



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2006 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 4:09 p.m. by Chair L. Berauer

II. Roll Call:

Members Present:	(7)	L. Berauer, B. Macomber, J. Satarino, C. Riseng (arrived at 4:13 p.m.) D. Barrett, J. Lawter, T. Berla (arrived at 4:15 p.m.)
Ex-Officio Members Present	(2)	R. Johnson, S. Kunselman
Ex- Officio Members Absent	(0)	None.
Members Absent:	(2)	S. Offen, G, Nystuen
Staff Present:	(4)	C. Smith, K. Henderson, J. Dehring, D. Borneman, K. C. Bemish, K. Levinsohn, L. Bowen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – L. Berauer stated that there would be a change in the agenda. Regarding proposed development, this discussion will be moved to New Business (item C-2)

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None

A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 Commissioner Satarino moved, supported by Commissioner Offen to approve the minutes of November 21, 2006 as written. The minutes were approved unanimously.

B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B-1 Update for Athletic Field Maintenance Agreement

Karla Henderson explained the update regarding the ball field maintenance situation. K. Henderson further explained in 2004 the City of Ann Arbor staff and the Ann Arbor Public School District staff met to discuss a variety of items, the City of Ann Arbor stated it's intent to share the cost of providing ball field maintenance with the School District. The Superintendent asked for the bill, it was sent and the School District responded that they would no longer be interested in paying the bill. In July 2004 the School District stated they would cover 50% of the youth cost and 80% of the adult services cost. That summer the City of Ann Arbor continued to provide ball field maintenance services at no cost.

In April 2005 there was another meeting and discussed a resolution of the ball maintenance issues. It was explained to the School District that they would be responsible for the ball field maintenance.

In the fall of 2005 there were additional meetings with drafts of agreements for the field maintenance, negotiations were reached with an agreement to reduce the bill, which was originally \$217,000.00 to \$100,000.00. After meeting again the City of Ann Arbor accepted a payment of \$50,000.00 for the original bill.

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65 In the most recent meetings, the School District has accepted the last agreement; there is
66 not a signed copy of the agreement as of yet.

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68 **B. Macomber** asked if the remaining \$50,000.00 would be an expense.

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70 **K. Henderson** stated the remainder amount that was due has been charged off through
71 Finance.

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73 **J. Satarino** asked if this resolution of this problem also solves other issues with the School
74 District.

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76 **K. Henderson** stated only the ball fields.

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78 **D. Barrett** asked if the baseball fields were the only fields that would be taken care of.

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80 **K. Henderson** stated yes, only the baseball fields.

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82 **T. Berla** asked if there was an agreement for the baseball fields.

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84 **K. Henderson** stated originally this would be a three-year agreement afterwards the
85 agreement will be renewed

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87 **T. Berla** stated he was very please this issue has been resolved.

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89 **J. Miller** stated there was a task force of City staff, School staff, the Park Advisory
90 Commission and the Recreation Advisory Commission dealing with not only the ball fields
91 but also other issues and were not successful. At this time everyone is moving towards the
92 same goals.

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94 **B-2** Dog Park Update

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96 **C. Smith** spoke on the Dog Park update, Riverside Park is a potential pilot site to start an
97 off leash site.

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99 **B. Macomber** asked if there would be a public meeting with the residents that live in the
100 apartment tower.

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102 **C. Smith** stated yes there would be a community meeting.

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104 **B. Macomber** stated it would be a good idea to have a possible committee that would
105 assist in monitoring the Dog Park.

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107 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

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109 **C-1** Leslie Science Center Strategic Planning Update

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111 **L. Berauer** stated there were several people present that would give a presentation
112 including Jim Frey, Lisa Brush, Andy Buchsbaum and Kirsten Levinsohn.

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114 **J. Miller** explained what the strategic plan presentation involved and asked that the Park
115 Advisory Commission would look at this presentation as well as the printed materials that
116 were handed out to look at the meeting and explained this information would also be
117 discussed at the January 16, 2007 meeting. J. Miller also stated a resolution will be brought
118 forward, January 14, 2007 there will be a neighborhood meeting and a working session will
119 be scheduled for City Council on February 12, 2007.

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121 **Lisa Brush** explained and gave back round regarding the strategic plan presentation.
122 L. Brush explained that 30 years ago the building and the grounds were gifted to the City of
123 Ann Arbor and is now the Leslie Science Center from Dr. Eugene & Emily Leslie for the

124 enjoyment of children. L. Brush also stated Jim Frey would also be a participant in the
125 presentation available this evening to the Commission.

126
127 The Science Center opened it's doors in 1990 the program has grown dramatically. All
128 different kinds of programs are offered, field trips are done, camps, scout programs, and
129 birthday parties. There is a tremendous demand for the needs of the Leslie Science center.
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131 With the needs increasing for the community and the financial resources decreasing the
132 strategic planning process was started in the fall of 2005. The Friends of the Leslie Science
133 Center have been one of several resources that has helped in this plan. The need is great
134 to remain open seven days a week offering the programs that are in demand, which
135 includes the staffing structure.
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137 **J. Frey** also spoke on changing the staffing structure so the demands of the public can be
138 met and continue to give the same service. J. Frey also spoke on several strategic plans to
139 continue financial support including fundraising for the Leslie Science Center.
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141 **C. Riseng** stated the list of people responsible for governing a non-profit organization
142 appears to be very intensive.
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144 **L. Brush** stated the 501C3 would have the majority of the responsibilities.
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146 **Andy Buchsbaum** (Director of The Great Lakes Office of the National Wildlife Federation)
147 stated he has got involved as a neighbor and realized The Leslie Science Center has
148 needs that the above named organization could be of help as well as assist in putting
149 resources at the Center.
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151 **R. Johnson** asked if the current situation allows the Center to handle 15,000 participants
152 why couldn't the same amount of participants be handled next year.
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154 **K. Levinsohn** stated the current staffing has five employees that are employed for fifty
155 weeks and will be replaced with ten-month staff, which is very difficult as far as scheduling.
156 This causes great difficulty maintaining the quality of the current programs.
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158 **J. Lawter** asked if the programs were fee based.
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160 **K. Levinsohn** stated yes approximately 65% of the revenue come from the fees charged.
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162 **J. Lawter** asked for an explanation of an emerging market.
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164 **K. Levinsohn** stated one of the examples of an emerging market would be pre-school due
165 to the strong demand to learn environmental education.
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167 **C-2** Bandemer Ridge Project
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169 **J. Satarino** brought information to the Commission regarding a new proposed
170 development, called Bandemer Ridge and is in a very sensitive part of the scenic Huron
171 River Valley. This is a large project and will impact the Valley for a very long time. This
172 project will affect the scenic value from Argo, Bluff and Bandemer Parks.
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174 **R. Johnson** stated he was pleased that the Park Advisory Commission is discussing this
175 and has an important interest in this new development.
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177 **L. Berauer** stated if any member of the Commission would like to look at the site this would
178 be a good idea.
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180 **J. Lawter** stated he would be happy to accompany any of the Commissioners on a walk to
181 view the proposed sit.
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D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

D-1 PAC Annual Work Plan Timeline for Completion (Schedule Work Session)

L. Berauer asked the Commissioners to have their input on the work plan and prioritize the accomplishments for the upcoming year. L. Berauer suggested a work session be set up to discuss these items.

C. Riseng stated having a Facilitator to work on the Work Plan would be a good idea.

The Commission agreed on bringing a Facilitator in to assist with the Work Plan and also agreed a Saturday meeting would be feasible.

E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith stated staff is drafting the current budget and will bring this information to the Commission in a work session format in early March 2007.

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

H-1 Update for Gift Policy – C. Riseng & T. Berla

I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker) – None.

J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES (If Applicable) – No Action

K - TRANSMITTALS

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

K-2 Parks and Recreation Events for October 2006 – (Information in Packet)

K-3 Parks and Recreation System – (Information in Packet)

K-4 Park and Recreation Events for November 2006 – (Information in Packet)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Satarino moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Bowen
Lynn Bowen
Administrative Support Specialist V