



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Senior Center located at 1320 Baldwin, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. by Chair L. Berauer

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (8) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, J. Satarino, S. Offen,
C. Riseng, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, D. Barrett

Ex-Officio Members Present (1) S. Kunselman

Ex- Officio Members Absent (1) R. Johnson

Members Absent: (1) J. Lawter

Staff Present: (4) C. Smith, K.C. Bemish,
A. Kuras, L. Bowen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – L. Berauer stated that there would be additions to the agenda. The following items will be moved to Unfinished Business; Sculpture Plaza, Financial Reports, Resolution regarding ice skating admissions fees.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Several speakers were present to discuss Project Grow:

Melissa Kesterson spoke in support of Project Grow.

Erica Kempter spoke in supports Project Grow.

Sue Perry expressed opposition to a garden site in Virginia Park stating that she resides across the street from Virginia Park and feels this Park is currently heavily used for other purposes.

Lynn Borset spoke on this issue.

Gretchen Hahn spoke on this issue and felt other parks were not considered as possible sites for a Project Grow garden.

Marilee Woodworth spoke on this issue and expressed opposition.

Mike Levrine spoke on this issue and expressed support.

Margaret Erickson spoke on this issue and expressed support.

A. Kuras stated that a number of parks have been considered as possible sites for a Project Grow garden. City staff has worked with Project Grow to review the park sites for suitability for gardens. Virginia Park provides the on-site amenities that are required to establish a garden. Project Grow has maintained a garden site in the vicinity of Virginia Park and the garden has been popular with neighbors.

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64 T. Berla inquired about when Project Grow will need a decision on a garden site to have a garden
65 established for Summer 2007.

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67 M. Kesterson requested a decision for a park site from the City by May 1, 2007.

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69 C. Smith stated this issue would be addressed as soon as possible.
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71 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None**

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73 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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75 A-1 Commissioner Satarino moved, supported by Commissioner Offen to approve the
76 minutes of January 16, 2007 with corrections on page 5, after line 281 to add scholarship
77 discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
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79 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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81 **E-2 Sculpture Plaza Update**

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83 S. Pollay executive director, DDA summarized the planning activities that have occurred over
84 recent months for the Sculpture Plaza. Pollay reviewed the proposed plaza improvements.
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86 A. Kuras provided additional details about planned improvements at Sculpture Plaza.
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88 **B. Financial Reports**

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90 Damon Thompson, Financial Manager for Community Services, reviewed the financial reports with
91 the Commission.
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93 S. Offen requested further information for the Greenbelt millage.
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95 D. Thompson stated yes there would be documentation explaining the expenditures.
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97 S. Offen requested an itemization and/or summary totals for the recreation facilities.
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99 After further discussion;

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101 **B-1 Ice Skating Admissions Fees**

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103 L. Berauer moved, supported by G. Nystuen to open discussion of an Ice Skating Admissions
104 resolution that was tabled at the January meeting.
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106 *On a voice vote – Motion Passed – Unanimous*
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108 S. Kunselman offered an alternative resolution and expressed the importance of this resolution
109 and requested that Commissioners vote to recommend the resolution.
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112 RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR REDUCE ADMISSION FEES AT
113 CITY ICE RINKS FOR CHILDREN 17 & UNDER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2006/07 ICE
114 SKATING SEASON
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116 Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor is mandated by the City Charter to provide for the parks and
117 recreational needs of its citizens, and
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119 Whereas, the City in years past provided free ice skating rinks at it's city parks such as West Park,
120 Allmendinger Park, Burns Park, Northside, Scheffler Park, Wheeler Park, and Hunt Park; and
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Whereas, due to climatic and budgetary conditions, the City only provides ice skating opportunities for its residents today at Veterans Park and Buhr Park for which admission fees are charged that mimic privately operated ice skating facility admission fees; and

Whereas, City staff has identified over \$200,000 in un-obligated funds in the FY06-07 Parks budget; and

Whereas, the Parks Advisory Commission, at the January 17, 2006 meeting discussed the concern that admission fees were too high and resulting in lower participation rates at City recreational facilities and resolved to recommend to City Council that admission fees be reduced; and

Whereas, the over \$200,000 in un-obligated funds identified by staff are available immediately to reduce the admission fees to the City ice rinks at Veterans Park and Buhr Park by \$2.00 per child 17 & under that reside in Ann Arbor;

Now, therefore, be it resolved on this day, February 20, 2007 that the City of Ann Arbor Parks Advisory Commission recommends to the City Council of Ann Arbor to reduce the admission fees to the City ice rinks at Veterans Park and Buhr Park by \$2.00 per child 17 & under that reside in Ann Arbor effective immediately and for the duration of the remaining 2006/07 ice skating season.

S. Offen asked if the third "Whereas" regarding the climatic conditions could be due to the colder weather.

S. Kunselman stated the reasons could be due to financial reasons rather than climate.

B. Macomber stated the identified \$200,000.00 (stated in the fourth "Whereas") un-obligated funds should be explained by Tom Crawford and/or Damon Thompson.

L. Berauer asked for an explanation of the differences between un-obligated and available funds. She also stated that she was uncomfortable making a recommendation to single out one particular park activity or service for fee adjustments.

C. Smith reported that for the current year there are 672 children who are participating in the scholarship program.

T. Berla and **C. Rising** reviewed the PAC's fee discussion for the 2006-2007 season.

G. Nystuen moved to strike the fifth "Whereas", supported by **T. Berla**.

On a voice vote – Motion Passed – Unanimous

T. Berla explained he is not comfortable passing a Resolution without staff providing a report for fees changes.

C. Smith indicated that the March PAC meeting would include a Work Session for the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 budget recommendations. The work session will include fee data.

D. Barrett suggested more advertisement to promote additional participation.

L. Berauer stated the Commission would vote on recommending this resolution by voice vote.

On a voice vote:

The Commission voted:

Ayes: (0) None

Nays: (8) **L. Berauer, B. Macomber, S. Offen, C. Riseng, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, J. Satarino, D. Barrett**

Absent: (1) J. Lawter

C - NEW BUSINESS

C-1 Off-Lease Designation in Park Areas

C. Smith distributed recommended City ordinance revisions to provide for off lease areas in parks.

D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

D-1 Greenbelt Boundary Expansion Update – No Discussion

E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

E-1 Update Park Security – C. Smith spoke on this issue.

E-2 Sculpture Plaza Update (**moved up to Unfinished Business**)

E-3 Bandemer Park Update – A. Kuras spoke on this issue.

E-3a Bandemer Map – A. Kuras spoke on this issue.

E-4 Financial Reports (**moved up to Unfinished Business**)

F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS – None.

G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION – None.

H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK FORCES – None.

I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)

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

K - TRANSMITTALS

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

K-2 Parks Project Update (Information in Packet)

K-3 Parks and Recreation Events for March 2007 – (Information in Packet)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Nystuen moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Bowen
Lynn Bowen
Administrative Support Specialist V