

1 **APPROVED MINUTES**

2
3 **PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION**

4
5 4:00 p.m. -- May 17, 2005
6
7

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

9
10 Place: Council Chamber, Second Floor, 100 North Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
11

12
13 **ROLL CALL**
14
15

16
17 Members Present: Berla, Berauer, Cohen, Macomber, Reneaud, Riseng, Rodgers,
18 Satarino (8)
19

20 Members Absent: DeLone (1)
21

22 Ex-Officio Members Present: Henderson, Johnson (2)
23

24 Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aeschbach, Woods (2)
25

26 Staff Present: Bemish, Borneman, Kuras, Dehring, Naud and Acquaviva
27

28 **PUBLIC COMMENTARY OF AGENDA ITEMS**

29 None.
30
31

32 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
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35
36 Approval of minutes – Moved by Reneaud, Seconded by Rogers **“To approve the minutes of**
37 **April 19, 2005 as presented.”** – Vote, Unanimous

38 **PRESENTATION ON 1:4 DIOXANE CONTAMINATION**
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40
41 Matt Naud of the City’s Environmental Office gave a presentation to PAC regarding the 1,4
42 Dioxane contamination plume that is affecting drinking water to some Ann Arbor citizens. Paul-
43 Gelman Sciences has been ordered to deal with monitoring the data associated with the plume
44 and to seek abatement solutions.
45

46 Two monitoring wells have been proposed near the western end of the city, and involve some
47 city parks. The Environmental Commission, the Department of Environmental Quality and the
48 City would like to create these wells in places that would have the least impact on citizens.
49
50

DRAFT OF PROS PLAN

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54 .
55 Amy Kuras gave her presentation on the Draft of the proposed “PROS” (*Parks and Recreation*
56 *Open Space*) plan. Ms. Kuras distributed a pre-draft of the plan which will eventually be
57 adopted as a part of the city’s Master Plan. This version will not be distributed for public
58 comment until after it is given to both the City Planning Commission and City Council.

59
60 This document is part of a state requirement which will also be given to the adjacent
61 municipalities, the Railroad, the University of Michigan, the Public Schools and the County of
62 Washtenaw. It will then be placed on the city web site for a 65 to 95 day period for public
63 comment. Ms. Kuras suggested that PAC then hold a public hearing regarding this subject at its
64 July meeting. The Planning Commission will hear it in September, followed by presentation to
65 City Council.

66
67 The format of the PROS plan has not changed, and this is an update of the former version. The
68 previous plan had a Huron River Greenway section which has been removed and a separate
69 chapter has been created which incorporates the non-motorized plan and maps which segment
70 and coordinate along the Huron River as well as discussion about other greenways being
71 discussed throughout the city. The new greenbelt millage is mentioned as well as the CIP
72 (*Capitol Improvement Plan*). The plan is now expanded over ten years instead of six in order to
73 accommodate potential changes in the format of the millages.

74
75 Other additions to the Plan include a telephone survey on customer satisfaction and the
76 Northeast Area Plan (NAP), a comprehensive needs assessment.

77
78 Berauer – Is the notification process required by the State a new procedure?
79 Kuras – Yes, this process has changed. This was not a prerequisite the last time we did this.
80 The biggest changes are the long waiting periods and notification to affected parties. It was
81 previously a courtesy, and is now a requirement.

ANN ARBOR PARKS DISTRICT - PRESENTATION BY BOB ELTON

82
83
84
85
86
87 Satarino – Introduces Bob Elton – Mr. Elton was formerly on PAC from 1988 to 1995 and was
88 also the Chair of the Commission for many years. In the late 80’s he helped a group put a Parks
89 Acquisition matter on the ballot. The initiative passed, but showed moreover that citizens were
90 concerned with parks.

91
92 Mr. Elton stressed that due to budget cuts that PAC was the city’s main hope for watching over
93 our parks. Mr. Elton gave a brief overview of how years of development, millages and bonds
94 have affected the growth of the city and its parks.

95
96 Mr. Elton believes that the city needs more millages for parks support and maintenance and
97 urged the commission to look into it.
98

99 Johnson – Disagrees with some of Mr. Elton’s descriptors of the parks. Believes that the idea
100 the “parks are in trouble” theory is wrong. Mentioned the recent phone survey that was done
101 which showed that our maintenance programs and support were quite good. Urged him to go to
102 other groups and present the message for the need for a regional parks system. The outlying
103 municipalities will have to be approached.
104

105 Berla – Asks if there is a legal distinction as to how you define the ‘regional’ area?

106 Elton – You can create it in any venue you like – county wide, school district, etc. Believes that
107 the city and the parks system should be separate entities, just as the library separated from the
108 school board.

109 Berauer – Asks of Johnson – Is the Regional Planning Committee the same as the Washtenaw
110 Metro Alliance?

111 Johnson – Yes, then clarifies the difference between the ‘guaranteed’ library millage as opposed
112 to the other types of millages.
113

114 PRESENTATION BY THE ANN ARBOR ROWING CLUB – MEGAN GIBB
115
116

117
118 Gibb – Rowing is one of the fastest growing sports in the world. More growth due to Title 9 and
119 additional funds for women’s athletics at the collegiate level. Our Mission - “To provide and
120 promote a safe, affordable and educationally rewarding rowing experience for residents of Ann
121 Arbor and the surrounding area.”
122

123 We’re a non-profit organization and are working with the IRS currently on our 501 C3 status due
124 to our name change. We offer a variety of rowing programs. Concerned with Bandemer Park
125 and Argo Pond and the potential removal of the Argo dam. Dam removal would eliminate rowing
126 at Argo Pond and displace them, U of M and the High School rowing clubs. Ms. Gibb urged the
127 public to visit their website at www.a2crew.com and informed the Commission of upcoming
128 events.
129

130 Berla – Asked about possible problems with interactions/sharing the area between rowers and
131 fisherman, etc.

132 Gibb – The coaches are supposed to be aware of other crafts and users on the water to share
133 the area.

134 Rodgers – Concerning the possible removal of the dam – one reason why that is being
135 discussed is that Argo Pond is ‘filling in.’ How deep is it now, and is that becoming a problem?

136 Gibb – There are invasive species in there now (milfoil weeds) that get in the way. The depth
137 has not been a problem, but there are other long-term issues with vegetation.

138 Johnson – Thanked Ms. Gibb for her presentation.

139 Riseng – Has your club thought about other areas you could use if the dam has to be removed?

140 Gibb - Barton Pond would be a suitable place for rowing. Gallup is too busy.
141

142 REVISION OF PAC BY-LAWS
143
144

145
146 Henderson – Article 4, Section 4 under “Membership” needs to be changed. To be consistent
147 with City Councils directive, it states that “Any Commission member who misses three

148 consecutive meetings without informing the Chair shall be considered to have resigned. The
149 Chair shall inform the Mayor so that someone can be removed and the vacancy filled.” We can
150 adopt this next month after the thirty-day consideration period.
151

152 Satarino – I have more questions regarding this as a whole, and I think we should we go through
153 the whole thing and see if there are other questions or concerns.
154 Berauer – Job title designations are changed for others due to the reorganization – Shouldn’t
155 they be changed for you (Karla) as well?
156 Henderson – Most Committee By-Laws say “Or his or her designee” after the Area Administrator
157 information – that is something we could add to be clear that this person is Jayne Miller or
158 whomever Jayne appoints. We can make those changes.
159 Satarino – Does this change the charter authority for PAC?
160 Henderson – We are making these changes to reflect how we currently operate. To my
161 knowledge, this section has not been changed. In addition, the By-Laws are written such that
162 they should be reviewed each September.
163

164 Satarino –
165 **Section 2** – It says membership committees will be solicited through the public media? I think
166 they mean “citizens” and not PAC members? (Henderson) Membership to be appointed to the
167 Commission – we can do this by solicitation of applicants by advertising on the City web site or
168 the newspaper. Applications are taken by the Mayor’s office.
169

170 **Article 3** – Purposes and objectives. Shouldn’t this include the Mayor too?
171 Types of categories that we comment on. Some of these don’t even have much involvement any
172 longer. Any comments? (None).
173

174 **Article 4** – Riseng – the second reference to “meeting” should be plural... Absences is spelled
175 incorrectly. “Inform the Mayor?” Can we put a time designation on that as to how long it should
176 take for him to appoint a new person or get back to us with this information? Parks & Recreation
177 Director will meet within? (Possible language regarding replacement of members). (Berla) –
178 Section 4 goes against the quorum for membership. The statement given by the Parliamentarian
179 at our training session said that if there are un-appointed members, the number for the quorum
180 goes down. Section 4 goes against that. Do we want to change that? (Henderson) – Section 7
181 says “Roberts Rules” shall govern, so..... (Berla) But, it can cause a point of contention.
182 (Satarino) – By-Laws supercede Roberts Rules.
183

184 Berla – Does the “Asst. Superintendent for Community Services Position” (In Rec. & Ed.) even
185 exist? Sara Aeisbach was coming to the meetings, but I don’t know if that is her?
186

187 **Article 5** – Rodgers – Section 5, there is no mention of what happens if the Vice-Chair resigns.
188 Should there be a provision for that? (Satarino) Could be handled the same way as for
189 replacement of the Chair?
190

191 **Section 6** – Satarino – Leslie Science representative – The representative will serve as the
192 Parks liaison, etc. - Wondering if we could have a quarterly report from them?
193

194 Satarino – Wording regarding the meeting locations is rather redundant. No time and control
195 over meetings. It would be nice to do remote location meetings.
196 Berauer – We do have control over time and location-depends on the availability of the location?

197 Berauer – **Section 7** - Order of the meeting? Stick to what we've been doing? Or, change it.
198 Presently we do the **Call to Order, Roll Call, Public Commentary** and then **Approval of the**
199 **Minutes** prior to the special presentations. We should leave it this way.

200
201 Berla – We have Leslie Park that has a committee or sub-committee?

202
203 Henderson – A former millage attempt failed as did the resources to build the Leslie Science
204 center... so a Task Force was put together... Intent was to have a strong relationship with PAC.
205 I would like to talk to Kiersten Levenson and some members of the advisory committee, maybe
206 it's something stipulated in their task force.

207
208 Satarino - **Section 1, Article 9** requires we submit these changes at one meeting, then vote later
209 at another meeting (30 day consideration period).

210
211 Rodgers – Does this also get approved by City Council or do we have complete freedom to
212 change these? So, we can change the membership, we can do anything we want?

213
214 Satarino – That's the way it's written. We will want to vote on this by no later than August.

215
216 Johnson – Technically, City Council has to approve it, but the revisions to these should be a G
217 Item that will be mentioned in/with the City Council packet.

218
219
220
221 REPORT ON ALLEN CREEK GREENWAY TASKFORCE*
222

223
224
225 Berauer – Special meeting on the greenway. Big turnout – Tossed around ideas. The current
226 PAC subcommittee did a written proposal. City Council is having a hearing on the 3 site DDA
227 plan at their June 13th Special Meeting.

228
229 Council Member Johnson suggested that PAC might be given 10 or 15 minutes to speak at that
230 public hearing.

231
232 Rising – We have considerable back-up data for a presentation to City Council for the four
233 statements in our report that we would like to present to you. Part One – The outline - we would
234 like some feedback from PAC. Part two is the PAC Greenway Task Force Goals – 7 basic
235 goals. Part three – who could be potential members of this Task Force.

236
237 Satarino – I think more info is going to be coming out about the June meeting. The
238 understanding is that the City would have ONE group to be the Greenway Task Force. They'll
239 be given a certain period of time to get their report back to City Council. I think that we should
240 stay away from calling it ours a 'Task Force' – I agree with adding experts and citizens from Ann
241 Arbor for this sub-committee.

242
243 Riseng – Change the name to "SPECIAL COMMITTEE" as this will gel with the by-laws too.
244

245 Satarino – Some people who are not supportive of Parks are throwing out negative information.
246 It would be good to have responses ready for them.
247

248 Berla – Would it make more sense for this committee *not* to be associated with PAC?
249 Macomber – Intention behind discussion and formation of this committee is to show that the
250 Greenway is alive and well. Parks and PROS plan might affect these. Draw on expertise from
251 some others from the community to advise on issues concerning the plan.
252

253 Berla – Having a group that represents PAC become an advocate on one side of a set of issues
254 concerns me. Would it make more sense for the sub-committee not to be associated with PAC?
255

256 Satarino – PAC will play a very important roll with the Mayor’s Task Force. We need to think
257 about who’s going to develop the trails and who’s going to maintain those and the park, etc.
258

259 Berauer – Are you suggesting another goal be added regarding economics of the greenway?
260

261 Satarino – One thing you can’t count on is Staff support. It will all be inspired by your work and
262 your efforts.
263

264 Berauer – Amy Kuras has put in some time with this issue with another group.
265

266 Henderson - She’s no longer with that group, but a lot of their work will be used to build on.
267

268 Johnson – Guard against excessive duplication in your presentation or it will be less useful
269 unless you can respond in particular. Maintenance issues, using millage money, etc. Some of
270 the other presenters are the DDA and Friends of the Greenway.
271

272 Satarino – Comprehensive presentation on June 13th first, then-the public hearing.
273

274 Riseng – We talked about not duplicating information in our meetings – not the “physical”
275 greenway but that we would be looking at it from the PROS point of view.
276

277 Berauer – I’d like to know about other peoples’ reaction to our list of goals... What people think?
278 (States goals).
279

280 Reneaud – I just received this today, I’d like to take a little time to look it over and email
281 comments to Linda (Berauer).
282

283 (Discussion follows regarding the Mayors’ proposed Greenway Taskforce and PAC proposed
284 Greenway Special Committee).
285

286 Berla – I’m not seeing why this is something that PAC should be doing – this additional effort. It
287 seems as though these are the very things that will be talked about within the other ‘Task Force’
288 There are just too many groups out there, and I don’t feel like this is something I’m in support of.
289 It’s going far afield of what I think our mission is.
290

291 Reneaud – How is this different than the Mayor’s “Task Force?” I’m not sure what they intend to
292 do and what is being proposed here.
293

294 Johnson – The Mayor’s Task Force hasn’t been formed yet. One can surmise there will be a lot
295 of ‘overlap,’ because you want the same kind of expertise.

296
297
298 Satarino – There are two ways to go with our Special Committee... expand your scope to include
299 others who may have a different opinion of the Greenway. You’d be better off just asking the
300 questions of the other committees. We’ve established that the report that Linda has done in
301 conjunction with the other PAC members is an excellent report and has a lot of information in it
302 that should go to City Council and you can do a lot with your current sub-committee. The other
303 consideration will be adding people from the general citizenship to add another voice. We can
304 vote on this if necessary and make it official.

305
306 Rodgers – I’d like to propose that we add a few interested citizens to our current PAC sub-
307 committee group and that they be appointed by PAC.

308
309 Johnson – So your committee will still exist, but you want to add people from the outside? That
310 seems like a terrific idea. I was a bit put off by the possibility of an 11 person task force.

311
312 Berla – I would feel better about this if you gave us a date to come back with a report which
313 outlined 3 to 5 different ways the Greenway might develop. Some way to organize the concepts
314 and the choices that need to be made.

315
316 Satarino – Martin Schwartz gave a presentation about 3 years ago. He and some of his affiliates
317 had drawings of water features and different ideas.

318
319 Show of hands in support if you would agree to nominate 2 to 3 additional people to our current
320 the sub-committee (to be known as the Special Committee) that would help them broaden their
321 information?

322
323 All in favor? - Unanimous

324
325 Riseng – It’s a bit more urgent in that we need to formulate what we’re going to present to City
326 Council so we may not have time to address this right now, but comments to us in the interim
327 would be great. We’d like this feedback by June 7th which is our next working session.

329
330 REPORT ON NAPS INVOLVEMENT WITH AAPS

331
332
333 NAPS report on AAPS – Presented by Dave Borneman – Last fall, NAP (*Natural Area*
334 *Preservation*) was asked by the schools to help them review the location of their mitigation pond
335 for the frog pond which was going to be destroyed due to their construction on the new high
336 school. We recommended to them due to the wealth of the reptiles and amphibians there that
337 we should do a rescue of those. The schools agreed, and we made arrangements with the zoo
338 to house those animals and retained the proper permits from the DNR.

339
340 In February of this year they installed a silt fence to help funnel the animals and catch them.
341 That was a successful plan, and over the course of about 4 weeks, NAP staff and volunteers
342 collected approximately 830 wood frogs, 703 spring peepers, 45 ~~coarse~~-chorus frogs, 45

343 American toads, 8 small mouthed salamanders, 82 spotted salamanders, 88 red spotted newts,
344 135 eastern garter snakes and a variety of other 'herbst' herps' including blue racer snakes and
345 gray tree frogs. The 8 small mouth salamanders are a state endangered species. Due to that,
346 some of the neighbors filed a lawsuit to stop the school construction, and a judge ruled against
347 that. We're pleased that the schools allowed this rescue and thank the many dozens of
348 volunteers who made this effort a success.

349
350 Riseng - (concerns) – Who is going to determine when it would be a good time to return the
351 salamanders to the mitigation pond? One of the things that I liked about the initial mitigation plan
352 is that they used plants and soil materials from the existing wetland. Now I understand that
353 they're not?

354
355 Borneman – Not sure what our roll is going to be in this, but I think that part of your concern is
356 that putting salamanders into a pond that is still pretty murky and getting established may not be
357 a good habitat. The thought is to get the pond established first, and to move the salamanders
358 and other animals in later, then move the plant materials in after that.

359
360 The Commission thanked him and the volunteers for all their work.

361

362

363

364

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS UPDATE

365

366 Henderson - Budget approved – Restore Mack Pool, added \$33,000.00 (now fully funded) for
367 pay for more seasonal staff time. Restore funding on Commission on Art in Public Places and
368 Project Grow (\$7,000.00). Discussion on how we were going to handle the seasonals
369 employees. Directions were to operate on status quo. There was some discussion on reducing
370 the seasonal employees to 10 month employment.

371

372 Borneman – They've amended Chapter 44 – (Vegetation Ordinance) You can plant what you
373 want in your yards as long as it's not a vision obstruction/problem.

374

375 Henderson – City Council has authorized an additional full time employee for the Leslie Science
376 Center. The Advisory Commission is going to help with the cost of the position by raising some
377 of their funds to cover that.

378

379 Dehring – City Council – The contract with Margolis Nursery for Meadowbrook was awarded,
380 Amy Kuras is overseeing that – a contract with Construction Solutions was also approved.
381 Tennis Courts at Buhr Park, approved.

382

383 Greenbriar and Glacier Highlands - Pollack Design and Associates will assist on infrastructure
384 improvements of Buhr Park.

385

386

387

PARK REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT MILLAGE PROJECT UPDATE

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389

390

391 Gallup Park trail (East of Dixboro road and influenced because of the road that they're
392 constructing) Dixboro road construction affects it. It will remain closed for a couple more months
393 due to questions about public safety.
394

395 REPORT FROM MANAGER OF PARKS AND RECREATION
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397

398
399 Henderson – We opened Argo Canoe Livery with its new pavilion and new structure. If you
400 haven't had an opportunity to go out there, please do. Would like to acknowledge three staff
401 members; Kiersten ~~Levensten~~Levinsohn, Dan McGuire and Cheryl Saam who are at about 120
402 percent of their revenue.
403

404 REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
405

406 None.
407
408

409 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
410

411 None.
412
413

414 REPORT FROM THE GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION
415
416

417
418 Johnson – We received \$900,000.00 in Federal "Matching" funds to purchase farmland around
419 the city. We also are cooperating with Ann Arbor Township to buy a fourth property. They also
420 received matching funds from the Federal Farm Program as did the Washtenaw Land Trust.
421

422 PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL
423

424 None.
425
426

427 COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS
428

429
430 Satarino – Would like to get an evening replay for PAC scheduled with CTN. Both current
431 broadcasts are in the early morning and early afternoon.
432

433 Informational - D.E.Q. will hold a public hearing on a petition to build a road on parcels in what is
434 called the "Narrow Gage Way" property in Ann Arbor Township. The hearing will take place at
435 the Ann Arbor Township Hall on June 14th at 7:00 p.m.
436

437 Satarino – Regret losing the Animal Control Officer (Cheryl Christopher). Wish there had been
438 more creativity put into locating more money to fund that position – stiffer penalties, etc.

439
440 **“Moved by Berla, Seconded by Berauer to Adjourn the Meeting.”** Meeting Ended at 6:47
441 p.m. – Minutes Submitted by:
442 Brenda Acquaviva, Administrative Service Specialist IV