



PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of June 28, 2002

Members Present:	C.Riseng J.D'Amour	S.Rapundalo O.Jansson	
Members Absent:	J.Cohen J.Satarino L.Langmore	R.Curry P.D'Anieri	
Ex-officio Members Present:	R.Johnson R.Olson	W.Woods	
Ex-officio Members Absent:	S. Aeschbach		
Staff Present:	B.Lawrence J.Miller	D.Borneman J.LaPointe	G.Fichter
Others Present:	Denise Chacon Lontin Cindy Haidu-Barl Gabriel Appel-Kraut Rosalie Grown Michael Appel	317 N. Seventh 407 N. Ashley #5 1127 Clair Circle 1127 Clair Circle 1127 Clair Circle	662-9437 776-4605 769-5680 741-9244 769-5680

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. by Chairperson Stephen Rapundalo.

SECRETARY CALLS ROLL

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

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Gabriel Appel-Kraut addressed the Commission regarding the preservation of the trail in West Park. It is an Indian trail that used to be very long; the Potawatami Trail. People use the park as a trash can. The trail is important to Ann Arbor history. They would like the trashcans removed from the trail and the area restored, so are here for direction from PAC. People must be more responsible. Mr. Appel presented a petition of community support. Terry Rynard stated she would like to meet with them on-site and take a look at what the City and they can do in a partnership with the City. Denise Loutin and Cindy Barlls have been studying the trail this past school year. One can barely walk the trail now. The debris is thrown on the trail from above and the trail is being lost. They would like to restore and maintain the trail. They have spoken to the Mayor already and he suggested to come and speak with PAC. Owen Jansson asked if there is signage. Dave Borneman stated he is not sure, but they have sent notices explaining it is a violation of an ordinance and they can be fined. They are currently restoring it from Chapin to

Seventh. Kids learn about it in 3rd grade and are interested in preserving it. Wendy Woods thanked them for coming and identified herself as the 4th Ward representative. Mr. Olson stated that a few years ago there was a desire to clean out that area because of illicit activity. It is a historic site. The group will work with Terry Rynard.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Acceptance of the minutes of Tuesday, April 17, 2001 will be considered at the June 19, 2001 meeting.

The agenda was rearranged and is recorded as follows:

REPORT OF RAC REPRESENTATIVE – James D'Amour

Mr. D'Amour reported the RAC meeting was June 4, 2002. The major discussion was about the inadequacy vs. demand of sports fields in Ann Arbor and some groups' exclusive use of the fields. They will come back with some recommendations for uses. There was \$170,000 of unused tax money that was earmarked for construction of new fields. RAC had a discussion with the Ann Arbor Board of Education and it looks like they will be splitting off Rec and Ed from the Ann Arbor school system. The new Chairperson for RAC is Mr. D'Amour. Steve Rapundalo asked Mr. D'Amour if he could give PAC a sense about the potential splitting off. Mr. D'Amour responded that they have not had alot of discussion yet. Mr. Olson stated that the School Board passed a resolution to review this. Mr. Olson stated that the additional sports fields issue is waiting for a response from Pittsfield Township for use of the Landfill and/or the Airport to create fields so we can't do anything until then. Owen Jansson asked about the exclusive use of the fields that he mentioned. Terry Rynard will do a needs assessment; get groups together, lay out what we have and what the needs are. Mr. Olson stated that Rec and Ed is also using the fields and scheduling outside their use and getting the revenue for those uses. We have a long-standing relationship with AA Youth and AA Adult Soccer. Demand is high. Mr. Rapundalo commented that he is concerned about Rec and Ed's use and scheduling. Mr. Olson added that renovation of ball fields is not included in the fees. Mr. Johnson asked what the ratio of resident vs. non-resident use is. Mr. Olson responded that the definition of resident/non-resident is different with the City than the Schools. Rec and Ed has still not provided the financial answers we asked for earlier. Mr. Olson stated that we need a meeting with Rec and Ed, the School Board, City Council members, etc. to discuss the potential split off of RAC from the schools.

Resolutions for Jim LaPointe and Gary Fichter to honor their work for the City.

Pac presented Gary Fichter, Manager of Park Operations and Jim LaPointe plaques for their years of service with the Parks and Recreation Department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM 4B – Potential Acquisition of Traverwood Land for Parkland

Ron Olson stated he has had continued conversation with Chris Grant and met with Jim Holley again to see exactly how much land they want at the airport,. It is more than originally thought. The appraised value of the Airport land is \$100,000/acre. They are offering about 8.1 acres at the landfill as a trade at \$150,000/acre approximately. The Acquisition Millage would have to cover this unless Bill Martin would agree to sell it to us at the value of the land at the Airport. Dave Borneman stated it is a great piece of woods and would love to see the parks department get it. Mr. Olson added that there is a boundary issue because the golf course meandered into their property and we agreed with them that when and if the property was developed we would deal with this issue. Perhaps the city would be better off putting the land up to the highest bidder. Mr. D'Amour stated he likes the site and would love to see it as city property. Mr. Olson advised he will send the guts of the appraisal for members to read and then gel on a position to take.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to Approve Lease Agreement with Norfolk Southern Railroad for permission to construct a bicycle path from Argo Dam to Lakeshore Dr. - ADDED

Ron Olson explained they won't allow the city to buy the land but will give us two consecutive 3-year leases at \$2,000/year. We have a similar lease agreement with an area in Gallup Park. This would create linkage with Argo Dam and Bandemer Park. Mr. Rapundalo asked if PAC can relate to Council support of this item. Mr. Olson responded it is a good deal and would be good to do so. PAC members present agreed to relate this to Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM 4A – Update re: Maintenance and Repair Millage – Discussion of Added Information

Jane Lumm's Memo – PAC and staff need to look at the memo more closely and respond.

James D'Amour asked what the Chamber's position is on this. Mr. Rapundalo responded that he doesn't know. They usually look for the final call on something like this and then either support or non-support it. Mr. D'Amour stated he feels a graduated increase in tax, even 2 steps, would be better.

PAC reviewed questions and responses from Councilmember Bob Johnson's.

Mr. Olson explained that the purpose is to give an idea of where we are and where we're going. To be clear on Question #3; Are parks staff or assets being used to provide services that are more properly related to the mission of other departments without full reimbursement from the other department? – there are no types of expenses like that. Mr. Olson added that we will be looking at a lot of things where hopefully we will be investing for the long-term. It is difficult to ask for an increase if we can't prove how it has been spent. Wendy Woods asked about the status of Mack Pool. Mr. Olson responded the repair will come out of the Rehabilitation and Development Millage. The Dawn Ducks are being moved to the "Y" during the repair. There will be a working meeting on July 1, 2002, 4:00 p.m. at City Hall for further discussion.

COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

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

REPORT OF DIR. OF SCHOOLS/CITY REPRESENTATIVE SARA AESCHBACH

PUBLIC COMMENTARY – None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.