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APPROVED
CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005

A - CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. by J. Satarino (Chair)

B - ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Satarino, Berauer, Berla, Riseng, Rodgers and Macomber and Offen (7)

Commissioners Absent: Reneaud, Cohen (2)

Ex-Officio Members Present: Woods and Johnson (arrived at 4:20 p.m.) (2)

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aeschbach (1)

Staff Present: Miller, Kuras, Borneman, Bemish, Dehring and Acquaviva

C - SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

D - PUBLIC COMMENTARY OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Ethel Potts, 1014 Elder, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 - Spoke about commentary for the PROS plan, including City Policies and the Huron River.
2. Karen Sidney, 100 Longman Lane, Ann Arbor, MI – Spoke about the Emerald Ash Borer issue and passed out financial information that she had prepared on the Millage Issue for same.

(Various discussion by the Commission regarding the EAB issue)

E - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

“Moved by Offen, Seconded by Macomber that the minutes of the, September 2005 Regular Session be approved with changes.”

Changes: Commissioner Riseng’s name.

Vote – **Passed** - Unanimous

F – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F-1 Discussion on PAC By-Laws

Satarino – The city is making an attempt to standardize procedures and processes in all the various public commissions. That issue is still in the City Attorneys office. There are some changes that I would like to recommend, but since we have a lengthy agenda today, I'd like to move this to the bottom and if we have time we can discuss it. (*Agreed by Commission*).

F-2 Discussion of Renewal of Millages

58 J. Miller – Still finalizing information – Would like a sub-committee from PAC to recommend solutions to City
59 Council. What is our funding stream, what’s out there in the next few years. Amy (Kuras) has been working
60 very hard on that. Within the next few weeks, we’ll have more concrete information that we can bring back to
61 PAC. I would like to have a Sub-Committee or Task Force from PAC to work with staff to go through that
62 and talk about some options that we might want to put together for City Council from a programmatic
63 perspective and then a decision about how to move forward to get the word out to the community for
64 education and a vote on those issues.

65
66 (Extensive discussion by the Commission about the work that needs to be done on this).

67
68 Interested members include: Berla, Berauer, Offen, Macomber, Rodgers, Satarino and Woods.

69
70 Woods and Satarino – Suggests this may be a good time to bring in outside Committee/Commission
71 members and also have a working session to see what everyone’s schedule is like.

72
73
74 **F-3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

75
76 Satarino – Asks if anyone would like to run for Chair or Vice Chair.

77
78 Any Nominations?

79
80 L. Berauer Nominated J. Satarino, Seconded by Riseng for **Chair**

81
82 Macomber Nominated L. Berauer, Seconded by Offen for **Vice Chair**

83
84 **VOTE: Unanimous to Re-elect both**

85
86
87 **G – NEW BUSINESS**

88
89 **G-1 Discussion on Park Maintenance Activities**

90
91 Chair brought up the increasing amount of graffiti appearing in and around the parks, and an incident where
92 a citizen was making an illegal trail through Cedar Bend Park. The citizen indicated that he was doing this
93 for the Mountain Bike Association. Dave Borneman assured us that this was not something that was
94 approved.

95
96 D. Borneman - We did check on this and contacted the Mountain Biking Association who knew nothing about
97 this. We took action to put up signs, etc. (*Commission overall feels that there has been a lot of maintenance*
98 *work done for/to the parks by staff.*)

99
100 J. Miller - Will find out what type of process needs to happen to get information on how to remove graffiti.

101
102 Berla – Plays disc golf in Brown Park – When does trash pick up happen? Some trash has been there for
103 months. What is the ‘schedule’ for park maintenance for these issues?

104
105 J. Miller – If you have specific questions, email me with those so that Karla can address those (Karla
106 Henderson will talk about park maintenance issues in November before this Commission).

107
108 Berauer asks D. Borneman to address Citizen E. Potts’ concerns over invasive aquatic plant growth in the
109 Huron River and the PROS Plan.

110
111 J. Borneman – Some of the growth is invasive, much of it is not; It’s more of a problem with the river filling in
112 with sedimentation. There is no ‘official’ city policy in place regarding that. (Borneman and Kuras answer
113 questions regarding the Planning Commissions’ recommendations on the PROS Plan).

114

115 J. Dehring – Speaks about issues brought up by Berla concerning Brown Park (Wetlands). This is part of the
116 Mallets Creek area, and the Drain Commission’s office is overseeing improvements.
117 Their plans have been submitted to the DEQ and they have a draft permit in hand. They will also be
118 addressing the parking lot and the path system there.
119

120 Riseng – Questions the dredging of Brown Pond, stormwater and reconfiguration of wetlands.
121

122 J. Dehring – There are some area’s that had ball fields, and they will be converted into wetland areas. There
123 is a pond or impoundment area that has silted in over the years, and they (the Drain Commission) have to
124 clean that out. In the interest of adhering to the phosphorus reduction, they’re using the wetlands to absorb
125 that and improve the water quality.
126

127 **G-2 Discussion on BMX Activities at Bandemer Park**

128
129 (Trick type bikes that are used for jumps, leaps, stunts, etc.)
130

131 Satarino – This is not an ‘approved’ project of PAC or in Parks and it’s been getting larger over time.
132

133 J. Dehring – This is not something that was “approved” or designed by the City. They are using a lot of the
134 materials that are in the park for their sport. I just became aware of this. We don’t have facilities for this type
135 of activity, but there is a need for it. Suggests bringing those people using the facilities for these purposes to
136 the table to address the issue and make something advantageous for both parties.
137

138 (Ongoing discussion regarding the BMX bikes).
139

140 Satarino – I don’t disagree with the sport, but it’s on the shoreline of Argo Park. I’m concerned about the
141 precedence this sets, and erosion as well as esthetics – it’s in a partial nature area.
142

143 (Some concern among the commission regarding City Liability due to these kinds of unapproved activities).
144

145 J. Dehring – Appealed to the listening audience to get in touch with him to discuss putting a legitimate BMX
146 trail/park in place.
147

148 **G-2 Land Acquisition Discussion**

149
150 Satarino – Without going to closed session, there are a few things to discuss. We were told we could no
151 longer bargain regarding market value for the properties. Another concern is a donation of property,
152 easements. (Asked PAC for statements from the floor that actually favors this). We were not directly
153 informed of these changes, and it would have been helpful to have known this at the time in order to be given
154 the reasons behind these. We have a resolution before us today that actually encourages that kind of
155 activity from owners, and in many cases these turn out to be special things, critical areas that are next to
156 existing parks, etc,
157

158 J. Miller – I was not at the LAC meeting, so if you can be more specific as to what the question is, I will get
159 answers and get back to PAC. I did bring the ordinance with me, which is Chapter 42. Specifically it speaks
160 to that and says “Acquisition of Land and Land Rights May be Achieved through Purchase, Grant, Covenant
161 or Contract, but only at a Price that is Equal to or Less than a Qualified Appraisal.”
162

163 Berauer – That statement was given to us by a City Attorney. (The ordinance reads otherwise).
164

165 Johnson – We need clarification from the City Attorney since the Ordinance doesn’t say that.
166

167 J. Miller – I will get written confirmation and get back to you on this.
168

169 **“Moved by Berauer, Seconded by Riseng to delay the Resolution regarding Donation of Development
170 Rights.”**
171

172 Offen – (Corrects Grammar on -Owner/Owners and other administrative changes) – Offers as a friendly
173 amendment (Accepted by Berauer).
174
175 Gerry Clark – Spoke on Conservation issues, and the legalities and monitoring of those properties by the
176 City. Monitoring and Enforcement Action plans must be in place beforehand. We get the benefit of the open
177 space in perpetuity, but we have the obligation of making sure the Conservation plan that sets that up is
178 followed, and because of all of that, the owner gets the tax break. The IRS wants to make sure there is an
179 enforcement plan in effect, and that we have the enforcement mechanism to do it.
180
181 (Questions to Mr. Clark by the Commission)
182
183 J. Miller – Clarification – Conservation Easement – take that to the Attorney’s office for an answer before you
184 pass this resolution? What is a Conservation Easement?
185
186 Has City ever purchased development rights before? (No, not in parkland and open space – J. Miller)
187
188 Woods – Believes PAC Should wait for advice from the Attorney’s office. Has a concern about what the
189 costs will be.
190
191 Berla – If there were specific numbers, this would be great.
192
193 Berauer – Timeline on this?
194
195 J. Miller – The attorney that handles the land acquisition issues is out, so I cannot predict that.
196
197 Satarino – Recommends Motion to table
198
199 Motion by Riseng, Seconded by Berla – **“To table until more information is available”** – Unanimous.
200
201
202 **(Agenda changes due to staff having to leave – move Item # I-3 here)*
203
204 **I – REPORT FROM INTERIM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER**
205
206 **I-3 PROS Plan Update and Discussion (Amy Kuras) (MOVE to be heard BEFORE “H” – Commission**
207 **Proposed Business) (Agenda Amended)**
208
209 Amy Kuras - Spoke about various summary comments in the PROS Plan. Need to wrap up the comments
210 and then forward a resolution to pass the plan. We presented this information to the Planning Commission
211 last week. We will hold a Public Hearing on the PROS Plan at the November PAC meeting. Amy will forward
212 another version of the Plan including the comments by the next meeting.
213
214 Riseng – Questions sections G-3 and G-4 (clarification).
215
216 Berauer – Wants the entire revised document first. Also, two specific references to potential parcels should
217 be included? We need some type of disclaimer in there, specifying that just because certain parcels aren’t
218 named that this doesn’t mean those are not being considered.
219
220 Kuras – In many instances, we deleted the name of the property owner and just described the property.
221
222 Satarino – The ‘mythical’ Acquisition List is more detailed, but for privacy sake, we don’t want to get more
223 specific.
224
225 Johnson – Believes that the Commission needs time to consider the Planning Commission comments first.
226 This is a Parks document, not a Planning document, and these are substantive changes.
227
228 Kuras – A disclaimer like that may not be helpful when it comes to applying for Grants, as they usually like
229 us to include this information in the Grant application – that we can point to that reference in the PROS Plan.

230
231 J. Miller – Suggests that we get the Draft out so that it can be reviewed and we can go through it *at the next*
232 *PAC Meeting*. Make changes or additions, etc. can they be put in italics and or colors?
233 Kuras – These changes are being done by a consultant so, we'll have to see what can be done.
234

235 Riseng – Want to comment on the Downtown Business Area. There is conflict between number 7 and the
236 downtown plans/criteria. This was problematic for me in the initial draft.
237

238 *(Continued discussion by the Commission on the PROS Plan)*
239

240
241 **H - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**
242

243 ****H-1 Discussion of PAC 12-Month Work Plan**
244

245 ***Possible Items:***

- 246 **a. *Millage Renewal Working Group***
- 247 **b. *Land Acquisitions***
- 248 **c. *Budget***
- 249 **d. *Relationship with AAPS Community Education and Recreation***

250 *****Commission Decided to postpone this item until a later date.***
251
252

253 **I – REPORT FROM INTERIM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER**
254 **(Continued as Amended on Agenda)**
255

256 **I-1 Park Rehabilitation and Development Millage Project List Update – October 2005**

257 *(Revisit later)*
258

259 **I-2 City Council Items Update**
260

261 Satarino – Questions outstanding item – Demolition – Included in that was Fairview and Riverview Cemetery
262 – Do we know which structures are to be demolished in those areas?
263 (J. Miller – Will forward resolution on this that will be going to City Council)
264

265 ****(I-3 Heard Earlier)***
266

267 **I-4 Parks and Recreation Manager Vacancy**
268

269 J. Miller – Update – In August we did interviews, but we weren't satisfied with the candidate pool. Reposted
270 the position. Rescheduled the interviews October 28th and November 1st. Catherine (Riseng) is sitting on
271 the interview panel for that.
272
273

274 **J – REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**
275

276 Berla – Still a lot of discussion on the “Invoice” issue mentioned at the last meeting. There are apparently
277 attorneys working on this situation. The idea that these two groups that serve the public in much of the same
278 way cannot agree on this is disturbing.
279

280 J. Miller – Optimistic that this will be solved now. The City Administrator and the Superintendent were
281 unaware that this was outstanding, and both attorneys have been directed to get this settled.
282

283 **K – REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**
284

285 Riseng – The Commission was extremely active with many issues at our last meeting. We passed a
286 Phosphorus Reduction Resolution, and another asking City Council to support the Precautionary Principal

287 (the idea that before embarking on any action or use of product, you make sure it is causing no harm) and
288 developing a Solid Waste Committee that will look into recycling issues in Commercial areas.
289

290
291 **L – REPORT FROM GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION**
292

293 Johnson – None - (Left meeting at 6:25 p.m.)
294

295 **M – REPORT FROM GREENWAY TASK FORCE**
296

297 Berauer – Taken two ‘Greenway Walks’ as a group; we’ve been formally addressed by several groups, i.e.,
298 the Allen Creek Watershed Group, the MAP students that did the preliminary feasibility study on the Allen
299 Creek Greenway, Joe O’neal on behalf of the Allen Creek Conservancy (formerly the ‘Land Trust’), the Ann
300 Arbor Greenway Group and Amy Kuras. (*Gave extensive report on all information related to the Task
301 Force*).
302

303 **N – PUBLIC COMMENTARY - GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)**
304

- 305 1. Karen Sidney, 100 Longman Lane, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 – Distinctions on “Easements” and the
306 restrictions due to Conservation issues.
307
308 2. Glen Thompson – 100 Longman Lane, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 – Distributed a CD on “Friends of
309 the Market” information.
310

311 **O. – TRANSMITTALS**
312

313 Satarino – Mentioned the Public Meetings to take place at Buhr and Evergreen Parks and encouraged
314 everyone to attend.
315

316 **“Motion to Adjourn by Berauer, Seconded by Riseng.”**
317

318 On a voice vote. - Motion Passes - Unanimous
319

320 Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.
321

322 Submitted by: Brenda Acquaviva
323 Administrative Support Specialist IV