



PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes September 17, 2002

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

Members Absent: R.Curry

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

Ex-officio Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J.Miller D.Borneman

Others Present: Cathy Akins, Greater Sunset Brooks Neighborhood Association

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None at this time.

ELECTIONS

Nominations for Chairperson included Phil D'Anieri and Stephen Rapundalo. Owen Jansson asked if members could abstain from voting and was advised they can. Votes – (2) for Phil D'Anieri, (3) for Stephen Rapundalo and (2) abstentions.

Nominations for Vice Chairperson included Phil D'Anieri. Vote was (7) in favor of Phil D'Anieri.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Acceptance of the minutes of Tuesday, August 20, 2002 moved by Linda Langmore, supported by John Satarino. Amended to show James D'Amour was present and approved unanimously by voice vote.

PRESENTATION – Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition Program Briefing

Tom Freeman, Superintendent of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department gave a presentation concerning their Natural Areas Preservation Program.

Mr. Freeman explained what the natural areas are and why they are important. The November 2000 millage vote provided funding for purchase of natural areas. They have a technical Advisory Committee to identify parcels of land to preserve. Mr. Freeman discussed their process for acquiring land. No land has been acquired up to this point. Millage revenues are anticipated at about \$2.25 million annually. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation is the principal department to oversee the program. The funding will be used in Ann Arbor, as well as surrounding communities within the County and will only include passive recreation, soft-surface trails, etc. The first round of applications is complete, with four parcels recommended to the Committee. They are being appraised and then will be evaluated for purchase. Questions have been raised about collaboration between the City and County for purchase of land within the City and discussed as something that can happen.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Public Commentary was allowed, as some citizens arrived a few minutes late. Cathy Akins, with the Greater Sunset Brooks Neighborhood Association presented the Commission with a document that explains their ideas for acquiring land near their neighborhood as parkland, as well as a petition of support and pledges for financial contributions of approximately \$30,000. They will provide additional documentation as it develops.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 5A – Discussion re: Park Repair and Restoration Millage

Ron Olson stated that the State approved the ballot language for the millage. We need to finalize a fact sheet and will need a sub-committee to do this. This will pick up steam as October approaches. John Satarino, Owen Jansson and Janet Cohen volunteered for the sub-committee.

Item 5B – PAC Work Plan

PAC members will look at the guiding principals of the PROS Plan to see if they are still valid.

NEW BUSINESS (Items are Listed in Order of Discussion)

Item 6A – Rec and Ed Draft Report to School Board

Sara Aeschbach explained the draft document, to be refined concerning Recreation and Education. The School Board had planned to deal with this but it has been delayed until October due to a cancelled meeting in September. The document presents pros and cons from the perspective of the School Board but not that of the City, which was intentional.

James D'Amour stated that he finds himself in the hot seat often, being the RAC representative to PAC. Mr. D'Amour asked what the big issues are so he can initiate the dialogue between PAC and RAC. RAC passed a resolution at their last meeting in response to the draft report to the School Board. Mr. D'Amour added that his view of the situation is that he hopes that the Board will take RAC's comments to heart and not spin off Rec and Ed, retaining it as a department of the Schools. Jayne Miller remarked that the overriding needs of the community need to be identified and a decision made as to the best way to provide those services. The packet distributed to PAC gives several alternatives for the reorganization of RAC. This is different from the library, since libraries can leverage taxes and create a library district. Other discussion also ensued concerning financing utilized by other districts and what is feasible for this situation.

Linda Langmore and Catherine Riseng volunteered for a sub-committee to look at the RAC topics.

6B – Land Acquisition – Continue Reviewing Potential Acquisitions

John Satarino reported that there are five proposals, some involving property not located within the City limits, but close to it. Two of these are Marshall Park and Saginaw Forest. Both properties have development pressures on the perimeter. Mr. Satarino continued, stating that there is a good possibility for Washtenaw County's participation with both of the properties and suggested a follow-up meeting to discuss this and revisit priorities. Mr. Satarino asked if Marshall Park could be deeded over to the County. These properties are important also to establish a greenbelt around the City, in addition to the property within the City. The next Land Acquisition meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 4:30 p.m., Sixth Floor Conference Room of City Hall. A tour of the top properties for acquisition also needs to be set.

Item 6C – Proposed Future PAC Meetings at Various Locations

A listing of various locations for the Park Advisory Commission is included in the packet. All members agreed to have future meetings at various Parks and Recreation facilities. October's PAC meeting will be at Bryant Community Center.

COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS - Look at job description for the Parks Department Superintendent position.

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

REPORT OF DIR. OF SCHOOLS/CITY REPRESENTATIVE SARA AESCHBACH – Included in Minutes

REPORT OF RAC REPRESENTATIVE – JAMES D'AMOUR – Included in Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTARY – None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.