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APPROVED

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2005**

A - CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by J. Satarino (Chair)

B - ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: Reneaud, Cohen (2)

Ex-Officio Members Present: Woods and Johnson (arrived at 4:15 p.m.) (2)

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Aeschbach (1)

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

C - SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

C-1 Presentation regarding the potential stormwater detention facility at Dolph Park due to construction on Wagner Road – Amy Kuras introduced Dave Degman and Herb Rocher' of the County Road Commission. This is a three-phase project.

Northbound traffic will be open at all times, Southbound traffic will be detoured along Jackson Road to Zeeb Road, down to Liberty and then back over to Wagner Road. Work should begin in mid May of 2006. We're proposing to locate the basin west of the park property, inside the right-of-way but east of the Township pump station. The discharge would go into the tributary of Honey Creek. Costs to Parks and Recreation are currently up for discussion. The City is the entity that specifically requested that the sidewalk be put in place. This is a Pall Gelman site that is mandated by the court to provide water and sewer for the township residents which will eventually be annexed into the city, and this is being done while our road project is underway. (Other questions from the Commission included: Park Trees that are affected for removal, easements, detention pond and who will be responsible for maintaining the sidewalks, etc.).

C-2 Concept Plan for Buhr Park Infrastructure – Jeff Dehring introduced Peter Pollock of Pollack Design Associates. Pollack Associates has teamed with Stantech Engineering to put together a plan for infrastructure improvements at Buhr Park. Mr. Pollack gave a presentation regarding the project.

(MOVE – ITEM #G-3 to be heard as a special presentation – Item G-3 now becomes C-3)

C-3 Presentation and Discussion on Raptor Program at the Leslie Science Center. Kirsten Levinsohn (Facility Supervisor, Leslie Science Center), Doty Wineman and Francie Crocky (Asst. Facility Supervisor, Leslie Science Center) presented the program. Ms. Levensohn explained that Doty Wineman (Founder of the River Raisin Raptor Center in Manchester) was closing her doors and retiring, and wanted to relocate her entire center – both the rehabilitation center and the education center to the City of Ann Arbor's Leslie Science Center.

Many of the birds that are rehabilitated are not able to be released into the wild, and are used for educational purposes for the public. The public was notified and consulted and support was shown from the neighboring residents as well as the Leslie Science Center Advisory Board. Francie Crocky displayed a live barn owl (a current resident in the rehab program) to introduce PAC to an example of the birds that would be housed at the center.

Motion by Riseng, Seconded by Berauer that PAC support the development of the Raptor Education Center at the Leslie Science Center – Vote – Unanimous.

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D - PUBLIC COMMENTARY OF AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Glen Thompson, 100 Longman Lane, Ann Arbor, MI - Spoke about the presentation given by the County Road Commission. – Mr. Thompson is concerned with the 1,4 Dioxane contamination from Gelman and what it has done to that area, and the treatment of stormwater.
- 2. Karen Sidney – 100 Longman Lane, Ann Arbor, MI - Spoke about the Emerald Ash Borer problem and presented the Commission with a map which shows the concentration of the dead trees. Feels the problem with replacing the trees is political, and showed monetary examples of where the City could find the financing to remove and replace these trees.
- 3. Milt Baker – Preservation of Narrow Gage Woods **(NON AGENDA ITEM)**
- 4. Linda Cody – Preservation of Narrow Gage Woods **(NON AGENDA ITEM)**
- 5. Dan H. – Preservation of Narrow Gage Woods **(NON AGENDA ITEM)**

Berauer – Asks if they are an ‘organized group’ (They are an ad-hoc group that want the same things as the organized groups).

Offen – List of neighborhood groups? Urged the “Friends of Narrow Gage Woods” to register with Planning and Development Services. .

J. Miller – Neighborhood groups can register with Planning and Development Services and the biggest benefit is being notified of land and development issues within their area.

Berauer – Contact Friends of Dickens Woods for how they structured their group.

Berla – Talk to the people who own the land.

E - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

E-1 No Minutes available at the time of meeting.

F – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F-1 PAC By-Laws – Postponed until January 2006 meeting.

F-2 Park Maintenance Activities – (Graffiti Removal)

Karla Henderson introduced Rob Millet, Field Operations Supervisor for Forestry and Facilities (Park Operations Supervisor). They were present to answer any questions that PAC may have had.

Berla – Concerned about the trash in Brown Park in the Disc Golf area. Is there a policy on when the trash is removed? (Millet) Yes – Pick up is two to three times per week. In addition, when our mowing crews are there, they pick up trash before they mow. The Disc Golf area is a highly used area, and other people use the trails through there resulting in heavy trash concentration. People also make unauthorized sitting areas and move cans that don’t belong in those areas. If that’s the case, sometimes we can’t locate the cans in order to remove that trash.

Ms. Henderson stated that the Outreach Coordinator for the “Adopt-a-Park” program could enlist the public in an active role to help keep Brown Park clean.

Riseng – My concern about graffiti is rather the opposite – we have beautiful art on some underpasses and buildings – do you clean this off? (Millet – On city property, we remove it, but not on underpasses).

118 Ms Henderson and Kay Sickenator (City Forester) also spoke about the Resolution regarding the Emerald Ash
119 Borer problem that was passed by City Council the previous night. The resolution addresses the appropriation of
120 funds for removal of dead and dying trees from City property.

121
122 Riseng – The biggest concern of the citizens and PAC is replacing the trees that are lost.

123
124 K. Sickenator – We are very anxious to have a ‘forested city,’ but the removal has to be top priority. We normally
125 remove about 1000 trees per year. Within the last five years, there have been 14,000 dead and dying trees.
126 That is a huge influx of work for us, and we’ve had to suspend some of our other activities in order to get these
127 trees out. You can get grants to *get* trees, but not for tree removal.

128
129 We are now doing a “Think Tank” each week to brainstorm ideas and resources (planting and labor) and
130 community volunteerism. We have received a grant from the MDNR for \$20,000.00 for ‘plant material only.’
131 We’ve received a generous donation from the Rotary club, and one from Detroit Edison, but all are for ‘stock,’ and
132 not the labor to plant them. Stumps will also be removed as a part of the appropriation within the City Council
133 resolution, as this will be necessary for space for replanting.

134
135 F-3 Update on Brown Park – Jeff Dehring presented a drawing to PAC regarding the wetland design
136 phase with MDEQ and Pollack Design and Washtenaw County (who owns the land) to do construction in Brown
137 Park. The improvements will affect the disc golf course; the disc golf course will be taken out of play during
138 construction in that area. We’ll be looking at the reconstruction of the pathway that is within close proximity of the
139 improvements. The County Drain Office website has more information on line.

140
141 **ADD** F-4 Macomber - Dog Park Update – (AMEND AGENDA) – We received your memo today regarding
142 the dog park update, and that information shows we are waiting for the City Attorney’s office to complete a draft
143 for review by the County – When might we expect that?

144
145 J. Dehring – We met with staff in the Attorney’s office, spoke about the scope of what we’re trying to achieve
146 here. I’m in the process of setting up a meeting with the County to get all the parties back to the table. One
147 concern was spending time drafting an agreement that neither party is on page with. We need to meet verbally
148 and hash some of that out after the first part of the year.

149
150 **ADD** F-5 Berauer - PROS Plan - (AMEND AGENDA) – (Wants to be sure all recommended changes
151 from the last meeting are put into place in the final draft).

152
153 Satarino – Since we’ve already voted and approved those changes, and the minutes aren’t finalized yet, the best
154 way to deal with that is to let Amy and Brenda know and it can be handled.

155
156 Berauer – Agreed. Thanks staff for the vast amount of changes and work that had to be accomplished.

157
158 **G – NEW BUSINESS**

159
160 G-1 Discussion of Land Acquisition Issues - Gerry Clark, Consultant for the Open Space and
161 Parkland Preservation Millage Program, stated that he would be transitioning out of his work as his contract with
162 the City expires next month on January 19th. Mr. Clark has decided to step back and sub-contract instead with a
163 phased transition. Mr. Clark introduced his replacement, Peg Kohring, who is very knowledgeable about land
164 acquisition and works for the Conservation Fund. She stated that she has worked on land acquisition for the last
165 27 years, and hopes to bring that expertise to the City of Ann Arbor. She introduced her colleague, Ginny Leikam
166 of the Conservation Fund.

167
168 Satarino – Stated that he was glad that Mr. Clark was willing to phase out his role, as it is important to have a
169 smooth transition.

170
171 Macomber – Stated that PAC would miss his help, and would LAC be able to talk about the pieces and processes
172 that you’ve been doing for us and how that will be transitioned?

173
174 G. Clark – We suggest a working session or a brainstorming session to sit down with all of LAC to be certain that
175 nothing is overlooked.

176

177 J. Miller – We realized that the smoothest transition would be to have the Conservation Fund take over since they
178 have been so closely involved with land acquisitions for the City, and Gerry sat down with them and they were
179 willing to take on the work that he has been doing. We've been meeting nearly weekly to assist with that
180 transition. We'll use the working session to bring everyone up to speed on the current acquisitions and
181 procedures. We will bring the new Parks and Recreation Manager (Christen Smith) up to speed after she begins
182 employment on January 5th in order to transition her into LAC.
183

184 Council Member Johnson thanked Mr. Clark for all of his knowledge, experience and assistance with LAC.

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186 **H - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

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188 None.

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190 **I - REPORT FROM INTERIM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER**

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192 J. Miller – Updates – Christen Smith is beginning on January 5th, 2006 as Parks and Recreation Manager. Also,
193 a calendar of meetings for the coming year was passed out, but the dates are incorrect, so we will send you a
194 revised calendar out later.

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196 **J - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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198 None.

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200 **K - REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

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202 None.

203
204 **L - REPORT FROM GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION**

205
206 Johnson – We're working on an Ordinance revision to deal with the CAFO problem. We should be able to bring
207 that to Council fairly soon.

208
209 J. Miller – I'm working with Gerry and Peg on other Chapter 42 Ordinance language changes as well as those for
210 the Greenbelt, and I'd like to discuss those at the working session so that both GAC and PAC would see and
211 approve the changes to Chapter 42 at the same time.

212
213 **M - REPORT FROM GREENWAY TASK FORCE**

214
215 Berauer – We're working on the public process component. We're planning on having Public Forums, and we're
216 looking for facilities in which to hold those.

217
218 **N - PUBLIC COMMENTARY - GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)**

219
220 1. Karen Sidney – Clarified confusion regarding the numbers of trees that she spoke about earlier in the
221 meeting. That number was based on the fiscal year that we're currently in and that is based on what she thought
222 she heard Sue McCormick say at last night's City Council meeting.

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224 **O. - TRANSMITTALS**

225
226 None added.

227
228 **“Motion to Adjourn by Berauer, Seconded by Offen.”**

229
230 *On a voice vote, - **Motion Passes - Unanimous***

231 Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

232
233 Submitted by: Brenda Acquaviva
234 Administrative Support Specialist IV