



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 4:00 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 4:10 p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (9) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, D. Barrett, J. Grand, J. Lawter, G. Nystuen, S. Rosencrans, T. Berla, S. Offen

Ex-Officio Members Present: (1) S. Kunselman

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (1) M. Anglin

Members Absent: (0) None

Staff Present: (14) Jayne Miller, Colin Smith, Greg Bazick, D. Thompson, M. Warba, J. Dehring, K.C. Bemish, J. Black, A. Kuras, J. Frenzel, L. Bowen

Guests: (8) Larry Deck, Rita Barvinok, Jennie Hale, Maureen Ybarra, Casey Battle, John Freshley, Kevin Devine, Glenn Thompson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berauer asked the Commission if there was anything that needed to be discussed or if there were any additions or requests to be added to the agenda. There were none. The agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Casey Battle spoke on the conditions of the soccer fields at Fuller Field. He stated the fields are in poor shape, and he has played soccer in various places in the country and no longer plays at Fuller Field. Mr. Battle explained other clubs are renting other fields due to the safety concerns of playing on Fuller Fields.

Mr. Battle also stated the surrounding fields in the area are maintained better as well as being safer than Fuller Field.

John Freshley spoke on the conditions of the soccer fields at Fuller Field. Mr. Freshley stated he is a local entrepreneur in Ann Arbor and has been in Ann Arbor approximately nine years.

51 He has played soccer on Fuller Field but cannot any longer due to poor conditions as well
52 as being unsafe for him physically.

53
54 Soccer is not a special interest of a narrow group of people, and is one of the most
55 democratic and most popular sports; primarily all you need is a little ball that can be made
56 out of tape if you wish and bare feet to kick it.

57
58 There is no equipment required; this is why it is the largest youth participation sport not only
59 in the world, but also in this country. It is the largest youth participation sport in Ann Arbor,
60 both at the recreation and education level. Most of the children want to continue to develop
61 in the game and choose to do travel sports. Due to the conditions of the fields, travel sports
62 have become very expensive. Unfortunately many of our residents have discovered when
63 trying to privately fund field's through a single club it became unsustainable; that club is now
64 folding. This was not the best approach to providing fields to our community.

65
66 Pooling the efforts of all the clubs would be more efficient, and allow what is a very diverse
67 sport to be played.

68
69 **Maureen Ybarra** spoke on the conditions of the Soccer Fields, stating she has lived in Ann
70 Arbor for the last 5 years, previously residing in California. Ms.Ybarra explained the different
71 challenges faced with the fields due to the weather conditions here in Michigan. Also,
72 explaining the possibility of using turf fields versus using grass fields.

73
74 Ms. Ybarra stated the fields in the surrounding communities are well maintained. She stated
75 she has coached here for the last 9 years at many different levels and have children who
76 also play soccer. When playing on the fields in the surrounding communities that are well
77 groomed, it is a pleasure. The games that are held at Fuller Field as well as other local
78 fields have become difficult and several players wear ankle braces on occasion due to the
79 conditions.

80
81 Ms. Ybarra stated she is encouraged that the Park Advisory Commission is addressing this
82 issue.

83
84 **Jenny Hale** is a program officer and youth counselor advisor for the Ann Arbor Area
85 Community Foundation and also a member of the Ann Arbor Skate Park Action Community.

86
87 In 2007 the Youth Council conducted a needs assessment, 693 Ann Arbor teens were
88 surveyed regarding issues, concerns and programs that should be funded. She also passed
89 copies of the results of this survey to the Commission. The teens overwhelmingly responded
90 that after school recreation and social activities were the number one answer; 81% of the
91 teens responded.

92
93 The question regarding what programs teens participate in was also asked, 61% responded
94 again to the after school recreation and social activities. The Skate Park will be for
95 everyone, but youth under 18 years of age will likely be the primary users of this Skate Park.

96
97 Teens at this age cannot vote. They can tell the politicians and public officials that they care
98 about something. The Skate Park that this group envisions is beautiful; the plan is to
99 incorporate green spaces and landscaping in the design as well as public art. This is exactly
100 the type of Skate Park Ann Arbor should have.

101

102 As a Vets Park neighbor, the corner will be even more attractive with what is proposed.

103

104 The examples of other Skate Parks can be works of art themselves.

105

106 The proposed location does not include cutting down trees in the area. The skaters want
107 and desire shaded areas. The Community Foundation stands ready to consider serving as
108 fiduciary and has done this for other groups in the community for special projects that serve
109 a broad community. Recommending a location is the key to the Community Foundation's
110 involvement.

111

112 There are corporate and individual donors that are ready to make a donation but the group
113 needs a fiduciary and most organizations that could serve as one will require a location be
114 recommended. There is adequate time to get the location in the next 2 months so the group
115 can have a fiduciary in place by June 2008 and start accepting donations and applying for
116 grants by the summer.

117

118 Ms. Hale stated she supports the location of the Skate Park being at Veteran's Memorial
119 Park and urged The Park Advisory Commission to make an official recommendation to the
120 City Council regarding the location as soon as possible.

121

122 **Rita Barvinok** spoke on the Skate Park and also stated Ann Arbor has many different kinds
123 of recreational activities, stressing the need for a Skate Park in Ann Arbor. The Skate
124 boarders want a safe location for skateboarding; there would no longer be an excuse for
125 them to skate on the streets.

126

127 The Skate Park Action Committee has proposed Veteran's Memorial Park for the location of
128 the Skate Park. This is a very good location for the skate park; the park is large, it will be
129 away from homes and the residents will not be disturbed, the proposed location is visibly
130 open from Maple St. and other places in the Park. There are trees near the proposed
131 location which is a good place for skaters as well as their parents to rest.

132

133 The path that goes across the proposed location may be able to go around the Park or
134 above the Park. The Skate Park may add amusement for those who walk along this path.
135 There are always bystanders who take an interest and watch the skaters.

136

137 Ann Arbor skate boarders deserve to have a Skate Park and Veteran's Memorial Park is the
138 right location.

139

140 **Kevin Devine** spoke in support of the skate park, also explaining he has a son who is
141 involved in skate boarding and would be a supporter. The proposed location is a wonderful
142 idea and would be a good service to our residents and our children to have this facility.

143

144 **Larry Deck** spoke and represents the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition and has
145 been involved with non motorized transportation in the County and in the City.

146

147 There is a list of 16 priorities Countywide; two of those projects are in City Parks. One is
148 finishing the trail between Broadway and The Argo Dam, the other project is the tunnel
149 under the railroad between Barton Park and Bandemer Park on the north side.

150

151 The tunnel project is a safety issue at the crossing and is a key facility that links the northern
152 City Parks to the central City Parks.

153 It is also part of the City's non motorized plan.

154

155 The tunnel project will be expensive to complete, but there should be funding available from
156 a number of agencies. To obtain funding from these agencies we need to have control of
157 land.

158

159 To control the land we need railroad approval of the tunnel. To have this we need an
160 engineering design of the tunnel. To have this we need City Council's approval to proceed
161 with the engineering design of the tunnel.

162

163 The request is to ask The Park Advisory Commission to recommend this issue be brought to
164 City Council for action and discussion.

165

166 **L. Berauer** asked if Larry Deck could send the list of the projects to the Commissioners via
167 email.

168

169 **Glenn Thompson** spoke on the Skate Park; stating only 2 locations were suggested by the
170 Park Planning staff at the recent neighborhood meeting. Veteran's Memorial Park was
171 preferred by the Skate Park Committee and feels this is a very undesirable location from an
172 environmental stand point with the possibility of flooding at the Allen Creek.

173

174 The proposed Skate Park is estimated to be 30,000 square feet of impervious area, this is
175 an area equal to the rooftops of 30 – 50 homes. We should not be adding this impervious
176 area to one of the few green surfaces of the water shed, these areas should be used to
177 retain water to reduce flood damage.

178

179 Mr. Dehring has stated this project will meet the storm water requirements, meeting the
180 environmental standards of the Bush Administration is not the standard Ann Arbor should
181 accept. For example, the City recently awarded a contract to demolish a home due to this
182 risk of flood damage. It simply does not make sense that the City would demolish a home
183 due to flood risk and then construct a project less than a mile from this home that
184 exacerbates flood danger.

185

186 There are areas where a Skate Park could be constructed that would actually improve storm
187 water management, meet the goals of the Skate Park Committee and that would be more
188 likely to qualify for grant funding, for example, the non motorized transportation grants. It
189 may be harder to implement and harder to design, but this idea should be taken into
190 consideration rather than accepting the Veteran's Park location without considering the
191 environmental problems.

192

193 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

194

195 **A-1 Commissioner Offen** moved, supported by **Commissioner Rosencrans** to
196 approve the minutes of the March 18, 2008 meeting as written. The minutes of
197 March 18, 2008 were approved unanimously as written.

198

199 **Commissioner Berauer** commented on the minutes from the March 18, 2008
200 meeting were very extensive.

201

202

203

204 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

205
206 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

207
208 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

209
210 **B-1 Park Security Discussion and Recommendations**

211
212 **Deputy Chief Bazick** explained the increased Police patrols in the Parks. He stated he
213 and Gwen Nystuen met regarding this issue and passed reports to the Commission.

214
215 Deputy Chief Bazick stated this explanation is a follow up for the Commission and the
216 extension of the first visual graph and also passed this graph to the Commission (call
217 for service activity) that was shown to the Commission previously. There are 3 pages
218 that show by fiscal year, by hour of the day and the call for service activity in the Parks.
219 This report indicates all of the Parks but can be modified by each Park. Deputy Chief
220 Bazick explained each sheet to the Commission, also stating there is more activity in
221 the Parks in the summer months, with activity declining in the winter months.

222
223 A database was created to take the officers day sheets and enter all of the information
224 into the database regarding the self initiated activity for the Officer's in the Parks as a
225 whole hour by hour based on what the Officer's logged in. This report can also be
226 modified by categories upon the request of the Commission.

227
228 **L. Berauer** stated this report is very helpful.

229
230 **S. Offen** asked if it would be possible to annualize the 2007 data.

231
232 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated the report is based upon fiscal year, and would be July
233 2006 – July 2007.

234
235 **S. Offen** asked if there is a way to approximate what the numbers were at the first of
236 the year.

237
238 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated yes.

239
240 **S. Offen** asked if there was anecdotal explanation for why there are spikes in hours for
241 2005, then were reduced for the remaining years.

242
243 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated he would review the report in that time frame, and look at
244 the service account worked. There is a possibility there was an increase in traffic stops
245 in the area that was coded towards one of the Parks in the area.

246
247 **G. Nystuen** stated a recommendation needs to be made to continue our current
248 operation for this coming year. When the Commission has the full report by the end of
249 July 2008, a permanent recommendation can be made in coordination.

250
251 It would also be good to work with the Adopt-A-Park as well as the park stewards. One
252 of the advantages this last year has been the coordination of bringing together
253 information between the Parks and Police. So far there have not been any serious
254 difficulties.

255 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated the Commission requested information regarding any
256 detriment to other operations within in the City due to the patrolling of the Parks.
257

258 Deputy Chief Bazick stated there has not been any documentation to indicate this is
259 affecting other services.
260

261 **L. Berauer** asked if accomplishing the Park patrol caused the Police Department to
262 have any deficiencies in other areas.
263

264 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated no, there were not any deficiencies in other areas. The
265 free patrol time was redirected and nothing else was harmed with these efforts. This is
266 patrol time that is not tied up for a response to a call for service or for a call that you
267 schedule in advance.
268

269 **L. Berauer** stated she was glad to hear this because there was a concern with that
270 particular issue.
271

272 **J. Lawter** asked Deputy Chief Bazick to explain the terminology “calls for service”.
273

274 **Deputy Chief Bazick** explained a “call for service” would be is someone called “911” to
275 report an incident and a unit and/or a Police Officer responded to the location.
276

277 **J. Lawter** stated it appears calls have dropped in 2008.
278

279 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated new data is being collected with the new system. Also
280 stating data will be collected to determine if what is represented in the report is data
281 from Police Officer’s being on duty or if it represented by Community Standards.
282

283 **G. Nystuen** stated at the time of the previous report there were many Community
284 Standards employees.
285

286 **L. Berauer** stated emails have been received regarding dogs off leash, and wanted to
287 ask if there were any comments on recent experiences with this issue.
288

289 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated he has not focused on this issue to make an analysis on
290 it.
291

292 **L. Berauer** stated there was an email pertaining to Bird Hills regarding dogs being off
293 leash.
294

295 **Deputy Chief Bazick** asked if anything has been posted regarding options for the
296 dogs.
297

298 **Colin Smith** stated there is no signage at this time, but signs can be placed at the
299 Kiosk at Bird Hills Park and other Parks as well.
300

301 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated if there was literature to hand out to the citizen’s that
302 would be another way for staff to interact with the public in an informative manner.
303
304

305 **L. Berauer** stated NAP was in possession of literature regarding proper etiquette
306 pertaining to dogs in the Parks, also suggesting employees in Community Standards
307 and Police Officer's could pass out information containing the locations of the Dog
308 Parks.

309
310 **Colin Smith** stated he spoke with Deputy Chief Seto and he suggested not only a
311 warning to the public regarding off leash dogs but having a brochure stating the options
312 of the Dog Park.

313
314 **T. Berla** expressed concern that citizen's may not realize they are actually breaking the
315 rules.

316
317 **S. Offen** stated yes, people do realize they are not following the rules and that he has
318 mentioned to citizens, with responses being yes they are aware.

319
320 **S. Offen** asked if the reports could be grouped into the types of Parks we are speaking
321 of, as in neighborhood parks or community Parks.

322 **B-2** Athletic Field Task Force Report and Recommendations

323
324
325 **L. Berauer** complimented the Task Force on the hard work with addressing the issues
326 that the public as well as the Commission are concerned about regarding the fields.

327
328 **D. Barrett** spoke on the field conditions explaining the progress to the Commission.

329
330 Information was passed to the Commission. D. Barrett stated he walked around each
331 field in Ann Arbor to better address the field conditions. The soccer fields and active
332 sports fields are not well maintained. There is a distinction among the soccer fields and
333 how they are used. There are the primary fields which at this point would be Fuller Park
334 (there are 8 fields there) and Olson Park. The secondary fields are Virginia Park and
335 West Park, and other neighborhood Parks.

336
337 Approximately two years ago an attempt to repair Olson Park was made, there were
338 problems with the builder and this project was not completed.

339
340 The irrigation system at Fuller Park was in need of repair, funds were not allocated for
341 this repair. The field was over used and is now in the current state.

342
343 Recreation & Education uses a combination of school fields and the secondary
344 neighborhood fields. The house leagues have higher level skills, do not travel and
345 basically play in Ann Arbor. The third level is the club and the travel teams. There are
346 thousands of children participating in these levels. The travel teams and the club teams
347 of which examples are the Arsenal, United, USA and Soccer Blast travel around the
348 state with Ann Arbor being the home area. Most of the club teams have migrated out of
349 the City to Concordia College or privately owned areas to practice where they rent time
350 and space.

351
352 The use of Fuller Park is down due to injuries to the children playing on the fields which
353 are caused by the conditions of the fields.

355 There is major work to do on the fields, the positive news is the City has come to the
356 same conclusion and there is a genuine understanding of the problem.

357
358 There are 6 items for the Commission to be aware of and to remain focused on:

359
360 The fields are not well maintained, the second issue is quality which is related to
361 quantity because they are over used because there is not enough quantity. We need to
362 make sure that we start with the idea of what quality would be.

363
364 The City has a responsibility to provide recreational facilities when no other
365 organization public or private will, there is a possibility that no other organization will
366 meet the needs of a high quality fields.

367
368 Fuller and Olson Fields are a very good place to start repairing, in addition the City has
369 made a commitment to focus on the secondary field's that the Recreation and
370 Education teams will be playing on, this will take time to fertilize and aerate.

371
372 The Fields need to be renovated at a high level quality; a plan implemented to maintain
373 this level of quality, the ongoing maintenance plan will evolve as we learn more
374 especially since we have not maintained the fields at this level.

375
376 The goal is to establish this amenity into the future, so we need to put in place ongoing
377 systems. This will include ongoing regular maintenance, control of access, preventing
378 over usage and allocating fields among competing organizations. When the fields are
379 improved this will be a challenge.

380
381 Establishing policies, reservation rates, weather cancellations, measurement of field
382 quality on an ongoing basis, accounting for field cost and rental revenue. These are
383 areas to work on.

384
385 **S. Offen** stated the speakers attending the meeting mentioned the quality of fields in
386 neighboring communities and that they were superior to the quality of the fields in Ann
387 Arbor. S. Offen asked if those fields mentioned have been visited, how the qualities of
388 those fields are maintained and if there are fields we could use as a model for our own
389 fields.

390
391 **D. Barrett** stated due to coaching on the travel teams, these fields have been visited.
392 There are a number of business scenarios that make this possible some are privately
393 owned others are City owned. They go into business with private organizations to
394 maintain the fields.

395
396 To hold soccer tournaments generates money, causing this to be in their best interest
397 to maintain the fields so they can have tournaments. There has not been a tournament
398 in Ann Arbor for many years for this reason.

399
400 **L. Berauer** stated most of the public feels using the partnership with a private entity will
401 work well.

402
403 **J. Lawter** stated if the infrastructure is in place there is a possibility that uncontrolled
404 play on the field will cause the field not to be able to rest and rotate. One muddy day
405 could cause the field to be destroyed.

406 Although we want tournament level fields, that may not be possible on all fields. It
407 would be nice to have some percentages that are of good quality and tournament level
408 fields.

409
410 To be able to accomplish this goal there will have to be fences placed at the fields and
411 rules for the usage of the fields.

412
413 **G. Nystuen** asked how the plans for the fields will fit with this year's budget, as well as
414 the timeline to reach these goals.

415
416 **D. Barrett** explained the budget aspect will be explained in Jayne Miller's presentation
417 at today's meeting. The timeline would be approximately 2-3 years to get fields in order.

418
419 **S. Rosencrans** asked if there is a specific list of criteria that is used pertaining to good
420 or bad fields.

421
422 **D. Barrett** stated yes and he would be happy to explain.

423
424 **L. Berauer** asked if D. Barrett had an opinion regarding grass versus artificial turf on
425 the fields.

426
427 **D. Barrett** stated in a perfect world it would be better to play on turf.

428
429 **T. Berla** suggested the possibility of someone from Park Operations being able to go to
430 the fields and write down the field quality measurements. Also stating it would be a
431 good idea to have artificial turf fields with lights.

432
433 One artificial turf field can cost in excess of one million dollars.

434
435 **Jayne Miller** presented a Power Point presentation to the Commission and explained
436 that the presentation would include an overview of the sport's fields in the area, the
437 field user groups in the area will be indentified, an overview of the current field
438 reservation practices and revenues, current maintenance practices as well as provide
439 recommendations for future maintenance practices, policy development and field
440 reservations.

441
442 ***There was an extensive Power Point Presentation presented to the Commission,***

443
444 ***Jayne Miller explained each slide to the Commission in detail.***

445
446 **S. Offen** asked J. Miller what year was the data from that was presented to the
447 Commission.

448
449 **Jayne Miller** stated the data is current and also stated the Commission has hard
450 copies of the Power Point Presentation.

451
452 **Jayne Miller** expressed the usage at the Fuller Field not being controlled; due to this
453 the conditions of the fields have deteriorated and the summer camps no longer use the
454 fields.

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S. Offen asked why there were fewer hours with the summer usage than in the spring.

Jayne Miller explained the clubs are going elsewhere due to the conditions of the fields, and we have fields that are rested more in the summer than in the spring.

T. Berla stated this could be due to summer being considered only 2 months and the spring is considered 3 months.

S. Kunselman stated the irrigation system at Fuller Field is a major issue compared to the fields in the surrounding communities.

Matt Warba explained a new irrigation system was put in Fuller Field last spring along with a new pump and lowered the level of the intake pipe within the stream. To move forward with the fields this is a key component.

J. Lawter asked which three fields have fees.

Jayne Miller stated fees are at Olson and Fuller Fields. Fees should be charged at all of the Fields but the question is what the tier and fee structures consist of. The Airport Field's are used and they are City Fields. We do not receive revenue from that Field and are not aware of where the revenue is actually going.

D. Barrett explained there are four Fields at the Airport they are not like neighborhood fields, they are closer in likeness to Fuller Field.

S. Offen asked who maintained the soccer fields.

Jayne Miller stated Parks Operations.

L. Berauer asked if the data regarding reservations has been difficult to obtain from Recreation and Education.

Jayne Miller stated this has been a difficult situation due to Recreation and Education wanting to abide by a 1976 agreement and is an issue that is being discussed.

T. Berla stated he has mentioned to Sara Acshbach and the Recreation Advisory Commission regarding a presentation to the Park Advisory Commission regarding the policy with the City.

L. Berauer stated this issue should be placed on the agenda to discuss and possibly have both the Park Advisory Commission and the Recreation Advisory Commission meet.

D. Barrett expressed thanks to staff regarding a job well done with this situation.

- B-3** Golf Task Force Report
- PAC Recommendation

507 **Jayne Miller** explained and passed a packet to the Commission regarding the Golf
508 Course Report. The packet included the Marketing Plan for the Golf Course, sample
509 materials and the Golf Course Recommendations, the Park Advisory
510 Recommendations from the January 15, 2008 meeting minutes.

511
512 Also included in the packet:

513
514 The City's cost per visitor per recreation facility, the millage funds that have been
515 expended at each facility, the millage fact sheet along with questions and answers
516 when we were promoting the existing millage.

517
518 Jayne Miller walked the Commission through the immediate changes which included
519 the fact that Matt Warba leaving the Golf Courses, with Matt Warba's move it presented
520 challenges and opportunities that allowed staff changes. Cheryl Saam who was at the
521 Canoe Liveries, prior to being there was at the Leslie Science Center will be moving to
522 Leslie Park Golf Course and Jason Nealis will be moving to Huron Hills Golf Course.
523 Those changes were specifically done to due to their experience. Cheryl Saam has
524 totally revamped the Canoe Livery operations from business, customer service and
525 financial aspects.

526
527 The fee structure recommended that was approved by City Council was implemented.
528 The staffing levels have been increased; the tee-time reservation systems (integrated
529 and Point of Sale) have been implemented and will provide a great deal of information
530 regarding our customers so that target marketing can be done.

531
532 Between both Golf Courses approximately \$30,000.00 will be spent on marketing this
533 season.

534
535 The process has begun to obtain a liquor license from the State of Michigan. City
536 Council awarded the license to Leslie Park in March. The state will inspect the property
537 and this could take 4 – 6 months to complete this process. Until this process is
538 complete, alcohol cannot be sold at the facility.

539
540 There have been enhancements to improve the operations. A huge emphasis has been
541 put towards customer service with our staff as well as hiring practices. Enhancements
542 are also being made with the food and beverage operations at both Golf Courses. All of
543 these changes are being made within the Fiscal Year budget.

544
545 The Golf Courses are always budgeted with the intent of a good year. If it is not a good
546 year due to weather or other circumstances the Managers are aware to operate on
547 what is budgeted, meaning if the revenue is down to operate on this budget, and
548 cutting expenses as needed.

549
550 We have 4 different scenarios of recommendations regarding a 3 -5 year investment for
551 the Golf Courses. Jayne Miller explained in detail the information included in the packet
552 passed to the Commission.

553
554 The big difference between the Park Advisory Commissions, two staff, and the Golf
555 Task Force recommendations was the irrigation system at Huron Hills which was a
556 \$425,000.00 cost and was not included in all the recommendations.

557

558 **D. Barrett** asked if the irrigation system would be replaced at a cost of \$425,000.00.

559
560 **Jayne Miller** stated this is a recommendation to City Council and it is not included in
561 the proposed budget. City Council has the information and this cost may be included in
562 the budget.

563
564 **S. Offen** asked how much the irrigation system cost and how long it would take to
565 replace the system.

566
567 **Jayne Miller** stated the materials would be ready for bid and would take 2 –3 months.

568
569 **S. Offen** asked if we waited until spring what would be the earliest the system would be
570 installed.

571
572 **Jayne Miller** stated the recommendation would be to start the process of repairing the
573 irrigation system in the fall and close the Golf Course early.

574
575 **Colin Smith** stated the work could be completed in the fall of the 2010 golf season if
576 approved.

577
578 **T. Berla** stated the work would be completed in the 2011 season.

579
580 **B. Macomber** asked if the replacement of the irrigation system is included in the
581 \$778,000.00 that staff is proposing come out of the capital.

582
583 **Jayne Miller** stated no, it is not.

584
585 **B. Macomber** stated the City's capital plan already has the approximately \$250,000.00
586 going to the golf courses from the capital millage and asked if this includes the
587 \$778,000.00.

588
589 **B. Macomber** stated this information can be seen on the Parks and Recreation portion
590 of the City's Capital Plan located on the City's web site.

591
592 **Colin Smith** stated he was not aware of this information being on the web site.

593
594 **S. Offen** stated the information regarding \$250,000.00 that B. Macomber is referring to
595 is in the Fiscal 2012 budget.

596
597 **B. Macomber** stated the current maintenance capital millage is for the length of 6
598 years, allocating 20% of that revenue each year for the 2007 – 2008 and the 2008 –
599 2009 budgets, which is approximately \$1,000,000.00 per year. For the next six-year time
600 span, if we continue using the 80/20 percent ratio there will only be \$6,000,000.00 to
601 work with.

602
603 Looking at the proposal for the golf courses, without the installation of the irrigation
604 system there will be a large portion of money spent.

605
606 **Jayne Miller** stated \$778,000.00 was identified out of the capital portion of the new
607 millage to utilize for the Golf Courses. There are projects out of (Fund 18) the old capital
608 millage and the new millage.

609 This current year and next year was discussed and this is a significant issue that this
610 body should comment on and send to City Council before the budget is decided on.

611
612 **L. Berauer** stated the Park Advisory Commission did not propose using any of the
613 capital money.

614
615 **Jayne Miller** explained projects that were cut and placed on hold are included in the
616 packet passed to the Commission.

617
618 **Jayne Miller** explained that the notes in the packet are referring to the \$250,000.00 that
619 was proposed as part of Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 budget for Park Security.

620
621 One of the recommendations was to use \$230,000.00 of the \$250,000.00 for this Fiscal
622 Year for Golf Course improvements.

623
624 For Fiscal Year 2009 use \$180,000.00 of the \$250,000.00 for Golf Course
625 improvements.

626
627 On the second page, \$200,000.00 of the capital money has been identified as well as
628 another \$150,000.00 from Capital projects relating to trail and pathway repairs.

629
630 **B. Macomber** stated at the previous Park Advisory Commission it was stated that there
631 was not any Park Security money coming out of the millage in the 2008 – 2009 budget.

632
633 **Jayne Miller** stated there is not any money coming out, it is the money that was
634 budgeted that City Council did not approve and is in a contingency fund.

635
636 **B. Macomber** stated if the six year millage remains at the 80/20 ratio, we are looking at
637 \$6,000,000.00 over the course of six years and the \$778,000.00 without the irrigation
638 system it will take a large portion of the six year millage.

639
640 The list states new soccer development is being cut, trail and greenway development is
641 being cut which is behind particularly in the trails. If new land were found for the soccer
642 fields there would be less money to develop them.

643
644 **Jayne Miller** suggested the Park Advisory Commission provide information to Council
645 regarding the recommendations and the source of funds.

646
647 **L. Berauer** asked Jayne Miller was comfortable cutting the capital projects.

648
649 **Jayne Miller** stated these are very difficult decisions City Council will make as to where
650 approximately \$3,000,000.00 will come from. Whether or not the investments will be
651 made to the Golf Courses immediately and what will be the long-term implications for
652 City Council if the investment is made today for next Fiscal Year.

653
654 Every year thereafter, after 5 years there will be an additional \$1,000,000.00 at a
655 minimum that City Council must decide on.

656
657 T. Berla stated the six year forecast seems to show a \$2,000,000.00 operating transfer
658 from the General Fund.

659

660 Also, over the next six years we will subsidize the golf courses in the amount of
661 \$3,000,000.00 and at the end of that period of time we will still have to subsidize
662 approximately \$5.00 per round at Leslie Park, \$9.00 a round at Huron Hills assuming
663 this scenario.

664
665 **L. Berauer** suggested the Park Advisory Commission hold a special work session to
666 discuss the materials passed to the Commission today to agree on a final
667 recommendation to City Council regarding golf.

668
669 **S. Rosencrans** stated a special meeting is a good idea and a special meeting is
670 certainly is in order.

671
672 **J. Grand** stated this issue would be brought up with the Golf Task Force prior to the
673 next City Council meeting.

674
675 **B-4** Staff Report on Skate Park Public Meeting

676
677 **Jeff Dehring** stated the public meeting was held on April 2, 2008 with approximately 75
678 people in attendance. The dialogue consisted of the community expressing their opinion
679 on the location of the Skate Park being at Veteran's Memorial Park.

680
681 There were concerns about trees being cut down, the trees will not be affected.

682
683 Larry Dishman was in attendance. The parking issue was discussed. Larry Dishman
684 stated with the decrease in programs the parking may not be an issue.

685
686 There are concerns regarding the Allen Creek Watershed and water run off.

687
688 The Skate Park Action Committee is well aware of this concern and knows this is an
689 issue they will have to build into their design to mitigate.

690
691 **L. Berauer** asked if there was a PAC representative at the public meeting.

692
693 **S. Rosencrans** stated yes, he was in attendance at the meeting.

694
695 **Jeff Dehring** suggested there be a public hearing on the May agenda for the community
696 to speak on the Skate Park.

697
698 **L. Berauer** asked if there were other locations throughout the City considered for the
699 Skate Park.

700
701 **Jeff Dehring** stated yes, Southeast Area Park and Buhr Park.

702
703 **S. Rosencrans** stated he learned how safe skate boarding is compared to other sports.
704 He also walked around the area that is being discussed and there is ample room at the
705 proposed location.

706
707 **L. Berauer** asked if a detailed report could be prepared for the May meeting and explain
708 the mitigation regarding the storm water.

709
710

711 **Jeff Dehring** stated the plans are not at this level of detail at this time.

712
713 **Colin Smith** stated this would be a very hard question to answer with any certainty until
714 a designer is hired.

715
716 **S. Kunselman** asked if the Commission would be able to make a recommendation in
717 May or June and if there is a time frame.

718
719 **Jeff Dehring** would like to make a recommendation after the public meeting in May.

720
721 **L. Berauer** stated the Commission is aware there cannot be any fundraising until there
722 is a location decided upon.

723
724 **S. Rosencrans** suggested the Commission walk through the proposed area and stated
725 it would help to see the proposed location.

726
727 **B-5** Dog Park Update

728
729 **Jeff Dehring** stated the Dog Park is a huge success. The weather conditions and use
730 have created mud conditions. The Park will be closed May 12 -21 to install gravel and to
731 address the mud situation.

732
733 There will be improvements to the parking lot and re-grade the driveway in order to
734 facilitate that work the Park will close temporarily, a close for maintenance sign will be
735 posted to give information to the users.

736
737 This information will be also be posted by newspaper releases and there will be
738 notifications on the web site. Olson Park will be the only option to take the dogs until the
739 maintenance is completed.

740
741 The County is facilitating and paying for this work.

742
743 **Jeff Dehring** stated a temporary fence is being considered to segregate the area so the
744 turf can establish.

745
746 **L. Berauer stated that due to time restraints, the last two items (B-6 and B-7) on**
747 **the agenda will be discussed at the special meeting that the public will be able to**
748 **attend.**

749
750 **B-6** Review Budget Forecast Report and additional General Fund Allocations

751
752 **B-7** 2008 – 09 Budget

753
754
755 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

756
757
758 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

762 E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

763

764

765 F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

766

767

768 G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

769

770

771 H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK
772 FORCES

773

774

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

776

777 **Glenn Thompson** commented on the storm water situation and stated the
778 development of the Skate Park would possibly double the problem.

779

780 **Trevor Staples** representing the Skate Park Action Committee stated the committee is
781 looking at Federal Grants that give money to projects that deal with irrigation and water
782 retention.

783

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

785

786

787 K - TRANSMITTALS

788

789 K-1 City Council Items Update

790

791 K-2 Park Project Update

792

793 K-3 PAC Work Session Summary

794

795 K-4 Parks and Recreation Events for January – February 2008

796

797 K-5 Parks Advisory Commission 2008 Meeting Schedule

798

799 There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner**
800 **Berauer** moved that the meeting be adjourned. The regular meeting was adjourned at
801 6:47 p.m.

802

803

804

805

806

807