

1 **\*APPROVED MINUTES \***

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3 **PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION**

4  
5 4:00 p.m. – February 15, 2005

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8 Time: Satarino called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

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10 Place: Council Chamber, Second Floor, 100 North Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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13 **ROLL CALL**  
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17 Members Present: Berla, Berauer (4:25), Macomber (4:20), Reneaud, Riseng, Rodgers,  
18 Satarino

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20 Members Absent: Cohen, DeLone

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22 Ex-Officio Members Present: Johnson, Woods & Henderson

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24 Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aeschbach

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26 Staff Present: Acquaviva, Bemish, Borneman, Clark, Dehring, Kuras & St. John  
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29 **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**  
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31 The following people spoke on behalf of the K-9 Social Club which is a non-profit  
32 organization, specifically in the Washtenaw County area working on an “off-leash” dog  
33 park. The City and the County are working on the Swift Run recreation center, and they  
34 would like to suggest that an “Off-Leash” dog park be implemented there:  
35 Julie Kruze, Jeff Pillars, Curt Fish, Rosie Gomez, Brian Luper and a combined  
36 membership of approximately 300 people.

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38 Karla Henderson, Manager of Parks and Recreation assured the public and the  
39 committee that they are working on this and getting feedback from the public. She  
40 stated that yes, the City had met with County representatives and they are trying to do a  
41 joint project. The attorney’s are currently discussing the off-leash issue, and that she will  
42 contact the K-9 Social Club with any new information. The County has expressed an  
43 interest in paying for all of the construction and the design work. We would like to sit  
44 down at a later date with the K-9 Social Club to see if we can enter into a joint  
45 agreement as far as management of the site (i.e., enforcement of rules, etc.).

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49 Linda Cody spoke on representing the Neighbors of Narrow Gage Woods. She said that  
50 they are still very concerned on the effort to preserve this piece of woodland. They have  
51 been in touch with the owners to let them know that they are interested in preserving it.  
52 Purchase of the land is a possibility with pledges from the community and King  
53 Elementary School and other community support.

54 Satarino assured her that it was still being discussed, and the issue has not yet been  
55 resolved. They have had many comments from the public regarding this issue.  
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58 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING  
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61 Minutes of December 21, 2004 and January 18, 2005 – Moved by Berauer, seconded by  
62 Renauld, to approve the minutes with the following changes:  
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65 In the December 21, 2004 minutes, Berauer said on page 1, last paragraph, in the first  
66 sentence, the first word “Barbara” should be replaced with “Margaret.” She thought that  
67 on page 8, in the first paragraph, the words “would occur” should be deleted.  
68

69 In the January 18, 2005 minutes, Berauer thought the words “closed session” should be  
70 added after the word “when” in the second paragraph on page 5. She thought, on page  
71 8, last paragraph, in the first sentence, the word “this” should be replaced with “the larger  
72 Ann Arbor Greenway study.” She thought, on page 9, second paragraph, after the word  
73 “of” the remainder of the sentence should be replaced with: “Ann Arbor Greenway and  
74 the larger Ann Arbor Greenway study group.”  
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76 On a voice vote, the minutes for both December 21 and January 18 were approved as  
77 corrected.  
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80 PRESENTATION FROM CHERYL SAMM  
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83 Cheryl Saam, Parks and Recreation Facilities Supervisor for the Gallup and Argo Canoe  
84 Liveries was introduced by Parks and Recreation Manager Karla Henderson. She said  
85 that there is so much going on at both of the Cities Liveries that she thought it beneficial  
86 to have Cheryl come before the public before the season opens to talk about some of  
87 the exciting things that are going on there. Cheryl has formerly been an Environmental  
88 Education Coordinator at Leslie Science Center for 10 years and is now on her second  
89 season at the canoe liveries.  
90

91 Ms. Saam said that Argo is only open on Saturday’s and Sunday’s, and Gallup is open  
92 all week long. The season begins in April and concludes in October. They do hourly  
93 canoe rentals, kayak, paddle boat, row boats, bicycles and trips that they drive patrons  
94 to, which are 4 hour or 6 hour paddle excursions.  
95

96 We have various new programs. We now offer 10 weeks of summer camp for full time  
97 or 3 weeks of winter camp. The camps range from paddling, nature education, using  
98 Gallup park. “Full Moon” paddles are once a month - Liveries stay open until 11:00 p.m.  
99 We provide canoe and kayak instruction.  
100

100 We've received grants for music concerts at Gallup park and we recently received a  
101 grant for laminated maps for the canoes to help prevent people from getting lost on the  
102 river. Right now we have new construction going on at Argo, and we're building a new  
103 building for livery and a small snack area. This will open on May1, 2005. Gallup is  
104 opening a coffee shop on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 called the "Perk and Paddle Café." On the  
105 whole we have improved education, safety, service and enjoyment with the City  
106 waterways. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual "Huron River Day" is coming up as well.

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108 Wendy Woods asks if dogs are allowed in the boats. (Yes, they are). She made the  
109 suggestion that the K-9 Social Club do paddling activities with their dogs on the  
110 specialized Tuesday evening theme events. The audience and the Commission agreed  
111 that this was a very good suggestion.

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#### WORKING SESSION

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117 Karla Henderson – The next session PAC wanted to talk about the Golf fund or "Fund  
118 47" report. Jayne Miller requested to be at that working session. Dates were discussed,  
119 and the concensus was to hold it after the regular PAC meeting on Tuesday, March 15,  
120 2005 in the Council Workroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall.

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#### REVISION OF PAC BY-LAWS

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126 Karla Henderson – Jill St. John had brought it to her attention that due to the many  
127 changes in the City reorganization, many of the 'terms' within the by-laws do not mirror  
128 the new titles amongst the City areas and managers (old refer's to 'superintendent,  
129 deputy superintendent, etc.'). Does PAC want STAFF to revise this and send out  
130 electronically or did PAC want to do these revisions themselves? Page 6 shows that by-  
131 laws can be changed after 30 days of submittal to the Commission. The changes are  
132 basically cosmetic changes only. Wendy Woods suggests that September is the time  
133 when the by-laws should be changed. Karla says that September was an oversight, and  
134 that we wanted to update them as soon as possible. Satarino asks if the Commission  
135 supports that and that staff will take care of changes? Yes.

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137 Macomber asks if the handouts to the Commission could be copied back to back from  
138 now on. "Yes."

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#### CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT

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144 Karla Henderson – Wanted to provide evaluation summaries for the programs from last  
145 year and provide PAC with information on how we gather this data about services and  
146 surveys and shed light on how the public feels that we are doing. Satarino suggests that

147 the Commission read the report and discuss any suggestions at the March meeting.  
148 Bureaurer thanks Karla for making this available to the Commission.  
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150 CITY COUNCIL ITEM UPDATES  
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154 Wendy Woods – Questions the wording of ‘adoption’ regarding the handouts and the  
155 City Market plan. Clarification was given by Johnson that he thought that the word  
156 should have been ‘acceptance’ and not ‘adoption’ as this had not been actually  
157 ‘adopted.’ Council has appointed a committee (Carlberg, Teall, Johnson and Woods) to  
158 work with the Market Commission to attempt to look at synthisysing and then return to  
159 Council to decipher how to proceed. Johnson agreed that this is pretty much what their  
160 charge regarding this committee is. A question is asked from the Committee as to what  
161 “accepted” meant. Johnson replied that it didn’t mean ‘adopted.’ We were presented  
162 with this master plan, the Council acknowledged it existed and ‘accepted’ that. Not the  
163 same as adopting it. This was a valuable piece of information, but was not necessarily  
164 going to determine what was done. It was accepted as an informational item, and not an  
165 ‘action’ item.  
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167 PARK REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT MILLAGE PROJECT UPDATES  
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170 Satarino asks Kuras if there was any new information regarding this, and she replied  
171 “No.” Berla asks what is going on with the sand volleyball courts at Fuller. They looked  
172 as though they were being ravaged? Kuras –“They are...”The pool and the locker  
173 rooms are under construction, and they have been concerned with sand getting in the  
174 pool from the volleyball courts. Since the popularity of the volleyball courts has  
175 diminished, we’ve requested that those be removed. We would like to eventually plan  
176 for a water spray park for the kids, but we don’t currently have the funding for that.”  
177

178 Berla asks Jeff Dehring if he can give an update on the Northeast Park soccer fields, or  
179 Olson park soccer fields. They did use that field space last fall for some limited play. I’m  
180 not sure what has been okay’d, but the turf is getting established. In regards to Olson  
181 park and the two soccer fields that were installed out there, we worked with the  
182 contractor to make exhaustive repairs. We have agreed with the contractor that those  
183 fields will not be playable until the end of this fall. The contractor is responsible for  
184 maintaining those until October of 2005.  
185

186 Satarino – Regarding Argo and where the new buildings are going in, I’ve noticed that  
187 there are quite a few people who want to do the entire circuit. Are there any kind of  
188 provisions that could be done to attain temporary paths to connect that and the building  
189 site, because that area is very muddy. We want it to go from the Argo dam to the front  
190 of the development, picnic shelter, but some negotiations have to be held with the  
191 Utilities Dept. which is currently doing something with the bridge, and asked us to wait  
192 until that was finished. We’ll have to go to the planning commission for a variance just  
193 for the temporary path.  
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REPORT FROM MANAGER OF PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

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200 Henderson just explained some of the information in the handouts regarding Evergreen  
201 park. We included the GIS study, and it's just to show you what we're going to do with  
202 all of our parks that are under rehab and development. Just informational pieces.

203

204 The week of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Newsweek magazine talked about the best places to  
205 ice skate, and our Buhr park is right up there with Rockefeller Center! We made national  
206 news.

207

208 I, along with other parks and recreation/field operations personnel attended the NRPA  
209 Rocky Mountain Revenue Management school last week. It was the 28<sup>th</sup> year, and I  
210 was elected to the Board of Regents to serve a 3 year term. Jayne Miller and Terry  
211 Rynard have both served on this board, so I'm just carrying on that tradition.

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REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

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217 Berla reported that RAC discussed ideas about potential consolidation between Rec and  
218 Ed and Parks and Rec. There were no conclusions made, just discussions about what  
219 the advantages and disadvantages would be. We're moving toward a plan as far as how  
220 the two groups work as far as softball fields. Terry's group has not been able to recoup  
221 the fees for such. We still mow the fields, but as far as setting up the field, we're hoping  
222 Rec and Ed will take that over.

223

224 We'd like to see something like the soccer fields. Ann Arbor Soccer Assn. Does the  
225 work for the soccer fields, and the other users pay them. Rec and Ed no longer has a  
226 place to do 'business.' That could make for some synergy just by having Rec and Ed  
227 move in with Parks and Rec. They have to be moved out by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

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REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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REPORT FROM GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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238 Johnson – We've brought in a consultant for the conservation fund to administer the  
239 program for us. They have the application forms and at least a half-dozen applications.  
240 We've set a deadline of February 18, 2005 to get applications in for this particular  
241 'round.' We'll have an evaluation session on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

242 We hope to have enough people on board in order to apply for some Federal funding  
243 that is available only once per year. Gerry Clark is working with PAC/LAC for the Land  
244 Acquisition Funds.

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246 DOWNTOWN GREENWAY

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249 Berauer – We had two meetings. Bill and I and we met with the DDA’s Executive  
250 Director, Susan Pollay. Most of the information she gave us was already presented to  
251 us some time ago. I requested additional documentation from her via email. Last  
252 Friday, Catherine, Bill and Bob Johnson and I met with Joe O’Neal and got information,  
253 so I’m in the process of making an informational report for everyone. I’m hoping to bring  
254 a recommendation based on these findings for discussion at the next PAC meeting.  
255 Also, six of us attended the presentation of the “Friends of the Ann Arbor Greenway.”

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257 Berla – DDA and parking – Hopes that City Council hold the DDA’s feet to the fire and  
258 find out if there is really a need for more parking. Johnson – Agrees, and says he is  
259 surprised that the DDA does not keep track of the amount of people using their  
260 structures.

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263 PUBLIC COMMENTARY

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266 Margaret Lansing, Resident of Ann Arbor thanks PAC for its efforts. She said that she  
267 spent a year in Washington DC and is very happy to be back here and our parks. DC  
268 did, however, have a dog park, so it was nice to see it working out. What a difference to  
269 get to know your neighbors, etc.

270

271 Pat Doblemeier – From Scio Twp., stands in favor of a place for our 4 footed friends.

272

273 Myron Grant – Advocates a dog park – agrees that the Gelman site was a good place to  
274 meet other dog owners and to get exercise.

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276 Julie Freeze – Elaborated on the Saline off-leash dog park. A mass group of Ann  
277 Arborites that go to Saline on the weekends.

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280 COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

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283 Berleauer – Spoke about the ‘extra sheet’ that Chairman Satarino proposed be put into  
284 the packets. She said that she put together a sheet of information of outstanding issues  
285 that had previously been talked about among the Commission, and that she would pass  
286 those out among the Committee so that they could discuss them at the March 2005  
287 meeting.

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REQUEST TO GO TO CLOSED SESSION

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Satarino asks if there is any further comment or business. None observed, he asked for a role call vote to be able to adjourn to a Closed Session.

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ROLL CALL VOTE for CLOSED SESSION

Yeas: Berla, Bereauer, Macomber, Rabault, Rising, Rodgers, Satarino

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Motion by Bereauer to close the meeting, seconded by Macomber. On a voice vote, the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Acquaviva,  
Administrative Service Specialist IV