



PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

Members Present:	C.Riseng P.D'Anieri J.Satarino R.Curry	L.Berauer J.Reneaud T.Berla J.Cohen	
Members Absent:	W.Rodgers		
Ex-officio Members Present:	R.Johnson W.Woods	J.Miller	
Ex-officio Members Absent:	S.Aeschbach		
Staff Present:	J.Dehring T.Rynard	A.Kuras K.Bemish	D.Borneman
Others Present:	Margot Mehringer Betty Wier Henry Greenspan Margaret Penirian David Griffiths	Kerrytown Dist. Assoc. 1110 Arbor View 369 Hilldale 464 Colin Circle 412 Colin Circle	996-3591 994-1492 994-0727 761-8064 213-3172

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairperson Phil D'Anieri.

SECRETARY CALLS ROLL

The secretary called the roll, with results as shown above.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Margaret Penirian of 464 Collin Circle addressed the Commission regarding Cranbrook Park. Ms. Penirian handed out a map showing a proposed asphalt path through the park. There is a parcel of land at S. Main St. and Oakbrook Park that borders the park on two sides and residents urged at the recent Planning Commission meeting to preserve part of the property, (25' of woods). They have 85 signatures supporting this request. If they bulldoze the area, people will walk past villas and condominiums on both sides and at the ends of the park. The middle of the park is dense woods that screen out Brookside Condos and makes you feel like you're far away from the city. You can't see any buildings, cars and often no people. They have also seen red fox and white-tailed deer in the area. Although the area is very densely populated, many people

don't know about this park. They urge PAC to encourage the developer to donate the 25' required to the City Parks and Recreation Dept. After area residents spoke on the park, the Planning Commissioners talked about other problems and they reversed the Planning Department staff recommendation to approve the plan. If the developer changes his mind and does not wish to come forth with a new plan to comply with the requests, they hope the City would consider purchasing the property and adding it to Cranbrook Park.

David Griffith of 412 Collin Circle also addressed the Commission regarding Cranbrook Park water concerns. Mr. Griffith remarked that Ann Arbor needs to preserve as much woods and wetland in the watershed as possible in the Mallets Creek area. There has been potential flooding in the Oakwood Dr. area and S. Main area. They don't want any more runoff into Mallets Creek than is necessary. The retention pond that borders on Cranbrook Park fills frequently. A ten-year rainstorm would cause it to flow over into the woods. There is a pool of water lying around for several days after a rain so is very easily saturated. They would like to see the woodlands and wetlands in Mallets Creek area saved and or purchased by the City.

Margot Maringer, Director of Kerrytown Association addressed the Commission regarding the two abandoned gas stations. Ms. Maringer recalled that at PAC's June meeting, a group presented to PAC an entry plan which included the two abandoned gas stations. They have the plan, letters of support and a promise from Kerrytown Association to help maintain the area. They also came back to PAC to explain funding options (Brownfield project) and now would like an update of what has happened in discussions or otherwise.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2003

Acceptance of minutes moved by John Satarino, supported by Roy Curry and passed unanimously by voice vote.

ITEM 6. Orientation to Park Operations an Forestry within Public Service Field Operations Unit – Terry Rynard

Terry Rynard explained there are five service areas city-wide and six units within Public Services. They are within the Field Operations Unit. Staff began looking at common types of activities and opportunities to redesign work we do and be more creative and more effective. There are 12 funds and they stay true to the fund that the work is performed under. Projects are charged appropriately through a new time keeping system. There is a little over \$24 million, distributed over 12 funds. This means they are still doing what they've always done, but hopefully with a little more flexibility. They still work with the recreation facilities and Natural Area Preservation. Coordination for projects will be simplified. John Satarino asked if we still have individual functions. Ms. Rynard responded that they do and they don't anticipate any decrease in service. They are true to the fund and true to the activity. Mr. Satarino asked if there is a plan to rewrite the budget with the new structure. Ms. Rynard answered not this year and probably not next year. The money stays how it was previously under each umbrella and she doesn't expect the budget to change much. Wendy Woods asked what the term Park Headquarters means. Ms. Rynard responded that everyone housed at 415 W. Washington puts money into the fund to maintain the headquarters; daily cleaning,

etc. Others housed in the building also pay per sq. ft. cost. It is her guess that it's done that way because there are so many different funds living at that location and will probably continue into the new building. Jayne Miller added that each recreation facility pays their own utilities and cleaning costs. Ms. Woods asked for a breakdown of how many are putting into the fund and how much. Jayne Miller and Terry Rynard will get that information to PAC. Ms. Rynard is the Manager of the building located at 415 W. Washington.

ITEM 7. - Resolution re: Traverwood Park

Resolution moved by Catherine Riseng, supported by John Satarino and passed unanimously by voice vote.

ITEM 9. – Election of PAC Officers

John Satarino nominated Phil D'Anieri for Chairperson, seconded by Catherine Riseng and passed unanimously by voice vote. Catherine Riseng nominated John Satarino for Vice Chairperson, seconded by Linda Berauer and passed unanimously by voice vote.

ITEM 10. - Rehabilitation and Development Millage Project Update

Jeff Dehring reported on White Oak Park Improvements. They held a neighborhood picnic and talked about proposed improvements. However, residents are unclear about what will be done there. The plan is for a path, a couple of benches and a play area for 2-5 year olds. Since residents are unclear about what exactly they do want, staff will go back now and have another meeting to make sure there is consensus among those interested. Council approved purchase of the equipment and it is in production now. If the residents decide it is not appropriate for this facility, it can be used elsewhere. Bob Johnson asked about the nature of any change. Mr. Dehring responded that the issue is about whether there will be both a path and a play area. There is a lot of dense growth in the park, but a lot is invasive. Staff would preserve beneficial vegetation, including in the area where the structure would be built (approximately 32' x 32'). The neighbors just want to know if there is consensus. Roy Curry noted that NE Area Park is indicated as a regional park. Mr. Dehring explained that the term "regional" is used to address the size and draw of the public to the facility. It is a much larger facility/park and would draw users from all over. Mr. Curry asked Mr. Dehring to explain the climbing wall, boulder wall and unusual play structure listed for NE Area Park facilities. Mr. Dehring responded the wall is 8' ht. and is made of a synthetic material. The play structure components are different in shapes and configurations; irregular shapes, not just straight.

ITEM 11. - Council Updates

Jayne Miller reported that equipment purchases PAC talked about at the last meeting were approved in September.

ITEM 12. - Resolution re: Nominations to Leslie Science Center Advisory Committee

Jayne Miller noted there are 3 adult and 2 youth nominations. Nominations were moved by Janae Reneaud, supported by Catherine Riseng and passed unanimously by voice vote. Ms. Riseng asked how do nominations come about. Betty Weir, representative

from the LSC Committee to PAC, explained that there were several meetings to discuss those who had volunteered and those they would ask to serve. They ask for people to serve.

ITEM 13. - Resolution re: Greenbelt Ballot Initiative

Resolution moved by John Satarino and supported by Tim Berla. Mr. Satarino remarked there was a conference on this issue held last Saturday morning, sponsored by the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau. There are two areas the millage will cover; open space and funds for purchasing parkland. Mr. Satarino encouraged PAC to support the resolution and let the voters decide on the millage. Part of the intention is to attract great minds and to keep current residents in the city. Catherine Riseng asked how the land might be purchased and if there will need to be public access to it. Bob Johnson explained that if the land is purchased outright it would probably become part of the parkland system, but they anticipate purchasing development rights to preserve agriculture. They anticipate most of it would be conservation easements and not outright purchases. Scio Township has about 50 farms. It is much less expensive to buy the rights. A decision will be made on each parcel, depending on how it would benefit the system. We want to preserve open space and farms. Ms. Riseng asked if we can go out and ask if anyone is interested in selling. Mr. Johnson responded that he will have to get the answer to that. There is a State Program that is over-subscribed with way more applications than there is money. Mr. Satarino stated that the townships will play a big part in directing farmers to the Commission. There will be more of an outreach program this time. The Farm Bureau will be active in bringing this to the attention of the farmers. Tim Berla asked what a farmer can or cannot do once they have sold development rights. Could you put a rodeo ring up, etc. and would it be possible to include not using pesticides as much as possible. We actually want things done in ways that help the environment. Mr. Johnson answered that in general the land will remain agricultural and the owner can do anything within that zoning. They can't put in a factory farm. Mr. Berla asked if we can purchase this land at some later time where there may come to be an interest for field use. Mr. Johnson responded that we could. Janet Cohen asked that the timing issue be explained. Mr. Johnson responded that Council passed a resolution a couple of weeks ago and ordinances will be written by Parks and Recreation staff, through PAC and public hearings. These should be in place by the time the current park millage is replaced. It should take 6 months or less for the process. Resolution passed except with 7 aye votes and 1 nay vote.

ITEM 8. - Recognition of Previous PAC Members – Rapundalo, Owen Jansson, Linda Langmore and Roy Curry.

Commission members expressed their thanks to each commissioner and presented each with a recognition plaque. Each previous Commissioner stated how they have enjoyed their experience serving on PAC.

PAC ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION OF LAND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

Regular and Closed Session of PAC adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Lumpkin, PAC Secretary