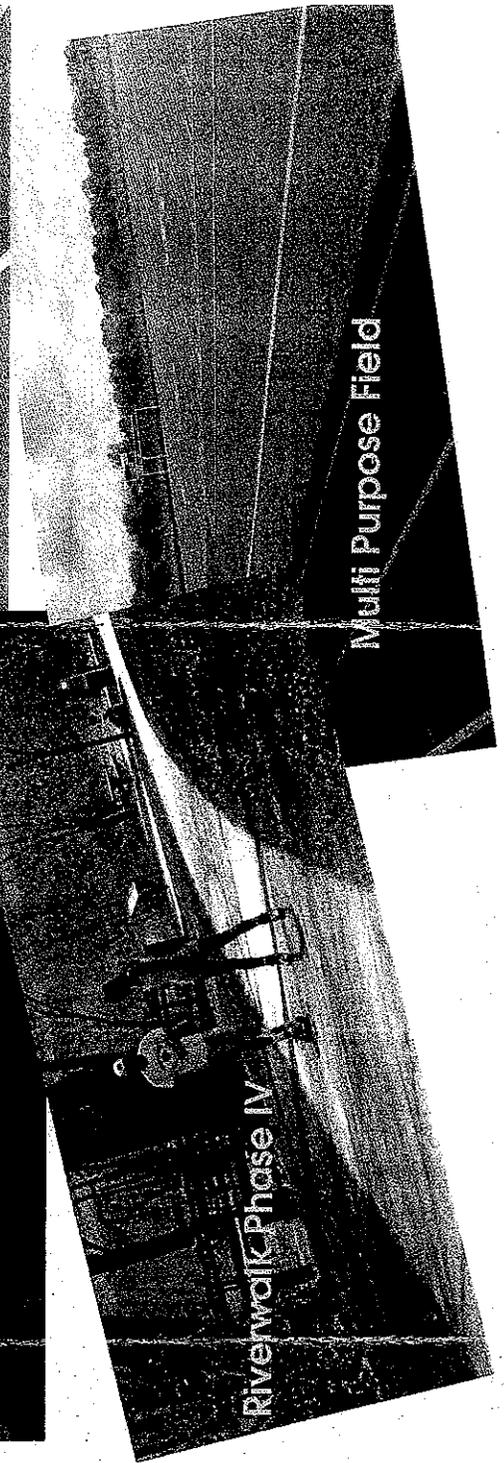
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## Concept Plans:



Park Updates

Riverwalk Phase IV

Multi Purpose Field

Community