

1 **APPROVED**

2
3 **CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION**
4 **MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005**

5
6
7 **A - CALL TO ORDER**

8
9 Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by J. Satarino (Chair)

10
11 **B - ROLL CALL**

12
13 Commissioners Present: Berla, Berauer, Reneaud, Macomber, Satarino, Offen, Riseng,
14 Rodgers (8)

15
16 Commissioners Absent: Cohen (1)

17
18 Ex-Officio Members Present: Woods and Johnson (2)

19
20 Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aeschbach (1)

21
22 Staff Present: Henderson, Bemish, Kuras, Borneman, Clark and Acquaviva

23
24 **C - SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

25
26 None.

27
28 **D - PUBLIC COMMENTARY OF AGENDA ITEMS**

- 29
30 1. Douglas Song, 1290 Bardstown Trail, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 – Representing “Skaters
31 for an Ann Arbor Skate Park.” Advocating for a public park devoted to skaters and
32 boarders. We are a coalition of parents, skateboarders, teachers and business
33 community leaders dedicated to a public skate park in Ann Arbor. Our new website is:
34 www.a2skatepark.org. About 4 percent of the U.S. population is involved in skating
35 and skateboarding.

36
37 Macomber – I thought we did have a skate park? (Song) – The pre-fabricated obstacles in
38 Buhr Park are what are currently offered in the way of a skate park. The biggest problem
39 there is that pre-fabricated ramps offer very little in the way of ‘skate-able’ surface area, and
40 pre-fab articles tend to fracture more since they are portable and moved very often. There is
41 also a cover charge to participate.

42
43 Johnson – Do you have any pictures of the other skate parks in Michigan? Are they on your
44 web page?

45 (Song) - Yes, we do have pictures, and there are some links to those on the web site.

46
47 Berla – So, you’re advocating a permanent park with poured concrete obstacles? Are you
48 advocating a ‘free’ park?

49 (Song) – Yes. The park would still need maintenance, but less than that of the aluminum or
50 plastic portable ramps. Most of the other parks are ‘use at your own risk’ and don’t cost
51 anything to participate in.

52
53 Berla – That is obviously an issue, as the money coming in could be used to defray the
54 maintenance costs.

55 (Song) – One of the other options is that other skate parks have a “Skate Park Steward”
56 program - local participants like myself who would maintain the park.

57
58 *Chair Satarino states that if there are no objections, that PAC will go to closed session after
59 this regular session for acquisition matters.

60

61

62 **E - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

63

64 **“Moved by Renault, Seconded by Offen that the minutes of the, May 17, 2005 Regular**
65 **Session be approved with changes.”**

66

67 Vote - Unanimous

68

69 Changes: Line 194

70

71 **G - NEW BUSINESS**

72

73 **Update on Farmer’s Market – (Agenda Item #5)**

74

75 Berauer – Maybe Bob or Wendy have gotten wind of some ‘changes’ in the Market Rules?
76 Can either one of you lend some clarity to this?

77

78 Johnson – We’re having what we hope is the final meeting on Thursday - of our sub-
79 committee that includes Council Members and others. We’ll have something that we want to
80 bring to Council for a vote, and that has to do with the physical facility itself. The “Rules” are
81 the purview of the Market Commission. There is a lot of discussion going on, but Karla may
82 be a better person to ask.

83

84 Henderson – I spoke to the Market Manager (Jessica Black) this morning, and there are a lot
85 of different proposals that are being floated around by Commission Members, citizens, some
86 of the vendors, but the Market Commission has not moved forward with those
87 recommendations. Some examples - some of the Commissioners thought they should allow
88 only two stalls maximum per vendor, and that caused a big uproar. There are a lot of rumors
89 floating around. There was also some question on a “Combined Daily Vendor List” where
90 they took the Artisans and folded them into the daily list instead of separate seniority. My
91 understanding is that this issue was voted on and they will continue with the Combined Daily
92 List for another year, and then reassess it.

93

94 Riseng – It’s my understanding that this is what people are really concerned about. I
95 probably don’t have all the facts, but I’ve been getting various emails and I think there is
96 concern that there was this trial list that was put into effect and has been extended again,

97 and it puts the true producers at somewhat of a disadvantage. I have some concerns about
98 that as it should be a Farmer's Market.

99
100 Johnson –There is a counter argument. The arrangement is that there are Annual people,
101 they have a stall, it's a permanent stall, and it's theirs for the year. There are two other
102 groups; Artisans and Daily Vendors. The argument is with the Artisans and the Daily
103 vendors. In the past, the Artisans were in a third class – the Daily Vendors got first choice
104 and whatever was left, the Artisans got. The present situation puts Artisans and Daily
105 Vendors in the same seniority pool. If there is an Artisan who has been coming for five years,
106 they get preference over a vendor who is just starting this year. It's clear that there is
107 something to be said for both sides. My personal viewpoint is that a Combined Seniority list
108 is probably fairer. Some of the Artisans have been coming for ten years, and it's disturbing
109 that they can be bumped from a stall by a vendor even if it's a farmer who has just started.

110
111 Offen – Except it's a Farmer's Market on Wednesday and Saturday. Isn't there an Artisan's
112 Market on Sunday? That's available to all the artisans. I've heard what you said was the
113 counter argument, but frankly I don't see any justification for it. Just because they've been
114 coming for a long time doesn't mean that they should be in front of a farmer.

115
116 Henderson – I just want to clarify that there is a moratorium on any new artisans, so the
117 artisans that are there as Council Member Johnson mentioned – some of them have been
118 coming for twenty to thirty years, and they are on this Daily List waiting for an annual stall
119 because the way the Market Rules are set up is that only eight percent of the 144 permanent
120 stalls can go to an Artisan – so we know that there are only 12 possible stalls that can go to
121 an artisan on a permanent basis. A lot of these individuals come year round. The daily list
122 allowed a farmer to come in just for the summer or when the Market is busy to pick a stall
123 ahead of an Artisan who is there even throughout the winter? We didn't feel this was fair
124 when we're not accepting any new Artisans anyway.

125
126 Offen – Is this something that is really up to us or is this a Market decision? (Henderson –
127 Yes, it's a Market decision).

128
129 Riseng – I appreciate the counter argument, but I think that both groups of people can be
130 counted on for their sales. Some of the people who we're calling 'farmers' are not
131 necessarily producers.... Making baked goods, etc.

132
133 Henderson – I know which document you're talking about, about breaking down the
134 "classifications" even more, but I think the Market and City Council are going to have to deal
135 with the Market Rules as you have some producers that are Farmers that also package and
136 sell baked goods... so, what category do you fall in? The Market Manager only has an hour
137 to assign the stalls – what category do you fall into today? The products and the issues
138 change as the season changes, so that will have to be addressed.

139
140 Satarino – The Market Commission is going to have a retreat with a facilitator to work out
141 some of these issues on August 18, 2005 in lieu of their regular meeting.

142
143 Johnson – I think that if we had 180 stalls instead of 144 stalls, a lot of these arguments
144 wouldn't exist. No matter what particular design is chosen for the Farmer's Market in the
145 years to come, there will be more stalls.

146 **F - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

147
148 **PROS Plan Update – (Agenda Item #6)**

149
150 Kuras – The document is out there for comment and those are not going to be back until the
151 end of August. After that, the Steering Committee can get together and take a look at it,
152 incorporate comments and edit it. Still waiting. Status quo.

153
154 Berauer – Will the revised plan go to the same bodies that the original plan went to? (Kuras
155 – Yes, PAC and the Planning Commission).

156
157 Kuras – There was an article in the Ann Arbor News last week soliciting the public for
158 comments, but we haven't heard anything.

159
160 Berauer – We met on July 15th and I have everyone's comments. I'll be compiling them and
161 sending them to you. (Kuras – Thank you!).

162
163 **Dog Park Update – (Agenda Item #7)**

164
165 Henderson – The City received a letter from the MDEQ acknowledging the meeting that we
166 had on the site. It outlined the steps that we need to take for them to approve the plan. Jeff
167 (Dehring) is assigned to this, but when we get the new Parks and Recreation Manager, this
168 will be on his/her agenda to handle.

169
170 Macomber – Was there anything in the letter that was a surprise or extra expense?
171 (Henderson – No, just reiterated that we need to do the site testing, fencing, etc.)
172 Is there any timeline? (Henderson – 2006 – depends on the permit with MDEQ – they want
173 more detail).

174
175 Satarino – Is this a good site or not? I'm hoping that it will work, but I don't think we initially
176 thought we would have this many obstacles. Scattered site idea more what we want? Can
177 we get the report that was done in 1998 for the next meeting? (Henderson – Yes).

178
179 **Update from PAC/Greenway Sub-Committee – (Agenda Item #8)**

180
181 Berauer – I missed the June 27th Town Hall meeting. Did PAC report on that?

182
183 Satarino – Catherine was at the meeting.

184
185 Riseng – It was really more of the same. It was a different format, and people had
186 opportunity to get up to state an opinion/question. Basically the same issues and opinions,
187 maybe more in depth.

188
189 Berauer – I wasn't at the last meeting, but at the meeting prior to that we had talked about
190 expanding our current committee of three to include 3 or 4 external members. Our By-Laws
191 are very clear about that, but an issue was raised about those being incorrect. Karla sent out
192 information from some ordinance, but it wasn't resolved. What is the status of that?

193
194 Henderson – Abby Elias has been assigned the By-laws problem and she's still working on it.

195

196 Berauer – Can we get that information by the next meeting? (August). We need to appoint
197 these people and move forward with this. (Henderson – Yes).

198 There has been a lot of discussion about Council Member Easthope's two-site plan, and I
199 understand this is going to Council on August 1st. Since we've already passed a resolution
200 on what we think should happen to these sites, should we discuss another resolution
201 specifically regarding the First and William site, offering support to Council Member
202 Easthope's plan since it does not support a DDA parking structure there?

203

204 Kuras – There is a series of lectures that the City is sponsoring that are part of Calthorpe's
205 obligations – they're community oriented.

206

207 Berauer – Regarding the By-Laws, I would be very interested in what the City Attorney has to
208 say, as I think it is very strange that the by-laws were approved by City Council and now
209 they're saying that we can't use them. I'd like to go on record saying that I find that very
210 strange.

211

212 Satarino – Well, there are some questions that still need to be answered and I'm sure we'll
213 get them for our next meeting. In terms of the Greenway discussion, Council is going to be
214 doing a studious and patient study of that whole issue, and I personally don't think that we
215 should 'muddy' the waters anymore. Their issue with the two-site is clearly cut. I would
216 caution that we don't load that on either side at this point.

217

218 Berauer – The decision that Council is facing has nothing to do with "Parks;" they're going to
219 be deciding whether to approve this new 'two-site' plan or the DDA's three site proposal. I
220 would like to get the idea back to Council of First and William as a City park. That is very
221 separate from the other two. Future development downtown and the greenway are going to
222 be linked. I don't think it's wise to separate those two issues out.

223

224 Riseng – I am supportive of Linda's (Berauer) suggestion that we write a letter or craft a
225 resolution letting Council know how we feel, that we would like to see a park at that location.
226 That site is one of the few that offers opportunities to actually do something for the flood plain
227 and the water quality in Allen Creek.

228

229 Offen – Rather than pull that out as a separate issue, the appropriate place to put that would
230 be the PROS plan, as well as the items for the central area. This is something we would like
231 to see considered in the future, and the timing is right.

232

233 Berauer – The PROS plan has a whole section on the Allen Creek Greenway. The current
234 PROS plan is strong on that, but it's not 'specific.' I'm talking specifically about one site in the
235 Greenway.

236

237 Johnson – I understand your wanting to be an advocate on this, this is an important issue, but
238 this body did write a resolution a short time ago, and it mentions the First and William
239 property. It seems it's already been done and I'm not sure why you'd want to do it again?

240

241 Berauer – The difference could be that we could stipulate a time? When the surface lot is no
242 longer needed for overflow parking when the construction is done at the other two sites? We
243 didn't get a lot of response from Council on the first resolution.

244

245 Offen – I glanced through the PROS plan, and you’re right, the Greenway information is not
246 specific, and I think that as the authors of the document we can change the text to become
247 more specific and cite this information. If it’s included in the plan, then it is up to City Council
248 to acknowledge this by passing it our not passing it.

249
250 Berauer – That’s an interesting strategy.

251
252 Woods – To respond to your statement that you had written a resolution and hadn’t received
253 a response from City Council? I’m not sure what you meant. Certainly each and every
254 Council Member read it and understands it and Council doesn’t necessarily make
255 communications back to the Commissions – we have some commissions that send us
256 information, and never expect to hear from us, but we are certainly aware of your thinking
257 about this. You may want to consider if there is a public hearing whether you may want to
258 speak to that as an individual or a group. I just want to reassure you that indeed we do hear
259 and understand.

260
261 Reneaud – I agree with Sam (Offen) that we need to put it into the PROS plan

262
263 Berla – My highest priority in this area is to have more greenspace downtown, which I feel is
264 a critical need, whether it’s at this spot or not. I’m very concerned – for us to make a specific
265 recommendation to put greenspace in a property that’s ‘paved’ – I’m not sure how expensive
266 that’s going to be and whether that will be an obstacle. From my perspective I think it’s too
267 early in the process to say “this” is where we want to have our greenspace that is needed
268 downtown. Having another “Liberty Plaza” doesn’t seem very useful – I’m talking about park
269 area where there’s grass and kids can run around on it, and I’m concerned that it’s not going
270 to be the right spot to do that. Although it’s on the greenway that we want to create, I feel
271 that it’s premature.

272
273 Macomber – I’ve heard both sides, and I’m not convinced one way or the other. It might be
274 helpful for the people who are interested in making the resolution to compose it and bring it to
275 our next meeting. It would be easier for me to make a decision if I saw language laid out.

276
277 Rodgers – I think we should pursue both. I think we should have another resolution and it
278 should be included in the PROS plan.

279
280 Berauer – I want to respond to Tim. We had decided within the sub-committee that the
281 location was important for various reasons – It’s in the narrowest part of the floodplain,
282 environmental water quality, safety in terms of flood mitigation, a whole host of reasons and
283 not just location.

284
285 Berla – I’d like to see a list of potential properties that would be appropriate as downtown
286 greenspace, including that one. Some discussion about which are better, and for what
287 reasons.

288
289 Berauer – I thought we had gotten beyond that point because we had listed the parcels
290 owned by the City that were potentially not as attractive to development because they’re in
291 the floodway/floodplain and our resolution was about those three. As to the cost of removing
292 concrete downtown, that cost will be associated with every parcel downtown.

293

294 Satarino – I think we'll leave it at including it as a part of the PROS plan with PAC approval.
295 The other issue regarding the resolution should be addressed with your sub-committee.
296 Maybe we should wait a bit and let Council take the lead on this.

297
298 **Update on Park Security – (Agenda Item #9)**
299

300 Henderson – In response to several emails and communications from the public on various
301 issues at the park, we have now adjusted the hours for the Park Ranger. His hours were
302 formerly 6 to 2, Monday through Friday, those are now 2 to 10, Tuesday through Saturday.
303 The green cards that were passed out to you are the same as those given to the Park ranger,
304 and we're sending him out to parks that we know we've received complaints on for off-leash
305 dogs and we hope to educate the residents on what the rules are. That seems to be the
306 number one complaint. That is a short-term solution. We're looking at long-term changes as
307 well.

308
309 Macomber – Dogs running off-leash only emphasizes the need for a dog park, and I know
310 many people here support it, but I hear there are possible problems coming up with this park
311 that many people have been waiting for for years – Swift Run. We must continue to work on
312 a viable dog park system here, and that underscores that need.

313
314 Riseng – I wasn't here the last meeting, and there was a statement in the minutes that I
315 disagree with so I wanted to have the alternate point of view in these minutes, which is –
316 You're (Satarino) very upset with people who pile rocks up in the parks, and that you find that
317 detracting of the natural beauty of the areas. I feel the opposite. I find them to be an
318 expression with people's environment and their art. I think it's one of the most primitive art
319 forms that humans have ever had. Everywhere I go in the world, there they are, both an
320 expression of communication and artwork. I respect your point of view as well, but just
321 wanted that on the record.

322
323 Berla – Park security - Is there anything going on in particular at these parks? Bigger issues?
324 Which parks in particular? What level are our problems at? How many are nuisances as
325 opposed to real danger? If what we're talking about is off leash dogs and rocks, and I'm not
326 belittling that, I just wonder if there's something that we're missing?

327
328 Henderson – Difficult to answer, as the email I received from the father of the boy who was
329 bitten by an off leash dog indicates this is a huge priority. The firecrackers at Leslie Park,
330 that's a huge issue.

331
332 Berla – Is there some sort of report that is compiled over a period of time?

333
334 Henderson – Depends on the incident – the police might track that.

335
336 Offen – Do the park rangers report incidents?

337
338 Henderson – If the police are called in, yes, but not every incident.

339
340 Macomber – I understand in the past and in some parks still that drug dealing has been a
341 problem? Is that totally out of the purview of a park ranger or?
342 What role does parks have in that sort of problem?

343 Henderson – That would be handled by the police department.
344
345 Macomber – Drug dealing? Off leash dogs? Who deals with what?
346
347 Henderson – The park ranger is not a law enforcement officer, he's not 'sworn in', but he is to
348 enforce the park rules. We wouldn't expect a park ranger to respond to an illegal drug
349 complaint, but if there is illegal parking, that is something a park ranger can address.
350
351 Satarino – Wouldn't expect a ranger to handle that problem. Are you saying that drugs are a
352 bigger problem than the dogs off leash?
353
354 Macomber – As a member of PAC, I would like to know if there is a drug dealing problem in
355 the parks, or any other kind of illegal activity going on that may not fall under park rules. Is
356 there any way for us to know about that?
357
358 Woods – If you have a concern about any particular park, you can probably get in touch with
359 Chief Oates. He has a number of officers that could give you a general idea. The police
360 department is very open for obtaining that information. As a committee, we might think about
361 having an officer come to speak and give us overall information about problems within the
362 parks.
363
364 Rodgers – Can the park ranger issue fines for the off-leash dogs? (Henderson) It is my
365 understanding that they can.
366 Do we know how many they've done? (Henderson) No, I don't know off hand.
367 Anytime at all within the last year? (Henderson) I can't answer that.
368 If a citizen is attacked by a dog or sees a dog, who do they contact? (Henderson) The police -
369 Community Standards can go out and issue tickets, and I know that that has been done.
370
371 Offen – What is the fiscal year for the City? (Henderson) July 1st to June 30th.
372 We need a report that is a year long about incidents that have required some sort of a ticket
373 or enforcement by the police or park ranger. I don't know that there's anything that's going
374 on, but we need the data to determine that.
375
376 Woods – I think that's a great idea, and if Karla could ask Chief Oates to do that? (Ok).
377 Berla – Would it be better for someone to come here and give us a report? Or both?
378
379 Johnson – I think that's a terrific idea, Sam. I think we should do that. In response to Tim,
380 we should take a look at the data and decide whether or not we should bring someone in - we
381 should be thoughtful about using staff time.
382
383 Rodgers – I'd like to support that, as safety is an important issue.
384
385 Satarino – At the last meeting, I asked if people would do an 'informal' survey – walk through
386 park areas and take notes of how many dogs off leash, etc., but it may have been a bad time
387 as it was the fourth of July weekend, and there weren't as many people in the parks. I don't
388 know what anyone else's experience was. Sam, did you get a chance to go out?
389
390 Offen – Yes, my wife and I walked in a number of parks. Burt Hills - we came across one
391 person with a dog not on a leash, and when we informed that person that the dog should be

392 on a leash their answer was “Don’t worry, it’s friendly.” They had a leash in their hand, but
393 the dog was not on the leash. We walked at County Farm park (not a city park) and we
394 encountered two people with dogs without leashes, in fact one twice. We told one individual
395 the first time, and then again a second time, and he ignored both comments. We
396 encountered another person at either Gallup or Furstenberg, I can’t remember which one, but
397 they did have a dog on a leash. Also, at Huron River days there were lots of dogs there and
398 they were all on a leash. I believe that most of them were from the Canine Social Club.

399
400 **Bonding Proposal for Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage – (Agenda Item #10)**

401
402 Gerry Clark – The staff and Tom Crawford, the city’s Chief Financial Officer are hoping to get
403 a bonding proposal to City Council for their review and approval by August 15th, 2005 for
404 expenditure of funds from the open space and park millage. Before that, we’d like you to
405 review and recommend something to City Council.

406
407 If there is a way that we could have a special meeting prior to the City Council meeting? We
408 can talk about the bonding proposal and go to closed session regarding details – dollar
409 amounts and specific properties. The urgency is that it will take a couple of months to cobble
410 together the bond proposal and sell the bonds and get the funding. We want to have some
411 cash on hand to buy properties before the end of the calendar year. Owners often want to
412 sell before the end of the year due to taxes and things like that. We’ll have more information
413 for you in a couple of weeks. Can we take a straw vote to see who’s going to be here?

414
415 (show of hands - Two will be gone)

416
417 **Parks Millage Discussion (Agenda Item #11)**

418
419 Satarino – I’ve been repeating this for the last two meetings. We have to do something about
420 the two separate millages which run out in 2007. By March or so, we have to have a decision
421 made. We have two millages now – one for development (essentially new projects), the
422 other for repair. It was set up that way so that when they expire together we could do the
423 combined millage. It’s a lot of effort to do the preparation for a millage, so we didn’t want to
424 do it twice. It’s important to think ahead to prepare for this. – Long range – will we continue
425 to seek general funds from the city or do a combined millage that would take us off the
426 general fund?

427
428 Berla – When might the election be?

429
430 Satarino – November Of 2006, they will both expire in June of 2007.

431
432 Berauer – Need someone to explain the pros and cons between keeping them separate or
433 combining them.

434
435 Henderson – Will talk to Jayne about this.

436
437 Berauer – John, you mentioned a combined millage – is this going under the assumption that
438 parks wouldn’t be getting any more general funds?

439

440 Satarino – No. The question is whether we feel it's more advantageous to operate fully off of
441 a millage and not have to rely on general funds. By percentage, the general amount of funds
442 we've been getting has been reducing, where this would keep the amount status quo.
443

444 Berauer – For us to be able to make decisions on that, we'd have to see the numbers and
445 what the projections are over the next 5 or 10 years of general fund money, and what kind of
446 millage we would need to look at. We'll need to see that in dollars for comparison.
447

448 Satarino – I've been asking for this information for a while, and I'm sure it won't be much
449 longer before we get that. This is a very crucial issue – basically whether the parks are going
450 to exist or not. If we don't show some depth about this, it will come back on us.
451

452 Rodgers – Regionalization – making parks a separate district is a possibility.
453

454 Berauer – Maybe we should establish this now, and write the resolution. We should establish
455 a timeline so that Karla's staff can prepare this information. Early September or October we
456 can have a report from you?
457

458 Offen – Write the resolution now so that it gets on the ballot in November of 2006. Not
459 enough information and consensus for a regional park district, but we should move ahead on
460 the bonding and millage issues.
461

462 Satarino – Also have to think about the length of the millages.
463

464 **City Council Items Update – (Agenda Item # 12)**
465

466 Kuras – I have the feasibility study for the railroad tunnel. I've talked with the County, Parks
467 and the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study, trying to find ways to get funding because
468 one project is a two million dollar endeavor. We'll apply for grants, get help from partnering
469 with other people, but I will need PAC to look at this and supply a supportive resolution to get
470 the matching dollars for the project.
471

472 Rodgers – Which tunnel is this?
473

474 Kuras – The one connecting Bandemere to Barton. The one connecting Arboretum to Gallup
475 is really something that I would expect the University to assist with.
476

477 Woods – I wanted to mention some things on the City Council updates. Last night Council
478 approved the resolution for the construction at Mushroom Park. Also, regarding a new
479 development which will take place on the N.W. corner of W. Liberty and Maple road – It will
480 be called West Towne. As part of the development agreement, the developer is making a
481 parks contribution, specifically to Hanson and South Maple parks. Council also voted to
482 postpone a rezoning on the South Pond Village proposal. Many of us on PAC have looked at
483 previously in terms of a park.
484

485 Riseng – What's happening with the pond on that site? Liberty and West Maple? (West
486 Towne)
487

488 Johnson – It will be unchanged except for a 25-foot buffer. It will get some run-off from
489 rooftops to maintain the water level.

490
491 Kuras – One of the things I negotiated in addition to the fund was to get a walk-around that
492 pond, in addition to some overlooks.

493
494 Riseng – I think Dave (Borneman) told me that was one of the few places he has found fairy
495 shrimp. Pretty significant so, it will be good to save the quality of that pond.

496
497 Johnson – I'm not sure we're going to. I'm interested in the question of how good mitigation
498 is. Jean Carlberg put a couple of amendments into the development agreements saying that
499 if you have natural features or if you have mitigation, you have to make up a detailed plan
500 about how they should be maintained and make sure the condominium association knows
501 them. That's a start.

502
503 I think we're doing mitigations and we're doing actions that we hope preserve natural
504 features, but we don't know if any of them work. I'm becoming more and more an advocate
505 of "government ought to pay attention to the outcome of what it's doing..." So, I'm not sure
506 how to implement the "Fairy Shrimp" question. We can't very well go on private property now
507 and 'take a look.' I'd like to think about some way we can find out if the mitigation efforts
508 we've taken actually work or not.

509
510 Riseng – So, the State requires five-year evaluation of a pond, and the consultant that comes
511 in and actually bills the mitigation is not the one who does the evaluation and the reports.
512 When I used to do consulting, they aren't ever really 'read.' One way to address that might
513 be to have the City ordinance require a more longer term mitigation, as most of the research
514 I've read says you can't really tell if something is working until at least 10 years or longer. It
515 might be a good idea to have some specialists look at the pond, for instance, the invertebrate
516 community or the herpst community.

517
518 Woods – We're using the terms "Ponds" and "Wetlands;" are they synonymous or are they
519 two different things.

520
521 Riseng – They have a description based on size and depth, and I can't recall what those are
522 right now, but if you have water that is not much deeper than 6 feet it's a wetland, but if it has
523 open water people tend to call it a pond, so you get in that mix, but technically, I'd consider
524 that a wetland.

525
526 **Report from Manager of Parks and Recreation Services (Agenda Item # 13)**
527

528 Henderson – Congratulated Huron River Days volunteers – 25th Anniversary event. An
529 announcement to make - Jermel Stevenson has accepted the position of Community
530 Outreach Coordinator. He will be supervising Bryant and Northside Community centers,
531 along with our outreach program. He has previously served as the Interim District Recreation
532 Manager for the City of Detroit, and had previously worked for the cities of Kentwood,
533 Kalamazoo and Warren where he held a variety of responsibilities.

534
535 A note – Our revenue for our pool passes are up 30 percent over last year!
536

537 Mentions open space memo that is listed on agenda as: 19-a (Transmittals)

538

539 **Report from the Recreation Advisory Commission (Agenda Item # 14)**

540

541 No report. Don't meet in the summer.

542

543 **Report from Environmental Commission (Agenda Item # 15)**

544

545 Riseng – None.

546

547 **Report from Greenbelt Advisory Commission (Agenda Item # 16)**

548

549 Johnson – We have seven grant applications out for different properties. The most important
550 thing we did at our last meeting was to establish a 'strategic plan.' Not appropriate to go into
551 details, but it's focusing on particular areas around the city where we'll focus our efforts to
552 acquire farmland.

553

554 Woods – Council approved Dr. Gill Omen as a new member of the Greenbelt Commission.

555

556 **Report from Manager of Parks and Recreation (Agenda Item #17)**

557

558 Berauer – We never did approve our By-Laws, and I guess they're on hold now until we get
559 further information, but I do think we need clarification from the Attorney's office on the
560 protocol on getting conservation easements and deed restrictions and when each are in
561 order. I don't know if Karla could tell us if the attorney's office can tell us, or if we should
562 address this at the LAC sub-committee and ask Gerry to coordinate? (Henderson) Yes

563

564 **High School Site**

565

566 Karla, you also mentioned that you were going to give us an update with your discussions
567 with the schools? Is that still in process? (Henderson – Yes – Unless Dave (Borneman) has
568 something specific to talk about the new High School site?)

569

570 Borneman – We did meet with the schools approximately a month ago to talk about details on
571 what's happening at the new school site and details on the wetland there. The bigger issue
572 we spoke on was that Randy Trent from the schools was interested in working out some
573 other arrangements between NAP staff and some of the school properties. We've worked
574 with them on a pilot basis in the past to look at Mitchell Scarlett Woods area, which is owned
575 by the schools, with Scarlett Mitchell park on either side of it. We're doing management on
576 park property, and it makes sense to do it on adjoining school property, so we've set up a
577 pilot to do some of those activities at that location as well as others – Places like Eberwhite
578 Woods and Pioneer Woods that are natural areas that we've not been involved in because
579 they're not City Park land. We want to put together a proposal to be able to accomplish that.

580

581 Offen – The schools would compensate your staff at the City for its services?

582

583 Borneman – I don't know about that. They didn't seem real excited about that portion of it.
584 How the funding gets worked out is something we have to discuss.

585

586 Woods – Dave, you have a substantial group of volunteers, right? (Yes)

587 That's where you get your "Woman Power!"

588

589 Riseng – I went out and helped the herpetologists put the salamanders back. This
590 salamander is actually a hybrid. This breed has actually never been recorded in the State of
591 Michigan, and this hybrid line has been in existence since the glaciers receded. I hope that
592 you can follow it to see if it can become a pure line or not.

593

594 Macomber – Will you use these opportunities to involve the School of Natural Resources or?
595 (Borneman) – Yes, and we talked about ways that high school students could do data
596 collection as well.

597

598 Berauer – In terms of the mitigation and the follow up on how successful these are, is NAP
599 solely responsible for that? (Borneman) – No, we're not taking sole responsibility. They'll be
600 monitoring these things through the DNR permits.

601

602 Satarino – Any particular issues that anyone would like to see included on the next agenda?

603

604 Johnson – I received an email from a resident regarding the brass plaques in Gallup Park. I'll
605 just read the first sentence for you. "I walk daily in Gallup park, and have become aware of
606 the inordinate number of brass plaques commemorating deceased loved ones on the rocks,
607 the trees, the bases of trees and the benches in the park.

608

609 These plaques interrupt the appreciation of natural elements, and frankly make the area look
610 like a cemetery." I've always had that feeling myself, but I haven't brought it up because I
611 don't think that my personal feelings should enter into this, but now that it seems there is a
612 wider feeling that this is maybe not the best use of parks, I'd like to bring it up as an issue. I
613 think people should be able to make a dedication to the park, but the way it's been
614 implemented has been detrimental to the park, and my own opinion is that we should find a
615 better way, and I would like PAC to think about that.

616

617 Berauer – I agree. I feel the same way. I think the person who emailed suggested that if a
618 person wants to make a dedication maybe they can do tree plantings, with or without a
619 plaque, maybe we can brainstorm other ways for the public to make that dedication.

620

621 Henderson – Jeff Dehring is the staff person that handles our park memorials and
622 contributions and I'm sure he would love to have this discussion. He's said that park benches
623 are the number one request for Gallup Park, and we've stopped doing park benches. Now
624 we've shifted to trees, and I understand what you're saying about the plaques. He would love
625 to entertain whatever options you can come up with.

626

627 Satarino – We should put that item on our next agenda then – (Henderson) Yes.

628

629 Macomber – I sent an email about this, but I'd like this in the public forum. Someone called
630 me and spoke about the issue of Edison's tree trimming crews trimming trees along
631 easements away from power lines and the fact that the job being done was pretty insensitive
632 and extreme. This was in the Independence neighborhood area, and given the City is about
633 to lose a large chunk of their trees due to Emerald Ash Borer infestation, it might be an issue
634 we might pay more attention to. Just F.Y.I.

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Berla – I have some items I'd like updates on.

1. What is the status of the fields at Olsen Park?
2. Dixboro Bridge? An update – the park is still closed off.
3. Expansion of the parking lot at Brown Park? There was a load of dirt dropped off in it, but other than that, I don't see any changes.
4. Can we have another disk golf course? At some occasions there are 30 to 40 cars parked on the street, and the course is really crowded.
5. Update on the Airport property?

Offen – A gentleman asked me who was responsible for the maintenance of the bike paths along Huron Parkway between Fuller and Plymouth Road. We were told it was a Parks area. Is that true? If so, he wants to know why it's in such poor shape?

G – PUBLIC COMMENTARY GENERAL

None.

H - OTHER COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

None.

”Motion to Close the Public Session and go to Closed Session by Satarino, Seconded by Berauer.”

On a Roll Call Vote, the vote was Unanimous

“Motion to Return to Regular Session moved by Berla, Seconded by Macomber to return from Closed Session back to Regular Session.”

On a voice vote, the Motion passes.

“Motion to Adjourn by Berla, Seconded by Macomber.”

On a voice vote, the Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Submitted by: Brenda Acquaviva
Administrative Service Specialist IV