

PEACE POLE IN HUNT PARK

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58 Mr. Eric VanDeVort, 712 Sunset, A2, MI 48103 – Gave a presentation for a proposed Peace
59 Pole to be erected in Hunt Park. His organization, Veterans for Peace, wants to install the
60 pole on Mothers Day. Veterans of Peace is an organization that wants to bring awareness of
61 the costs of war to the general public and among their goals are working toward non-violent
62 conflict management.
63

64 The pole itself measures 8 feet tall by 4 x 4 inches in width. There is a plastic plaque on
65 each side that has “May Peace Prevail on Earth” engraved in four different languages, with a
66 Braille plaque below that. They would like the pole erected on Mothers day as American
67 Mother’s Day was originally an anti-war statement, and their group would like to reclaim
68 some of that in today’s turbulent society. They would like to put it in the N W Corner away
69 from the play fields.
70

71 Berauer – Talked you to the neighbors yet?

72 VanDeVort – No, I haven’t polled the neighborhood, but I could easily. I’ve lived there myself
73 for about 15 years.
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75 Satarino – Where would this be located again?

76 VanDeVort - Near Sunset and Spring Street. There is an area that is not used much for
77 play.
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79 Satarino - Are there others this will be patterned after? Can we take a look at one that is
80 already installed at another location?

81 VanDeVort – There is one at a park in Dexter, and another in Ypsilanti.
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83 Jeff Dehring - Spoke regarding the one we have at City Hall.
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85 Satarino – We’d have to look at the site – discuss whether it’s the best place to put that due
86 to maintenance, etc. I wonder if Jeff (Dehring) knows what it would take to install that? Any
87 guidelines that need to be followed?
88

89 Jeff Dehring – I think it’s just a matter of coordination. I view this as a ‘gift’ or a memorial
90 type application that parks has done in the past.
91

92 Satarino - How many peoples in your organization? Will there be a dedication ceremony
93 from the group?

94 VanDeVort – Locally, 3,500, the National, about 4000, and yes we would definitely be doing
95 a dedication ceremony.
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97 Riseng – I am a neighbor! And I can put myself 100 percent behind the idea. I think it’s a
98 great location and I don’t have that many concerns about it, except possibly maintenance.
99 Is your organization installing it? (YES) - I would be proud to have it in my neighborhood.
100

101 Woods – I think it is a wonderful idea, and I’m supportive of it, and, also I think it is totally
102 appropriate to have it done on Mother’s Day/Peace Day. My grandmother is a ‘gold star’
103 mother, and she told me years ago that Mother’s Day was originally about peace and
104 bringing the soldiers back home.

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Henderson – If PAC is comfortable with this, we can go ahead and coordinate and approve.

Satarino – What does PAC think about this? Want to vote today? (Seems to agree with everyone).

Cohen – (Asks Henderson) Is there some way we can notify the neighbors ahead of time?

Henderson – Absolutely!

Berla – Questions if we need to do anything else procedurally – rules?

Henderson – Jeff was right in saying it was much like a memorial request. We just wanted to bring it before PAC as it was just a bit different than someone leaving a dedicated ‘bench.’

“Motion by Berla to direct staff to go ahead and assist to get the Peace Pole installed –
Seconded by Berauer – Unanimous

HURON RIVER GREENWAY BORDER TO BORDER TRAIL SIGN

Amy Kuras gives presentation – Making signs in cooperation with the County and the Greenway group for a trail along the Huron River. The missing item is the ‘unified’ sign or design to show you’re on the trail.

The County has put together a sign that is simple but workable. It’s a bike hoop with a map of ‘where you are’ on the trail. We would like to do a map of the Huron River within the city border. We’ll be working with the County to develop about 10 of them that would start from the edge of the city and along the Huron River Trail and the Huron River Greenway. (Passes hardcopy information around).

Riseng – Will the signs show connections to the County parks beyond the Greeway?

Kuras – It’s the Huron River, so, it’s a small sign, but going beyond that, you won’t be able to see much detail. More outside of the city will have the same basic design.

Riseng – Possible for arrows or something to indicate ‘to something’... a county park?

Berla – Are there possibilities to change the signs as things are added, etc?

Kuras - Yes. Trying to let people know how to get places. It’s a good idea.

Satarino (Comments on the map design being passed around) Looks pretty good.

Kuras – It doesn’t give you an overall piece, and part of that is because the County itself is so big – so, we have a trail segment along with the river. We can change it as we go along.

Cohen – Does it have the city logo on it?

Kuras – Yes, along with the Counties (on the bottom). Each municipality will have their logo on top.

PARK MAINTENANCE TASK FORCE REPORT

156 Satarino – I helped with this a bit, but primarily Janae (Renault) and Catherine (Riseng) from
157 PAC. Thanks everyone for doing this, including city staff Henderson, Rhinehart, Bater, &
158 DeWolf. Very comprehensive report, a lot of work.

159
160 K.C. Bemish presented Overviews – Created last August. by Council resolution to review
161 current maintenance practices, benchmarking with other communities and investigating an
162 “adopt a park” program. Citizen survey was sent to 5000 random citizens (1000 from each
163 ward). We surveyed 30 communities for benchmarking – received 11 back.

164
165 Those were selected based on criteria to mirror our own, i.e., university town, population.
166 Mayor Hieftje provided an intern to investigate the process of starting and maintaining an
167 “Adopt a Park” program. Her report is in the park maintenance task force report.
168 Overall – public is satisfied. We need to monitor from now on though because of budget
169 cuts. Things the public doesn’t see are trimming trees, etc. The peer community survey
170 showed we rank among the highest for what we budget per capita. We were fourth in the
171 number of acres per capita.

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173 Macomber – How many communities were we compared to? (11)

174
175 We’re going to use NAP’s experience and coordinate volunteers. Karla applied for and
176 received a community service grant to do a brochure for our “Adopt-a-Park” roll out. We’re
177 going to start small, with a targeted number of parks and see where it goes from there.

178
179 The report was useful in the budget planning process. As a result of what we determined,
180 we’re increasing shelter fees because this is what the public thought, that park maintenance
181 fees to be passed along to the users. We’re also no longer going to make ball diamonds
182 with chalk. We’ll mow and groom the infield, but no marking. We’ll follow up with the
183 community and down the road would like to do another survey to see how we’re doing to do
184 some additional comparisons.

185
186 Berauer – When do you expect the Adopt-a-Park program to start, and how will you decide
187 which parks.

188
189 Henderson – NAP has a position approved in the budget for 05/06 – That person would be
190 responsible for not only NAP’s volunteers, but the Adopt-a-Park program. I had a meeting
191 this afternoon with some neighbors near Burns Park. Some neighbors are willing to clean,
192 etc. May 15th is downtown cleanup day, how about Ann Arbor Cleanup – clean the parks?

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194 Berla – I didn’t read anything about my soccer fields on this report. What can you say about
195 the fields and how to make them softer, etc.?

196 Bemish – Maintenance is not my area, so I can’t comment on that.

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198 Woods – Park ranger and security? ¼ of respondents had no opinion about whether they
199 were satisfied - I assume that means it’s ok? (Yes)

200
201 We have one ranger that is full time that will stay in the budget. I’m not sure if we’re going to
202 hire seasonal employees this year or not. Most communities rely on their police force to
203 provide that security. As far as “No Opinion” on the survey? People may not go to a park,
204 so they couldn’t comment on that, and it could be interpreted many different ways.

205

206 Woods - Any parks across the country that use the emergency boxes/buttons? If a person
207 had a problem, they could use that to alert authorities? We could easily find that. That could
208 be an option. Thank you, it's a lot of very good work.

209
210 Satarino – Farmers market came out as being used the most, then trails and paths, then
211 nature areas.

213
214 DONATION OF 506 BURSON PLACE

215
216 Gerry Clark's not here, but we can go ahead and vote. Many families in the area don't use
217 this place. Gerry Clark did a good job of setting forth the offer, the proposal. Should we vote
218 or drop?

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220 Karla – We received a formal request by the "Trust" that this be considered as a donation by
221 the city, so PAC should act on it. After that, I will forward PAC's recommendation to City
222 Council, then City Council can decide if they want to accept this as a gift or not.

223
224 Satarino – Would someone who has visited there please describe the site?

225
226 Berauer – It's just over 1/3 acre – 9 families own this. They use it for their kids to play on.
227 Not easy to access it. Just a square area with a couple of trees? There used to be a tennis
228 court on it which they removed some years ago.

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230 Satarino – People had asked if there were any other access points or right of ways leading
231 up to the property. There is just one connection to the street, and not easy to access.
232 MOTION – Moved / Read by Satarino, Seconded by Macomber. (Resolution read). Suggest
233 this be declined. Any comment?

234
235 Woods – I visited the site and spoke to a neighbor too. The use has changed. I asked
236 whether people come over from Hill Street? Yes, and all are welcome. Adopt a park
237 program could be an option – a parcel like this would be a candidate of the adopt-a-park
238 program if it met the guidelines, and wouldn't put a burden back on the City for maintenance.

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240 Satarino – Would PAC entertain a motion to table? No - Let's vote: All in favor of the
241 resolution to turn down park acceptance of this parcel, please say "Aye." Unanimous to pass
242 a resolution to deny recommendation for the parcel as a park.

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246 NAPs REPORT ON AAPS NEW HIGH SCHOOL SITE

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250 Berauer – Found a small mouth salamander that was on the endangered species. The DNR
251 has not put a 'stop work' order, but have 'informally' asked them to lay-off until an
252 investigation can be done and further identify this species. This site has been annexed by
253 the City, so, I'm wondering if the city take some kind of formal position there until there is a
254 response from the DNR?

255

256 Woods – Not sure how that would actually come to Council. I think as we look at the site
257 plan it's more of a 'courtesy' to the school system. They can do what they want to with it.
258 I'm not sure what our options are. It may be something that one of us of staff may look into.
259 If the State is saying that this needs to be addressed, then that will carry more weight than
260 anything from City Council, although for us as a community we can indicate that we have
261 concerns about that site.

262

263 Satarino – Interesting issue. Lot of emotion and info in the debate. This is basically beyond
264 our pale to respond to right now.

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CITY COUNCIL ITEM UPDATES

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269 Karla – Passed out updated Council updates list.

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271 Riseng – Who's on the Farmers Market sub-committee and what is their timeline?

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273 Woods – I'm on that committee as well as Council Member Johnson, Karla Henderson, and
274 Council Members Teall and Carlberg. We've had two meetings so far and hopefully another
275 one in the early part of May. There is no 'end date' on report of our findings. As a
276 committee we're not trying to re-invent the wheel, but to look at proposals that have come
277 forward so far and to talk about where we've heard citizen as well as vendor concern, and
278 what the possible outcomes of these concerns might be.

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REPORT FROM MANAGER OF PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

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283 Henderson – We're having the dedication to Olson Park this Saturday. Representatives
284 from the DEQ, DNR, the Mayor, the Drain Commissioner and someone grilling will be there.
285 I want to encourage everyone to come out. Thanks Jeff Dehring for his hard work on this
286 project.

287

288 As to the Farmer's Market/City Council sub-committee group? We've had two meetings and
289 from staff's perspective, it's been great to work with these four members. They ask a lot of
290 questions, and it's an educational experience to understand how the Market operates.
291 We've invited Council to come down at 5:30 in the morning on a Saturday in May and see
292 how we do stall assignments and get a feel for how that market actually operates. We just
293 received word that we've received a grant – the "Volunteer River, Stream and Creek Clean-
294 up" grant which we wrote in collaboration with the ecology clean up center.

295

296 Berauer – Can you update us on who will take over Terry's (Rynard) old position?

297

298 Henderson – Right now, Mike Bergren is the interim field operations manager. As a
299 consequence of Terry leaving, they've actually created two positions. Both have posted and
300 closed, and are being interviewed. One job will be the Manager and the other will be the
301 Assistant.

301

302 Satarino – Can you give us an update on the budget? Is that pretty much set now? The
303 impacts may not be as much as we thought they might be.

304

305 Henderson – Yes, included in your packet is a press release from the City Administrator that
306 talked about the 3.2 million dollar shortfall, and the money given from the DDA. Because of
the DDA, the cuts will not be as severe for the next two fiscal years.

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One of the things that was put back into the budget is that we're not reducing services at Bryant or Northside Community centers, among other issues.

Some things from the Parks and Recreation side which are not in the budget are the proposal to lease or loan out Mack pool to the Ann Arbor public schools. That is still in the discussion stages. We also have not recommended funding the Commission on Art in Public Places or Project Grow.

Kuras – We've been working on the chapters of the PROS plan, and we hope to get a full draft to PAC next month. We're working on problems with the Capitol Improvements schedule and millages, but we're getting close.

REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Berla – Everyone is happy we're lining the ball diamonds now instead of the City. We've always worked in collaboration with the City.

RAC unanimously passed a resolution strongly urging City Council and the School Board to find a way to keep Mack pool open. This is a great treasure for the community and there are some very important programs that happen there. It's very confusing about who is responsible for what as it dates back to the 70's and who pays for what. We're still discussing this.

Henderson – The issue of consolidation. Jayne was given the task of putting together a proposal to bring back to the school district to get some feedback on what the process would look like. Cultural Arts building, for example, is owned by the City, we pay the utilities and maintain it, but Rec and Ed generates all the programs and the revenues from it. The field maintenance is another example. We're still looking at many things for consolidation.

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Riseng – We had two presentations at our last meeting. One was the flood plain presentation by Gerry Hancock, then the people with the drinking water plant and their renovation plans - water supply issues. The other part of our discussion was to figure out how we can organize groups that can accomplish these tasks that will incorporate community involvement.

GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION

None - Bob Johnson - Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

Proposed Athletic Fields - We spoke about this at our PROS plan meeting. Anything you can give us updates about (asks Karla).

Henderson – Yes, Jayne and I are meeting with some of the townships staff and one of the township commissioners on April 28th to talk about the Airport site. We've had an appraisal done, and we're having a staff person look over this to see if we want to purchase or lease. We are moving forward with it, it's just not going as fast as we thought. We have a couple of groups interested in a public/private venture.

Proposed Dog Park – Satarino – I know we're going in that direction, but there are still a lot of unanswered questions. I thought that we need to continue to discuss this. It is an item of concern for quite a few people in the city, and I don't have a feel for when this is all going to happen. Do you have any idea what steps need to be taken (asks Karla).

Henderson – We met with the County and they presented their drawings. We need to meet with the Planning and Development staff to make sure that we're not violating any City ordinances, that we're in compliance with code and so forth. Parks maintenance has a list of duties that they're going over to decide who will be responsible for what kind of clean up.

Riseng – Where is the location and what is this park like?

Henderson - On Platt and Ellsworth. City owned property, part of the 'old' landfill site. It used to be a park, had ball diamonds.

Berauer- Any trees on this property?

Henderson – Not many.

Berauer – How big is it?

Henderson – Roughly 9 acres. We would like to phase in plan “B” which would include another 11 to 12 acres.

Rodgers - It's the old site known as “Swift Run”

Macomber – Really will be used quite a bit since it's the only one of its kind in Ann Arbor.

Henderson – There is also the Murph composting center there currently, and they would have to move first as well.

Macomber – Do you have a sense of what that time frame is? The reason I mention it is I've been to several dog parks with my dogs, and knowing this is the only dog park in the entire county? It will get really heavy use. Dog parks tend to degrade very rapidly when they get that kind of use.

Dehring – Talks about past history of that land. County wanted to put a parking lot there – Most trees planted there are Ash – The recycle and drop off center is where it's located, and the expansion part of the project is going to be based on how quickly they get their plans approved and how quickly the solid waste department can implement their relocation of that facility. Tentatively, it's two years, I believe.

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409 Macomber – how well drained is the site?

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411 Dehring – Don't know the specifics. Being an old landfill, it's probably capped properly, etc.,
412 but I do know that one reason that ball play was suspended there is because of the 'settling'
413 that may occur (from the landfill). I think part of the agreement with the private group looking
414 at operations there are planning to 'rest' particular parts at different times.

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416 Macomber – It sounds like a site that has pooling water, so it would probably degrade pretty
417 rapidly. Have an action plan for taking it out use?

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419 Berauer – Anticipated costs to prepare this parcel for a dog park?

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421 Dehring – Unknown. The county has basically taken the lead on the design and some of
422 those elements.

423

424 Cohen – What has the city actually done legally yet? I understand they looked at this earlier
425 on, and had many legal concerns about it. It would be a shame then to do all of this work
426 only to have the city attorney's raise concerns after the fact.

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428 Dehring – There's been a lot of change, and I think back then that the amount of dog parks
429 designated as such were few and far between. There are also a lot of success stories now
430 that are positive.

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DOWNTOWN GREENWAY

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436 Satarino - As you know we passed a resolution regarding this at our last PAC meeting.
437 Basically, all the properties in the three areas that the city owns – we've let them know that
438 we want to keep them as "publicly owned places." We would prefer they stay green and
439 open. Since then, there have been other public hearings, etc. I would like to know if all of
440 you think that PAC still has a continuing roll in all of this. I can see a continuing roll for PAC
441 in this, and there are specific things we want answers to. Let's do a roundtable and see
442 what each of you have to say.

443

444 Berauer – Wants PAC to be involved with the planning and feasibility and pathway. I'm
445 supportive of all of that. The public still has to give input on this. I'd like for us to set up
446 forums for public input.

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448 Riseng – I agree. We, as PAC would have a great opportunity to profile a public forum.
449 Want sub-group formed to find plans to envision the possibilities. Several fuzzy plans and
450 the solid DDA plan is what we're working on.

451

452 Rodgers – I want to state that I would have supported the resolution if I had been here last
453 weekend. It's important for PAC to maintain a 'presence' on this issue since it's so central
454 toward our mission.

455

456 Berla – General need for park and open space downtown. The greenway is an important
457 issue for us. Just getting the right of way to walk and/or ride your bike along would give us a
458 huge victory, and move in the right direction. Glad the community rallied to it.

459

460 Cohen – I agree with you, Tim. It would be helpful for PAC to do work on it's own to look at
461 central city open space. We need forums to be able to lay out our plans.

462

463 Renauld – It would be nice to have a progress report, but I don't know who would be able to do
464 it.

465

466 Macomber – I feel the same as others – but - this is going to be a vital family friendly place
467 to live and PAC needs to be involved with that. It would be nice to have a forum where all
468 the players can come to the table. I think this is an important piece at keeping Ann Arbor
469 from becoming a 'car city.'

470

471 Woods - Absolutely correct – Perhaps this commission is one of the places to have meetings
472 and input. This commission is the place to have forums about it. And I certainly think that
473 we need to use the pros plan.

474

475 Satarino – invited Kuras to comment.

476

477 Kuras – The issues have been polarized, but there needs to be an advisory or steering
478 committee or something.... and PAC probably needs a neutral moderator – an uninvolved
479 moderator.

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481 Satarino – We don't want to duplicate any work that has already been done, and we know
482 you're a part of the study group that has been working on this for some time. Is there some
483 starting point you would suggest in terms of specific information that would be useful?

484

485 Kuras – We became the clients of this student MBA group about the costs associated with
486 developing and maintaining parkland and have done a lot of the background legwork, and
487 their giving a presentation this Thursday. I sent out the information to you. They've done
488 the fact finding. In the group I'm with, Joe O'Neill hired a plane to fly the route and take
489 aerial photos there!

490

491 Riseng - These meetings take place during the day. That's a problem for us. Can we start
492 later at night?

493

494 Kuras – The one group starts at 3:30, and the larger group at 5:00, but we could make sure
495 that depending on how it's formatted, whatever makes more sense.

496

497 Riseng - Also want to comment on the "Polarization" issue with this. I think there are
498 polarizing forces out there, but many more that want to work together to come up with a
499 solution.

500

501 Kuras – Yes, it's been an attitude of Greenway, or parking structure... and I don't think that's
502 true.

503

504 Satarino – If it's possible to get a neutral moderator, how would that be funded?

505

506 Kuras – Thought we would ask the DDA to throw some money in to hire someone for this
507 job.

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509 Satarino – Not sure what the rules are about appointing people. Asks Wendy if the proposal
510 is coming yet from the DDA?

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Woods - No, but City Council is pretty much focused on the budget right now.

Berauer – I think a letter from you (Satarino) would be more official. Good idea.

Cohen – We need to discuss our issues on this and the study group - we haven't yet.

Satarino – Call a special working session?

Berla – Still confused about all the different issues – PROS plan – places we could talk about downtown parks. I'd like to do this independent from the greenway – With the open space downtown, that's our thing.

Riseng – I'd like to think of this group differently – Wants a representative from the DDA in this with the Study group as well as PAC.

Satarino – Organize a work session – Meeting will be definitely after 5 p.m.

Agreed upon after schedule discussion - Working Session – May 4th from 5 to 7 p.m.

REVISION OF PAC BY-LAWS

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Postponed until the May meeting.

Berauer - Passing out something for the packet - Outstanding Issues sheet she's made up. Also thinks we need clarification on easements – Consult with Attorney's office.

Satarino – We've had a lot of discussion about selling of parkland. I think we need to discuss whether the charter says you can't sell parkland? Maybe we can make a resolution that we can't sell parks and nature areas forever

Woods – It came up in the past, we can't tie the hands of future councils, because we don't know what could happen in the future. Charter amendments require voter initiatives - petitions. I share your sentiments, but I can't predict the future.

Berla – Possible we need to acquire property in whole, but only wanted to use part of it as a park?

“Motion to adjourn Moved by Satarino, Seconded by Berauer” - Unanimous
Meeting ended at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:
Brenda Acquaviva, Administrative Service Specialist IV