



CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2009

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Washtenaw County Administration Building in the County Board of Commission Public Meeting Room, 220 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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

II. Roll Call:

- Members Present: (9) S. Rosencrans, S. Offen
G. Nystuen, T. Berla, D. Barrett, J. Grand,
D. Chapman, K. Levin, J. Lawter
- Ex-Officio Members Present: (2) M. Anglin, C. Taylor
- Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None
- Members Absent: (0) None
- Staff Present: (5) C. Smith, D. Kelly, A. Walton, D. Borneman,
J. St. John (attending for L. Bowen in her absence)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Rosencrans asked for a motion to approve the agenda, Commissioner Offen moved, supported by Commissioner Berla to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Rosencrans stated there would be an addition (Art on the River) to the agenda under Special Presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Paul Bancel, member of the Golf Advisory Task Force, expressed thanks to several members and staff pertaining to the hard work for the past 2 years.

Jane Lumm, member of Ann Arbor Golf Association expressed thanks and stated many were impressed by Doug Kelly’s attention to detail at the golf courses; she also thanked the Park Advisory Commission for their support.

A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

T. Berla moved, supported by K. Levin to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2009 meeting as written. The minutes of October 20, 2009 were approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Golf Courses – Review of 2009 Season

D. Kelly summarized in depth the highlights and changes that have occurred over the last 2 years for both Leslie Golf Course and Huron Hills Golf Course in a Power Point presentation. He also summarized upcoming plans for 2010.

57 **G. Nystuen** stated she understood that golf courses are careful with chemicals used.

58
59 **D. Kelly** said the State guidelines and regulations are followed.

60
61 **T. Berla** asked if D. Kelly knew the financial results at each golf course.

62
63 **C. Smith** said he will update the Commission with the financial information regarding the golf
64 courses.

65
66 **J. Grand** stated the number of rounds at the golf courses has gone up but revenues haven't gone
67 up as fast due to focusing bringing people back to the golf courses. She also stated the golf courses
68 are doing progressively well.

69
70 **C. Smith** added the rounds were increasing but revenues were not increasing as much, but are
71 consistent with other golf courses. C. Smith stated people are playing golf, but are paying less.

72
73 **J. Lawter** complimented D. Kelly on the good job that is being done at the golf courses.

74
75 **M. Anglin** stated community involvement and staff involvement has brought positive results.

76
77 **S. Rosencrans** asked if there has been an increase with leagues, outings, and food sales.

78
79 **D. Kelly** stated leagues are fairly stable. There is a plan for in-house leagues this year and when
80 they are up and running well; they will be turned over to one of the members of the league to
81 continue. There has been an improvement with the travel groups with 40 –50 people.

82
83 An addition of a chicken salad croissant was added to the menu and is well received.

84
85 **D. Barrett** asked about merchandise sales.

86
87 **D. Kelly** stated merchandise sales were low on the priority list; the plan for the upcoming year is to
88 develop new logos for each golf course.

89
90 **S. Offen** stated that Miles of Golf had been helpful in promotional activities.

91
92 **D. Kelly** stated they were a key tournament sponsor with financial backing and the City has Miles of
93 Golf logo on certain merchandise. D. Kelly also stated Miles of Golf has been instrumental in
94 promoting the game of golf.

95
96 **J. Grand** felt the expertise of the Golf Task Force was great and hoped it continued.

97
98 **Natural Area Preservation – Reporting on Flying Wildlife**

99
100 **D. Borneman** read the Proclamation of Appreciation for being the Natural Area Preservation
101 Volunteer of the Year, Roger Wykes.

102
103 **R. Wykes** stated he has volunteered for many years and appreciated being recognized.

104
105 **D. Armstrong** outlined all the aspects of what the Natural Area Preservation and its volunteers do
106 for the breeding bird survey, which has been conducted each year since 1995.

107
108 **S. Rosencrans** asked if there were any species in trouble, particularly in Ann Arbor.

109
110 **D. Armstrong** stated that the Blue Winged Warbler was having trouble. She said the City has a
111 good habitat, but birds may be having trouble outside our area.

112
113

114 **S. Rosencrans** asked if any species are doing well in Ann Arbor.
115
116 **D. Armstrong** stated that Bobolinks are doing great at the Wheeler Center site.
117
118 **D. Borneman** added that making small changes have made great improvements.
119
120 **J. Lawter** asked if there were descriptions of the habitats located anywhere.
121
122 **D. Armstrong** stated no, but staff can answer questions regarding habitat locations in the City.
123
124 **T. Berla** asked if signage regarding leashing your dogs was going to go up at any parks.
125
126 **D. Borneman** stated they would look into either posting signs or postcards being located at those
127 parks where people walk dogs.
128
129 **Art on the River**
130
131 **William Dennisuk** shared a presentation regarding public art in depth with the Commission. W.
132 Dennisuk shared his background stating he was invited by the University of Michigan as part of the
133 Visiting Artist program as a guest artist to help organize a public art project.
134
135 W. Dennisuk stated public art can transform an environment it's located in and temporary public art
136 projects can enrich our environment, create a destination for visitors, explore the potential of nature,
137 and create points of contemplation.
138
139 The process of developing ideas and getting permission has begun and hopes are to install several
140 pieces of temporary artwork in the Huron River and other areas. Pictures were shared with the
141 Commission of various types of public (outdoor) art.
142 **S. Offen** asked if the City wanted to keep the art permanently, would this be possible.
143
144 **W. Dennisuk** said if the City wanted to keep the temporary art permanently, it would be turned over
145 and be the City's responsibility.
146
147 **S. Offen** expressed concern regarding the canoeist's use of the river.
148
149 **C. Smith** said there was concern and C. Saam, the Liveries Facility Supervisor would be consulted
150 in regards to the placement of the art should the project move ahead.
151
152 **D. Barrett** stated there are a number of river users and asked if these users have been consulted.
153
154 **C. Smith** stated he was aware of the potential impact of the placement of anything in Argo Pond that
155 would interfere with rowing and this would be taken into consideration if the project moved forward.
156
157 **W. Dennisuk** stated that there would be public meetings to allow the public's input. W. Dennisuk
158 asked if the City or the Park Advisory Commission support this idea so he could start working with
159 students at the University.
160
161 **S. Rosencrans** stated this project should be discussed further with other city departments and the
162 public prior to it moving forward.
163
164 **J. Grand** stated W. Dennisuk had a short deadline regarding this project.
165
166 **T. Berla** suggested a timeline be developed and work with staff and possibly City Council.
167
168 **S. Rosencrans** requested that C-2, Review of PAC Retreat, be moved to the next meeting in
169 December, the Commission agreed.
170

171 PUBLIC HEARING

172

173 B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

174

175 C - NEW BUSINESS

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177 C-1 Proposed Amendment of Pac By-laws

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179 S. Rosencrans outlined his proposed changes and explained why he proposed the
180 changes to the by-laws.

181

182 S. Offen asked why a unanimous vote would be needed when appointments were
183 made.

184

185 S. Rosencrans stated the community holds the service of the Commission in high
186 standards and feels a unanimous vote would give full faith and credibility behind their
187 responsibility.

188

189 The Commission was asked to think about the proposed amendments to be voted on
190 at the December 2009 meeting.

191

192 C-2 Review of PAC Retreat (*This item was moved to the December 2009 meeting*)

193

194 D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

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196 E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

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198 F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

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200 G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

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

205

206 J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH PRIVELEDGED CLIENT ATTORNEY INFORMATION

207

208 S. Rosencrans asked for a motion for the Commission to go into closed session.

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210 T. Berla moved, supported by S. Offen for the Commission to move into closed session. The Commission
211 agreed unanimously. A roll call vote was done.

212

213 K - TRANSMITTALS

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215 K-1 City Council Items Update

216

217 K-2 Park Project Update

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219 K-3 City of Ann Arbor 2008 – 2013 Park Maintenance and Capital
220 Improvements Millage Status

221

222 There being no further business to come before the Commission; Commissioner Berla moved,
223 supported by Commissioner Offen that the open meeting be adjourned at 6:05 p.m. the Commission
224 moved to a closed session.

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