



# PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of October 15, 2002

Members Present:	C.Riseng O.Jansson J.Satarino	R.Curry S.Rapundalo J.D'Amour
Members Absent:	L.Langmore P.D'Anieri	J.Cohen
Ex-officio Members Present:	R.Johnson	W.Woods
Ex-officio Members Absent:	R.Olson	
Staff Present:	J.Miller D.Borneman	KC Bemish
Others Present:	David Leroy 716 Sunset, Ann Arbor Kathy Aikens 730 Sunset " Jim Crosby 800 Sunset " Craig Hupy City of Ann Arbor	761-6142 622-0982 761-2789 994-1760

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## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Chairperson Stephen Rapundalo.

## SECRETARY CALLS ROLL

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

INTRODUCTION TO BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER – Carol Hollis distributed the most recent newsletter. Ms. Hollis has been facility director at the community center since April of 1988. Ms. Hollis stated that Bryant was designed to address the needs of low-income residents. The focus is in giving people a hand rather than a handout. Staff deals with them compassionately. A major focus is assisting the youth with youth programs. They schedule a trip each week of some sort. Youth come to Bryant because they want to, not because they have to. Space is limited and activities mostly occur in this room. They also offer quite a few services to parents. A lot of what they do is based on volunteer assistance. Funding comes through Council for food help. They offer clothing, health screenings and flu shots, WIC and services to pregnancy services. Also offered is employment to senior aids, SMART Youth program and teen aides. Their newsletter is published at least 3 times a year. They also try to keep fees at a minimum. The Center employees two fulltime, permanent staff. They are doing a nutrition and fitness project this year with a college student. The Centers' current budget is \$189,000 for Bryant and \$11,000 for Northside. Ms. Hollis remarked that no matter what happens, we should never forget about the people and hopes our department will always lend a hand to those who really can't help themselves.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

David Leroy of 716 Sunset, Ann Arbor and President of the Greater Sunset Brooks Neighborhood Association addressed the commission with regards to the Sunset parcel. The Association is trying to wrap up fund-raising and now have around \$72,000. They still feel they can raise around \$100,000. They do not have broad support yet because they are just now getting organized. The owner of the property reaffirmed his willingness to sell. Mr. Leroy stated the owner is tired of dealing with the process of developing it and feels he was led along by the City in the process of trying to develop it. Their association feels this purchase has strong merit as sort of an entrance to Bird Hills. At their community meeting at Forsythe last night, many agreed it would be a big advantage to purchase it for parkland; people could walk there. Mr. Leroy stated the owner said he would be willing to contribute improvements or some kind of effort after the fact if it was purchased by the City. They expressed their desire to be partners in the effort and hope to make it happen. John Satarino inquired as to the selling price. Mr. Leroy stated the owner used the Bluff's property as an example. Although it is not near the value of the Bluffs, he suspects the owner would settle for \$400,000. The City's share would be \$300,000. The owner paid \$150,000 for it and since has spent \$25,000 for an option and a \$50,000 sewer assessment. The assessed value is \$435,000. Kathy Aikens of 730 Sunset, Ann Arbor, added that all the property owners to the west signed a letter to agree to deed restriction or conservation easement that would preserve their trees and others. Catherine Riseng asked if a trail had been considered. Ms. Aikens responded they would have to look into the feasibility and how residents would feel about people walking by their homes. James D'Amour stated he toured the property and noticed a graded area at the western end of the property that appeared to be recently filled in. Dave Borneman explained it is a utility line. Residents have also done some landscaping in that area.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Acceptance of minutes of September 17, 2002 moved by James D'Amour, supported by John Satarino. James D'Amour noted that in Item 6A, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph the word RAC should be changed to Rec and Ed with regard to the recommendation to the School Board. Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote, as amended.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **ITEM 4A – Millage Fact Sheet Review and Approval**

Owen Jansson stated the fact sheet has been reviewed for grammar and consistency. Jayne Miller added that Abby Elias, City Attorney, had questions about #3 and #4 as to whether there is a need for both of them. Anything we do we must run by Ms. Elias tomorrow. Mr. Jansson questioned if the DDA statement needed clarification of what the percentage is used for. Members decided #3 and #4 would be combined. James D'Amour asked what the municipal charge is. Jayne Miller responded that it covers internal department services; Attorney, Administrator, Human Resources, Purchasing, etc. The fact sheet was approved, as amended, unanimously by all members present. We will have 2,000 printed. John Satarino asked what vehicle PAC can use to publicly show support of this millage. Suggestions included approaching Steve Gantert with the Ann Arbor News, speak at Council meeting, and send a letter to the editor or "The Other Voices" in Ann Arbor News. Steve Rapundalo noted that the Chamber of Commerce is taking no position with regard to the millage renewal. Bob Johnson remarked that one thing that affected the Chamber's decision was Mr. Rapundalo's memo to council, criticizing staff, etc. Mr. Johnson stated that fiscal problems have now been fixed and questions about responsibility have been answered. Steve Rapundalo stated he would prefer PAC write a letter in "The Other Voices."

#### **ITEM 4B – Land Acquisition Work Meeting**

The meeting adjourned to a Land Acquisition Work Meeting on four properties: 1) Airport property and former landfill land for soccer fields, 2) Brookside Neighborhood Park, 3) Sunset/Brooks and 4) Westover Hills (next to Dolph Park).

After the meeting it was determined the next Land Acquisition meeting will be Wednesday, November 13, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room at City Hall or other conference room if these are not available.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

ITEM 5A (added) - SUPERINTENDENT'S POSITION

Steve Rapundalo stated Roger Fraser indicated to him that within the next 4–6 weeks he will be posting the position internally and if nothing comes of that then a nationwide search will be done. Mr. Fraser is aware of the urgency to get this accomplished.

**COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS** - None

**REPORT OF SUPT. OF PARKS AND RECREATION – RON OLSON** – No Report

**REPORT OF DIR. OF SCHOOLS/CITY REPRESENTATIVE SARA AESCHBACH** – No Report

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

Mr. D'Amour reported that Steve Rapundalo and he met and the major topic of discussion is an operating agreement. RAC/PAC need to talk about recreational needs and also include the university, townships and county. Jayne Miller stated that the boundaries of what the school does and what the city does are difficult to discern by most. Sara Aeschbach will give a report the last part of October to the School Board on the effects of RAC spinning off from the School system. Mr. D'Amour hopes there will be no spin-off.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.