



# PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of April 16, 2002

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Members Present:                      C.Riseng                      P.D'Anieri                      R.Curry  
   L.Langmore                      J.Cohen  
   J.Satarino                      J.D'Amour  
   S.Rapundalo                      O.Jansson

Members Absent:

Ex-officio Members Present:                      R.Johnson                      S.Aeschbach  
   R.Olson

Ex-officio Members Absent:                      W.Woods

Staff Present:                                      B.Lawrence                      G.Clark  
   J.Miller                                      D.Borneman

Others Present:                                      Tracy Davis                      Ann Arbor News                      994-6856

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chairperson Stephen Rapundalo.

## **SECRETARY CALLS ROLL**

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

None at this time.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Acceptance of the minutes of Tuesday, March 19, 2002 meeting moved by Roy Curry and seconded by John Satarino. It was noted that James D'Amour, not Herb David attended the PAC meeting as RAC representative. Minutes approved, with attendance correction, unanimously by voice vote. Owen asked if the 2-page summary had been done for the reorganization. Gerry Clark advised it is still in process.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **ITEM 4A – Discussion re: FY 2002/03 Budget**

Ron Olson noted that the timetable for budget approval is located on the second to last line of the overview. The Public Works Team is presenting that segment of the budget on April 22 to council. Steve Rapundalo commented that so by the next meeting, council will have already taken this up at first reading. Mr. Olson explained that is not the case; public comments are heard first. It is possible that council may approve the budget on May 20, so we may need to

have public comments at the May 6 council meeting. James D'Amour noted that there is a public work session on April 22 at 7:00. Mr. Rapundalo indicated that comments should be received before the end of the month. Page 20 of the Parks Department budget is a summary. Bob Johnson asked if the \$210,543 in the Parks Acquisition Millage budget is a typo. Gerry Clark explained it is not, because there were not many acquisitions this year. Mr. Johnson asked why these expenses were not paid from the Maintenance And Repair Millage. Mr. Clark explained it was expended to clean up parks areas when acquired and administrative costs. The Municipal Service Charge is also included, which should be \$90,000 in the future. Funds carryover from year to year in the Park Acquisition Millage. Mr. Olson advised that also any interest earned on the unspent balance is added. John Satarino asked to have these expenses itemized. Mr. Clark will get it itemized and send to Bob Johnson. A separate line item for compensating the Parks Department for tree removal on private property should also be added. Mr. Olson explained that storm-related events don't belong in this. It comes from a separate source, outside the Parks and Recreation budget. Owen Jansson asked about the snowplowing expense issues that involved the Parks Department doing work in areas that it should be paid by another dept. Ron Olson explained that City departments have been sharing, but all hours, etc. are charged to a snow removal account (Transportation). Mr. Satarino asked what the reason is for closing Argo Livery during the summer. Mr. Clark explained that there is some usage at Argo, but staff costs exceed revenues. Argo will remain open on the weekend, Saturday and Sunday, and will close during the week. Jayne Miller added that trips will start at Gallup, where they may be shuttled to Delhi. Janet Cohen asked what would happen if someone refused to pay for a street tree. Bill Lawrence advised Forestry wouldn't plant the trees, which would then result in empty spaces. Ms. Cohen commented that this would affect the cityscape a lot. Mr. Rapundalo asked Bill Lawrence to come back with some ideas at the next meeting. If there is going to be charge, we need to be consistent in terms of the public. Phil D'Anieri remarked that another alternative is to just say you don't get a tree and see what happens. Mr. Olson advised that there are two planting seasons and if we seem to be realizing some trouble, it could be corrected. We will have to evaluate this. Mr. Lawrence remarked that there may be avenues to look at different payment options. We should not make exceptions because it would be unfair. The notification part of this is critical. Mr. Lawrence explained that the vast majority of replacements are by request. These get first priority because they have the initiative to call in. Phil D'Anieri stated he was shocked that the City would replace a tree in front of their home for free. The size of the trees is around 8-12', varying depending on the species. Mr. Olson added that if someone wants another tree, they will pay more for it. Mr. Clark explained that people might take care of the tree more if they pay for it. Scholarships should also be considered. Mr. Satarino noted the policy change on pg. 22, which transfers the subsidy to Recreation and Education and wonders how they will react and how it might affect low-income families. Sara Aeschbach stated that there is a concern to be able to continue to serve low-income families. Mr. Satarino also stated concern about Mack Pool summer use. There is a senior group that will be affected (Dawn Ducks). Fuller Pool is basically Ann Arbor's beach. It is crowded and very often the Master's group needs to use Mack Pool. Jayne Miller commented that the issue for scholarship funding is how we administer it. 5-6 years ago we stopped providing funding for certain things. We don't get reimbursed for our scholarships. Mr. D'Anieri added that the issue is how the scholarships are accounted for. Rec and Ed is bringing a boatload of fees in and needs to account for scholarships. Mack Pool is open year-round; Fuller, Buhr and Veterans Memorial are open only in the summer. Mack has users of 12,000 year-round, about a third of what other pools have in the summer. Staff is working with Dawn Ducks to find another location for them this summer. Mack Pool will be closed for six months for rehabilitation. Mr. Olson stated this closure will give us a chance to look at the real live impact of having Mack Pool open in the summer. Mr. Olson stated that some of the Project Grow funds were added back in and the Civic Band will now be funded. Mr. Olson explained that there is a problem with CTN televising the concerts because there are union musicians who would get compensated each time it is televised. We are still working on this. The Civic Band will look into getting sponsors. Mr. Clark remarked that the Bike Program will be partnering with other groups. There is \$100,000 in the Rehab and Development Millage to be used toward bike programs. We have struggled to get and keep a halftime Bicycle Coordinator. Planning, Engineering and Park Planners will broaden out the responsibilities of this. The Bicycle

Master Plan is very old and need to be redone. There is an investment of \$10,000, which is less than partnering.

#### **4B – Resolution re: Recommending Reorganization Plan – Deferred to later meeting.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **ITEM 5A – Renewal of Maintenance and Repair Millage**

Gerry Clark stated there is great concern about the future vitality of the system and it's funding. Deferred items would cost us more money to do in the future. Phil D'Anieri remarked that the resolution speaks for itself and reflects the work and all that we've done for months. The City taxed itself for the acquisition millage, capital improvements millage, and maintaining parks millage. The reality is that the citizens have asked for a bigger system and this millage maintains the system. If it is not increased, funding cuts will have to happen, and difficult ones. Owen Jansson agreed with Mr. D'Anieri that we must meet projected system needs. Mr. Satarino added that this reflects the strong feeling that some expenses were drifting into the Maintenance and Repair Millage that really shouldn't be. Mr. Rapundalo remarked that, not only does this recognize what we feel we need for the future, but ensures fiscal responsibility and that the funds are being spent where they should be. We are not just asking the public to open up their pocket books. Linda Langmore added that we need to make it clear what the consequences are if the millage is NOT increased. Mr. Rapundalo stated that PAC recognizes that council is struggling with the General Fund budget but we would be remiss as an oversight body if we didn't put forth a proposal that addresses these issues. We want to bring this to the public, and then if input is something different from the community than what we propose, we would make adjustments. Ms. Langmore asked about changing the name of the millage, which had been talked about previously. Mr. Rapundalo answered he was reluctant to do so, only from the standpoint of not wanting to confuse the public by a name change. We need to really educate during the public process. Mr. Satarino asked why we don't go for a 5-year millage and if we can rescind the last year of a millage if we decided we want a combined millage. Mr. Olson responded that what you'd actually be doing is amending the charter. We would need to go to the voters but this could be done. Ballot language has to be very clear and straightforward. There would also be an opportunity to discuss a park district if these two funds combine. The whole premise of the Maintenance and Repair Millage was to add Natural Area Preservation and keep up the parks. One millage is a capital improvement millage, the other a maintenance millage. Mr. Jansson stated he would like a resolved that addresses the name of a millage. The current name doesn't say much and people like knowing what the millage is used for. Jayne Miller remarked that there are certain things that should be funded by this millage and if you put the work Park Operations does in it, council would have reason to include other expenses in it. Mr. Olson suggested the name Park and Recreation Stewardship, but added that people understand Maintenance and Repair. We want the focus on what is embodied in the millage, not on the name change. The title doesn't drive the purpose, the ballot language does. Janet Cohen agreed that Maintenance and Repair are good terms to use. We're asking people to pay more money but how do we keep council from cutting general funds. Bill Lawrence commented that this is the same thing the Dean Fund went through. General funding was cut to the dollar. When taken to council, you must explain that the general fund funding must not be reduced. We must delineate what is in the general fund and what is in this millage. NE Area Park will be maintained out of this millage. We may not have staff to work it so may have to out-source. Bill Lawrence added that equipment purchases were cut from the general fund. We must bring the public in on this too. Catherine Riseng remarked that the resolution is strongly tied to the reorganization plan. Because of this, it is incumbent upon us to improve efficiencies, etc. PAC members must agree on what the core mission is. Mr. Olson advised that the millage language drafting should start soon, then rough out to make sure core ideas are there, run it past everyone, take it to the attorney to make sure all the legalese is there. We need 7 votes to add this to the ballot and they have to vote on the language and must be in proper form. We need the preliminary draft by mid-June. Bob suggested the first meeting in June. Mr. Olson stated that another option that PAC has is for a

smaller group to meet with a small group from council (non-partisan). Bob Johnson commented that we need to mobilize the community. We need to get a variety of people, soccer groups, NAP volunteers, baseball associations, users, etc. Resolution moved by Steve Rapundalo, supported by Phil D'Anieri and passed unanimously by voice vote. You cannot discuss lobbying with staff. Gerry Clark stated we could get an invitation out to talk about the resolution to other commissions. Also notify in the paper and through CTN to the general public. We need to start this before June, when people start vacating Ann Arbor.

#### **ITEM 5B – Subcommittee for Scope of Work – Land Acquisition**

Mr. Clark stated the Land Acquisition Committee should continue meeting. You may have to hire a consultant but you will need to define what we want done. You need to detail what tasks you will contract for. Mr. Olson stated there has been a policy to not bring back a retiree, but we have in a few cases. A meeting was scheduled for April 24, 2002 (committee of the whole), 4:00-6:00 at City Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor. Members not able to attend will be emailed with the information. Mr. D'Anieri noted that the County acquisition millage might affect ours. They are willing to come to PAC next meeting. The County will be invited to attend PAC's next meeting at 4:00 on May 21. Mr. Clark advised that the DNR is frowning on the COPE issue. The City has made offer and think we have an agreement to hire the Manager of Park Services and Forestry, Terry Rynard, who would begin work on May 6, 2002.

**COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS** - None at this time

#### **REPORT OF SUPT. OF PARKS AND RECREATION – RON OLSON**

Mr. Olson announced that Gerry Clark's retirement party is May 25, 12:00 – 3:00 at City Hall, in the Council Chambers.

#### **REPORT OF DIR. OF SCHOOLS/CITY REPRESENTATIVE SARA AESCHBACH**

#### **REPORT OF RAC REPRESENTATIVE – JAMES D'AMOUR**

Mr. D'Amour reported all four appointments by the City to RAC have been completed. RAC's last meeting focused on the maintenance of sports fields. The April 11, 2002 City/Schools meeting did not occur and will be rescheduled.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY** – None at this time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.