



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 17, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 at 4:13 p.m. in the Council Chambers located in City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (8) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, S. Offen (arrived at 4:17 p.m.), D. Barrett T. Berla, J. Lawter, G. Nystuen, S. Rosencrans

Ex-Officio Members Present: (1) R. Johnson, S. Kunselman (arrived at 4:25 p.m.)

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None.

Members Absent: (0) None.

Staff Present: (7) C. Smith, A. Kuras, K.C. Bemish, D. Borneman, J. Dehring, C. Smith, D. Simon, D. McGuire, M. Naud, L. Bowen

Guests: (3) Janet Cohen, Catherine Riseng, John Satarino

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berauer asked if there were any changes to the agenda, being none the Commission approved the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 L. Berauer requested, and the Commission agreed that discussion of the minutes of May 15, 2007 would be deferred to a later meeting.

A-2 J. Lawter moved, supported by **G. Nystuen** to approve the minutes of June 19, 2007 as written. The minutes of June 19, 2007 were approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of former Commissioners

L. Berauer recognized three former Commissioners, Cohen, Riseng, and Saterino, with service award plaques for their work on the Park Advisory Commission.

Matt Naud (Environmental Coordinator for the City of Ann Arbor) explained the continuing management of the groundwater monitoring wells. A court-order will require placement of three additional monitoring wells in Veterans Memorial Park. The wells will be installed by December, 2007.

M. Naud extended an invitation to the Park Advisory Commissioners to participate with task force groups that will consider Huron River conditions and recreational uses of the river. The task force groups will be forming in the coming months.

T. Berla asked whether there were any suggested options for management of the aquatic plants in the Huron River.

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64 **M. Naud** mentioned several options including dredging the river or the introduction of an insect.

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66 **L. Berauer** asked if a report of the study process would be produced.

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68 **M. Naud** stated that a report of the Huron River study would be prepared and distributed.

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70 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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72 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

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74 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

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76 **B. Macomber** requested that a discussion of public meetings notices on the City's web site be
77 included on the agenda for a future meeting.

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79 **E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER**

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81 **E-1** Swift Run Dog Park & Off-Leash Areas Update

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83 **C. Smith** indicated that staff will recommend that areas in four parks be designated as Off-
84 Leash areas, Swift Run, Southeast Area Park (temporary site), Olson Park and Leslie Park
85 (temporary site). Maps of the four park sites, with off-leash site notations, were distributed
86 to the Commission to identify the locations of the Off-Leash areas.

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88 **C. Smith** also discussed the proposed fees for use the off-leash sites. Because Swift Run
89 Park is a partnership with the County and the facility will encourage use by both City and
90 County residents, the staff is not recommending a non-resident fee.

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92 **G. Nystuen** expressed her appreciation with the reduction in the proposed fees, also
93 inquiring about the possibility of opening the off-leash parks sooner.

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95 **C. Smith** stated that staff is anticipating that City Council will consider the four off-leash
96 areas and the City/County Swift agreement in early August.

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98 **B. Macomber** thanked staff for responding to the needs for off-leash sites.

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100 **S. Kunselman** expressed concerns with the language in the resolution to approve off-leash
101 dog play areas stating that he would like to see a skate park at the Southeast Area Park
102 site and would therefore like to designate the off-leash area as a temporary site until Swift
103 Run is opened.

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105 **A. Kuras** stated the proposed fencing at the temporary off-leash site at Southeast Area
106 Park will be rented for up to 3 months and the improvements will not be permanent.

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108 **L. Berauer** proposed a friendly amendment to state....supported by S. Olson

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110 **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OFF-LEASH DOG PLAY AREAS AT SWIFT RUN PARK,**
111 **SOUTHEAST AREA PARK, OLSON PARK AND LESLIE PARK AND ESTABLISH A USER**
112 **FEE FOR OFF-LEASH DOG PERMITS**

113 **Whereas, Section 9:45 and 9:47(Animals) of Chapter 107 of Title IX of the City Code**
114 **provides for the establishment of dog play areas in dog park facilities, City parks, or areas**
115 **within City parks that are designated as a dog play area as recommended by the service**
116 **area administrator and approved by City Council;**

117 **Whereas, the Community Services Administrator recommends establishing off-leash**
118 **dog play areas at the Swift Run Park, Southeast Area Park, Olson Park and Leslie**
119 **Park;**

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Whereas, An Off-Leash Dog Permit will be required for access the designated off-leash dog play areas for the purpose of providing a safe environment for dog park users and their pets. The permitting process will require that dog owners provide proof of required vaccinations and a signed agreement to comply with established rules for use of dog play areas;

Resolved, That permanent off-leash dog play areas shall be designated at the Swift Run Park and Olson Park, a temporary off-leash dog park area will be designated for the fall of 2007 at Southeast Area Park, and Leslie Park will be designated as a temporary off-leash dog park as needed.

Resolved, That an Off-Leash Dog Permit will be required for access the designated off-leash dog play areas and the Off-Leash Dog Permit fees for Swift Run Park Dog Park and Southeast Area Park shall be established as:

First Dog/owner: \$50 (\$35 spayed/neutered)

Each Additional Dog/owner: \$25 (\$15 spayed/neutered)

The fee for Olson Park/Leslie Park shall be established as

First Dog/owner: \$5 (\$5 spayed/neutered)

Each Additional Dog/owner: \$5 (\$5 spayed/neutered)

Submitted by: Parks and Recreation Services

Date: July 17, 2007

Ayes (8) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, S. Offen, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, D. Barrett, S. Rosencrans, J. Lawter

Nays (0) None

Absent (0) None.

On a voice vote – Motion Passed – Unanimous

J. Dehring explained the Swift Run Park is being designed and developed with the potential to be restricting access to portions of the site to provide time for the turf to rest and to recover from significant use.

S. Offen asked for an explanation of the procedure for the sale of permits for use of the dog park, and who will be responsible for issuing the these permits.

C. Smith explained that permits will be available for purchase at both City and County offices with dog licenses and would be convenient for dog owners.

L. Berauer asked the Commission to vote to accept the Resolution with the amendment as stated. The vote was as follows:

Ayes (8) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, S. Offen, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, D. Barrett, S. Rosencrans, J. Lawter

Nays (0) None

Absent (0) None.

On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous

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177 **E-1** Park Facility Business Plan - Pools

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179 Colin Smith, Dan McGuire and Dennis Simon, Recreation Facility Supervisors for the pools,
180 provided an overview of the pool programming, scheduling, numbers of people served and
181 facility improvement projects.
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183 **F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS**

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185 **C. Smith** provided an update of the park security program and responded to question
186 about activities in the parks. She stated that park security will be funded under existing FY
187 2007-2008 budgets.
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189 **S. Offen** requested that PAC have an opportunity to review the park security report format
190 prior to preparation of the pilot program report that is scheduled for October.
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192 **G. Nystuen** expressed concern with the Parks paying Safety Services for park security
193 and also indicated concerns with monitoring/patrol of the parking areas in parks since
194 there is longer a Park Ranger.
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196 **C. Smith** indicated that parking is included in the park security program. Safety services
197 have been alerted to parking concerns in several parks.
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199 **S. Offen** expressed that the officer's should have the discretion to issue citations if
200 needed.
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202 **G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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204 **H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK FORCES**

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206 **H-1** Allen Creek Greenway Task Force Report

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208 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission to defer the discussion of the Greenway Task Force report to another
209 meeting due to the late hour.
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211 **H-2** Athletic Fields Task Force Report

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213 **D. Barrett** provided an update of the task force review of field conditions and
214 maintenance. Staff is planning for installation of irrigation at Fuller Park fields in August.
215 He requested that the discussion of limiting access to athletic fields while the fields resting
216 the turf be included on the next meeting agenda.
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218 **Other Comments**

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220 **T. Berla** mentioned that the City's on-line registration program is a great idea.
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222 **L. Berauer** mentioned upgrades that are in process at Sculpture Plaza.
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224 **I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL** (3 Minutes per Speaker)

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226 **J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES** (If Applicable)

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228 **K - TRANSMITTALS**

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230 **K-1** City Council Items Update – (Information in Packet)

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232 **K-2** Parks Project Update (Information in Packet)

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234 **K-3** Parks and Recreation Events for July - August 2007
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K-4 February PAC Work Session Summary

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Macomber moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6: 22p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Bowen
Lynn Bowen
Administrative Support Specialist V