



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes Park Advisory Commission

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

4:00 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grand called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

B ROLL CALL

Colin Smith called the roll.

Staff Present:

C. Smith, J. Straw, A. Kuras, D. Borneman; 4

Present: 8 - Timothy Berla, Chair Julie Berson Grand, Christopher Taylor, Karen Levin, Tim Doyle, Ingrid Ault, Alan Jackson, and Bob Galardi

Absent: 3 - John McCoy Lawter, Mike Anglin, and Douglas Chapman

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made that the Agenda be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

D PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Steven Thorp, 124 Chapin Street, spoke about his wishes to rename West Park to Central Park West and the possibility of a dog park in West Park.

John Teeter, First Corporation, spoke about their continued support and commitment to the Liberty Plaza Park, adding that he was available to answer any questions the Commission might have.

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES

E-1 [12-1071](#) Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2012

A motion was made that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 10/1/2012. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

E-2 [12-1072](#) Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2012

A motion was made that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 10/1/2012. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

F **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS****F-1** [12-1074](#) Liberty Plaza and Downtown Parks at 721 N. Main and 415 W. Washington

Mayor Hieftje gave a presentation on Liberty Plaza Park and the possibility of other downtown parks at 721 North Main Street and 415 West Washington Street. He acknowledged the excitement over the clean-up efforts of DTE of their river front site and the possibility of adding greenspace to the Park's system. Mayor Hieftje suggested it would be helpful for PAC to prioritize locations and needs of downtown area parks.

Grand noted that at the PAC annual retreat this fall, they might want to consider forming a subcommittee to review the downtown parks and downtown space.

F-2 [12-1073](#) Community Action Network (CAN) - Update on Bryant and Northside Community Centers

Jeff Straw introduced Joan Doughty and Derrick Miller from Community Action Network, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the work of CAN at the Community Centers. Straw explained that the City has contracted with CAN since 2008 to oversee and run the Bryant and Northside Community Centers.

F-3 [12-1075](#) Connecting William Street - DDA

Susan Pollay and Amber Miller from the DDA, gave a presentation on the Connecting William Street initiative. Robert Galardi gave an introduction on the project, to date. They requested feedback from the Commission on the five City owned sites by end of October or early November.

G **UNFINISHED BUSINESS****H** **NEW BUSINESS****I** **COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS****I-1** [12-1076](#) Resolution to Provide Recommendations and Feedback on the Possibility of Additional Off-Leash Dog Facilities in the City of Ann Arbor Parks System.

Karen Levin reviewed the following memo and resolution with PAC on the possibility of additional off-leash dog facilities in the City of Ann Arbor parks system.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Commissioners Lawter and Levin

DATE: August 21, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution to provide recommendations and feedback on the possibility

of additional off-leash dog facilities in the City of Ann Arbor Parks System

Attached for your review and action is a resolution requesting Ann Arbor park staff to assist the PAC sub-committee in investigating off-leash dog opportunities within the city core. The sub-committee was formed several years ago to review issues related to dogs in the parks and presented a case for additional off-lease options at the August 16, 2011 monthly PAC meeting.

The conclusions of that presentation were:

- The dog population in Ann Arbor is increasing.*
- Incidents involving off leash dogs are on the rise.*
- The off leash laws are difficult to enforce especially if off leash options are limited.*
- The two existing dog parks in Ann Arbor are popular but on opposite ends of the city.*
- There is a need for off leash options closer to the city core neighborhoods.*

The recommendations included:

- Incorporate planning for a central city dog park into parks planning by
 - o Including this in the PROS plan which has been done.*
 - o Add this to the considerations with looking at land acquisitions which is also being done.*
 - o Direct park planners to continue to actively look for potential sites which will officially begin with this resolution.**

Parks staff will be asked to review all possible options, including unfenced off leash hours in city parks, and present their findings alongside the sub-committee at the September monthly PAC meeting.

RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FEEDBACK ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL OFF-LEASH DOG FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR PARKS SYSTEM

Whereas, the city of Ann Arbor has two traditional dog parks located at the north and south ends of the city;

Whereas, while these two parks are popular, there continues to be issues with off leash dogs in other parks within the city;

Whereas, a PAC subcommittee was formed to review this issue;

Whereas, this subcommittee has identified a need for additional off-leash opportunities closer to the city core;

Whereas, the PROS plan makes numerous references to the potential need for additional off-leash dog opportunities;

RESOLVED, that the dog park sub-committee seek assistance from City staff in developing their recommendation;

RESOLVED, that the dog park sub-committee, in conjunction with staff, provide a recommendation and feedback on the possibility of additional off-leash dog facilities to PAC at their September 18, 2012 meeting;

A motion was made by Doyle, seconded by Galardi, that the Resolution be Approved.

On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried. Unanimously Approved

Yeas: 7 - RAC Rep. Berla, Chair Berson Grand, Councilmember Taylor, Levin, Doyle, Ault, Jackson, and Galardi

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 - Lawter, Councilmember Anglin, and Chapman

J REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

Grand welcomed new PAC member, Robert Galardi to the Park Advisory Commission.

Grand asked if anyone would be interested in serving on the City's Environmental Commission.

C. Smith reported that at the August 9 City Council meeting, they had unanimously approved to put the Park's Millage Renewal on the ballot for the November 6, 2012 election.

C. Smith reported that the clean-up efforts at the Broadway DTE site [as presented at an earlier PAC meeting] have begun this week and the remediation efforts will continue through October. He said they have been great with communicating with Park's staff on their on-going efforts. He added that they are also coordinating with the City's Natural Area Preservation on their tree replacement schedule.

C. Smith reported that the City hopes to hear shortly from the State on the whitewater features permit, with the construction to follow in October.

C. Smith noted that the majority of the summer's tournaments have been completed at the golf courses. He said they had 144 enrolled in the men's tournament, and 99 in the senior tournament.

C. Smith explained that the contractors had been selected for the streambank stabilization project on Traver Creek.

C. Smith reported that this is year two for the Wednesday evening farmer's market which runs from May through September from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

C. Smith said that the ballpark renovations began on Monday.

C. Smith brought the Commission's attention to the new Fall/Winter Parks and Recreation Guide.

K REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

L REPORTS FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

M REPORT FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK FORCES

N PUBLIC COMMENTARY - GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)

O CLOSED SESSION

P TRANSMITTALS

**P-1 [12-1077](#) City Council Items Update

 Received and Filed**

**P-2 [12-1078](#) Park Project Update

 Received and Filed**

**P-3 [12-1079](#) City of Ann Arbor 2008-2013 Park Maintenance and Capital
 Improvements Millage Status

 Received and Filed**

Q ADJOURNMENT

**Motion made by Berla, seconded by Galardi to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.
On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

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- *Video on Demand: Replay public meetings at your convenience online at www.a2gov.org/government/city_administration/communicationsoffice/ctn/Pages/Vid eoOnDemand.aspx*
- *Cable: Watch CTN Channel 16 public meeting programming via Comcast Cable channel 16.*

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