



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 16, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, January 16, 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, J. Satarino, S. Offen, C. Riseng, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, J. Lawter
Ex-Officio Members Present	(2)	R. Johnson, S. Kunselman
Ex- Officio Members Absent	(0)	None.
Members Absent:	(1)	D. Barrett
Staff Present:	(8)	C. Smith, J. Dehring, K.C. Bemish, P. Kohring, G. Leikam, A. Kuras, K. Levinsohn, L. Bowen F. Krawcke

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – L. Berauer stated that there would be an addition to the agenda. The Commission will consider a resolution as New Business (item C-1)**

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker) – None.**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None**

**A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A-1 Commissioner Satarino moved, supported by the Commission to approve the minutes of December 5, 2006 with corrections on page 2, line 75. The December 19, 2006 minutes were approved with corrections on page 1, lines 19 & 21. The minutes were approved unanimously.**

**B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**B-1 Leslie Science Center Strategic Planning Recommendation**

**C. Smith** reviewed the December presentation from the Leslie Science Center Strategic Planning Committee.

**J. Satarino** requested a summary of the January 14, 2007 public meeting for the Leslie Science Center Strategic Planning Committee recommendation.

**Andy Buchshawer** summarized the public meeting discussions. The proposed Leslie Science Center strategic plan was well-received by the Leslie neighbors.

**S. Kinswoman** expressed his concerns with the proposed management of the Leslie Science Center by a separate non-profit organization.

63  
64 **C Rising** moved, supported by **J Staring** to consider the Resolution Recommending  
65 Approval of a Three-year Transition Plan for Governance of the Leslie Science Center by a  
66 501c3 Non-profit Organization that will Work in Partnership with the City of Ann Arbor and  
67 Other Community Agencies.  
68

69 **Ayes:** (8) **L. Berauer, B. Macomber, S. Offen, C. Riseng, G. Nystuen,**  
70 **T. Berla, J. Satarino, J. Lawter**

71  
72 **Nays:** (1) **None.**

73  
74 **Absent:** (1) **D. Barrett**  
75

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

77  
78 **T. Berla** stated he is comfortable authorizing the Leslie Science Center Strategic Planning  
79 Committee to continue with their planning process.  
80

81 **L. Berauer** stated this is an instance of the Leslie Science center being proactive in  
82 addressing continuing reduction in the City’s General Fund support for recreation facility  
83 operations and proposing alternative opportunities that will enable the City to provide high  
84 quality of park and recreation services to the community.  
85

86 **S. Offen** offered a friendly amendment to the resolution: replace the language of “The  
87 Three Year Transition Plan for Governance of The Leslie Science Center” to read “The City  
88 of Ann Arbor Leslie Science Center Strategic Plan”.  
89

90 **Ayes:** (8) **L. Berauer, B. Macomber, S. Offen, C. Riseng, G. Nystuen,**  
91 **T. Berla, J. Satarino, J. Lawter**

92  
93 **Nays:** (1) **None.**

94  
95 **Absent:** (1) **D. Barrett**  
96

97 *On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous*  
98

99 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

100  
101 **C-1** Resolution

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103 **J. Satarino** discussed a resolution addressing Bandemer Ridge and reviewed the Zoning  
104 regulation that apply to the slopes of the Huron River.  
105

106 **L. Berauer** read a second addition to the second resolve to state, *The Park Advisory*  
107 *Commission advises the City Council that the proposed access to Bluff’s Park is not*  
108 *sufficient to grant planned project status.*  
109

110 Resolved, that PAC advises The Planning Commission and City Council to assure that the  
111 impact of the proposed development on the view scape in the two parks and on the river is  
112 clearly and publicly documented and that the territorial impact on the view scape is  
113 minimal.  
114

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

116 **S. Offen** stated the “whereas” should be statements of fact.  
117

118 After further discussion;  
119

120 The Commission voted on both resolutions with the amendments.  
121  
122  
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125  
126           **Ayes:**           **(7)**     **L. Berauer, B. Macomber, C. Riseng, G. Nystuen,**  
127   **T. Berla, J. Satarino, J. Lawter**  
128  
129           **Nays:**           **(1)**     **S. Offen**  
130  
131           **Absent:**       **(1)**     **D. Barrett**  
132

133    On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous  
134

135                                   **RESOLUTION REGARDING DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED**  
136                                   **DEVELOPMENT ON CITY PARK VIEWSCAPES**  
137

138           Whereas, the bylaws of the Park Advisory Commission (PAC) allows for examination and  
139           advice on the effects of new development within the city on city parks;  
140

141           Whereas the PAC is a citizen advisory board charged in part with the responsibility of  
142           preserving the aesthetic qualities of city parks;  
143

144           Whereas, a primary goal (Goal #5, pg. D6) of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan  
145           (2006-2011) is to foster quality of life in Ann Arbor by paying particular attention to the  
146           Parks and Open Space system as a visual resource;  
147

148           Whereas, the City through actions of parks staff, PAC, and City council has sought to  
149           preserve and protect a green corridor and natural character of the Huron River valley  
150           through investment of millions of dollars in land purchases, facility development and  
151           recreational opportunities along the Huron River within the city;  
152

153           Whereas, PAC was informed at the 19 December 2006 meeting that a residential  
154           development called “Bandemer Ridge” was being reviewed by the Planning Commission,  
155           and that PAC agreed to a full discussion of the possible impacts on parks property at the  
156           16 January 2007 meeting;  
157

158           Whereas, the developer proposes to construct a 56-foot tall building on the steep slopes of  
159           North Main Street overlooking Bandemer Park, Argo Pond and Argo canoe livery, which  
160           according to ordinance (Natural Features Ordinance) must be considered for its impact on  
161           the scenic Huron River valley;  
162

163           Whereas, the proposed plans for “Bandemer Ridge” would remove trees, including  
164           landmark trees, along the north slope of North Main St. that currently form a continuous  
165           natural tree line along the valley ridge from Barton to Argo dam;  
166

167           Whereas, the proposed development would be a dominant structure along the Huron River  
168           valley that would have aesthetic impacts on four city parks (Bluffs (directly adjacent), Argo,  
169           Bandemer and Longshore Parks), the Argo canoe livery, and the potential Allen Creek  
170           greenway which would terminate near the proposed development thus potentially affecting  
171           all users of the parks, greenways and Argo Pond;  
172

173           Whereas, the developer has offered a potential public access to Bluffs Park through  
174           “Bandemer Ridge” property as an inducement for the city to accept greater building height  
175           and length and reduced setbacks as a “planned project”;  
176

177           Resolved, that PAC advises City Council that the mass and height of the proposed  
178           development will have a detrimental effect on the view scape for all citizens of Ann Arbor  
179           using four city parks, Argo Pond and a potential future greenway along Allen Creek;  
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Resolved, that PAC advises The Planning Commission and City Council to assure that the impact of the proposed development on the view scape in the two parks and on the river is clearly and publicly documented and that the territorial impact on the view scape is minimal.

Resolved, that PAC advises City Council that the proposed access to Bluffs Park is not a great enough public benefit to grant Planned Project status to the proposed development.

Approved by PAC January 16, 2007

**S. Kunselman** asked whether a representative of PAC should be included on the Planning Commission.

**S. Offen** stated there was not enough information to make a determination at this point.

**L. Berauer** suggested inviting the developer make a presentation to PAC at a future meeting

**J. Satarino** agreed to the suggestion of the developer attending a PAC meeting.

**L. Berauer** read a second addition to the second resolve to state, *The Park Advisory Commission advises the City Council that the proposed access to Bluff's Park is not sufficient to grant planned project status.*

*On a voice vote – Motion Passed – Unanimous*

**S. Offen** stated the “whereas” should be statements of fact.

After further discussion;

The Commission voted on both resolutions with the amendments.

**Ayes:** (7) **L. Berauer, B. Macomber, C. Riseng, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, J. Satarino, J. Lawter**

**Nays:** (1) **S. Offen**

**Absent:** (1) **D. Barrett**

*On a voice vote – Motion Passed – Unanimous*

**D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

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

**L. Berauer** stated a date for this session would be determined via email.

**D-2** Ice Skating Pass

**L. Berauer** moved to table **J. Satarino** supported.

**S. Kunselman** read the resolution printed below and explained to the Commission and stated the private sector has fees that are less than the City of Ann Arbor.

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR REDUCE ADMISSION FEES AT CITY ICE RINKS FOR CHILDREN 17 & UNDER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2006/07 ICE SKATING SEASON**

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor is mandated by the City Charter to provide for the parks and recreational needs of its citizens, and

249  
250 Whereas, the City in years past provided free ice skating rinks at it's city parks such as  
251 West Park, Allmendinger Park, Burns Park, Northside, Scheffler Park, Wheeler Park and  
252 Hunt Park; and

253  
254 Whereas, due to climatic and budgetary conditions, the City only provides ice skating  
255 opportunities for its residents today at Veterans Park and Buhr Park for which admission  
256 fees are charged that mimic privately operated ice skating facility admission fees; and

257  
258 Whereas, City staff has identified over \$200,000 in discretionary funds to be used to create  
259 a "for profit canoe livery" enterprise operation; and

260  
261 Whereas, the "for profit canoe livery" enterprise operation proposal did not receive any  
262 approval from City Council and subsequently was not selected by the Huron-Clinton  
263 Metropark Authority; and

264  
265 Whereas, the Park Advisory Commission, at the January 17, 2006 meeting discussed the  
266 concern that admission fees were too high and resulting in lower participation rates at City  
267 recreational facilities and resolved to recommend to City Council that admission fees be  
268 reduced; and

269  
270 Whereas, the over \$200,000 in discretionary funds identified by staff are available  
271 immediately to reduce the admission fees to the City ice rinks at Veterans Park and Buhr  
272 Park by \$2.00 per child 17 & under that reside in Ann Arbor;

273  
274 Now, therefore, be it resolved on this day, January 16, 2007, that the City of Ann Arbor  
275 Parks Advisory Commission recommends to the City Council of Ann Arbor to reduce the  
276 admission fees to the City ice rinks at Veterans Park and Buhr Park by \$2.00 per child 17 &  
277 under that reside in Ann Arbor effective immediately and for the duration of the remaining  
278 2006/07 ice skating season.

279  
280 Submitted by Stephen Kunselman, Councilmember, Ward 3

281  
282 **S. Kunselman** stated that public skate session fees are too high and the ice arena facilities  
283 are under used. S. Kunselman also stating that fees should be reduced for youth.

284  
285 **C. Riseng** stated that in the past staff has brought fee recommendations to the  
286 Commission as a part of the budget discussion.

287  
288 **Dennis Simon** reviewed fees and skate pass options at the ice arenas.

289  
290 **S. Kunselman** stated his concern with providing affordable access to ice skating facilities  
291 in the community and expressed his opinion that the City has lost sight of the needs of  
292 working people in this community

293  
294 After further discussion;

295  
296 **T. Berla** moved to table the resolution, supported by J. Satarino.

297  
298 *On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous*

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

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302 **E-1** Bandemer Park Improvements

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304 **E-1a** Bandemer Park Improvement Memo

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306 **E-1b** Bandemer Park Map

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308 **E-2** Sculpture Plaza Improvements

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- 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 Land Acquisition Business – Property Scoring Criteria  
  
**Ginny Leikam** distributed strategic planning materials for land acquisition activities.  
After further discussion;  
  
**J. Satarino** moved for the Park Advisory Commission to go into the closed session.  
  
*On a roll call vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous*
- I - **PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL**(3 Minutes per Speaker) – None.
- J - **CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES** (If Applicable)  
  
CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION AND ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION.
- 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 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lynn Bowen*  
Lynn Bowen  
Administrative Support Specialist V