



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located in City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:11p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (7) L. Berauer, J. Lawter, G. Nystuen, S. Offen, S. Rosencrans, T. Berla, J. Grand (left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.)

Ex-Officio Members Present: (1) M. Anglin

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (1) S. Kunselman

Members Absent: (2) B. Macomber, D. Barrett

Staff Present: (7) C, Smith, J. Straw, J. Dehring, A. Kuras, M. Warba, D. Borneman, L. Bowen

Guests: (1) Melissa Kesterson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berauer stated in reading the by-laws for the Commission, Robert Rules of Order specifies the elections (D-2) are to be held at the beginning of the meeting instead of the end of the meeting.

The second change would be the by-laws, which are to be reviewed every September.

After the elections are completed, the by-laws will be discussed.

The agenda was approved with the mentioned changes.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Being none the follow items were moved up on the agenda.

D-2 Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

L. Berauer stated that every office is voted on separately and for every office all nominations are taken from the floor first before voting on the first nomination.

50 Nominations will be taken for the position of "Chair", the commission will vote.
51 Afterwards, nominations will be taken for the "Vice-Chair", the Commission will vote.

52
53 **L. Berauer** stated a "second" is not necessary when nominations are given.

54
55 The election for the positions of Chair and Vice- Chair was as follows:

56
57 **S. Offen** nominated Linda Berauer for the position of Chair.

58
59 **L. Berauer** called for a vote from the Commission for the nomination of Chair.

60
61 **T. Berla** asked if other nominations can be taken and if the Commission is allowed
62 discussion.

63
64 **L. Berauer** stated yes and asked for other nominations.

65
66 **S. Rosencrans** nominated Brigit Macomber for the position of Chair.

67
68 **T. Berla** asked when the terms expire for the Commissioners, and stated if L. Berauer
69 and B. Macomber's terms expired in early 2009 he would not want to have two new
70 positions to fill due to their terms expiring.

71
72 **L. Berauer** stated one new person would be in the position of Vice-Chair; if the
73 Commission agreed the more experienced person would hold the position of Chair for
74 the Commission.

75
76 **T. Berla** asked to be reminded of the status of the terms for both Linda Berauer and
77 Brigit Macomber.

78
79 **L. Berauer** stated both her and B. Macomber's terms expires in July and August 2009.

80
81 **T. Berla** asked if there would be other Commissioners with terms that are soon
82 expiring.

83
84 **L. Berauer** stated there will be some continuity after her and B. Macomber's terms
85 expire.

86
87 **G. Nystuen** stated S. Offen's term will be the most senior term after L. Berauer and B.
88 Macomber leave and S. Offen will serve another year on the Commission.

89
90 **T. Berla** asked if S. Offen would be leaving in approximately two years.

91
92 **S. Offen** stated he should be appointed for another term.

93
94 **S. Rosencrans** asked if both nominees are interested in being Chair for the
95 Commission.

99 **L. Berauer** stated she and B. Macomber have discussed the issue; both of them
100 agreed they would accept the nomination of both positions. B. Macomber preferred not
101 to accept the nomination of Chair due to her leadership role on the budget process,
102 which will be very intense.

103
104 The fall of the year is very busy for her at her place of employment, but if L. Berauer did
105 not want to accept the nomination of the position of Chair she would graciously accept.

106
107 **G. Nystuen** expressed appreciation and commented on the very nice job L. Berauer
108 has done as Chair for the Park Advisory Commission

109
110 **L. Berauer** called for the vote for the position of Chair:

111
112 The vote for L. Berauer to serve in the position as the position of the Chair for the Parks
113 Advisory Commission was as follows:

114
115 **Ayes: (7) L. Berauer, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, J. Grand**
116 **J. Lawter, S. Rosencrans, S. Offen**

117
118 **Nays: (0) None.**

119
120 **Absent: (2) B. Macomber, D. Barrett**

121
122 *On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous*

123
124 ***Linda Berauer will remain as Chair for the Parks Advisory Commission.***

125
126 **L. Berauer** called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for the Park Advisory
127 Commission.

128
129 **G. Nystuen** nominated John Lawter for the position of Vice-Chair stating he would be
130 willing to accept the nomination for this and has experience on the Parks Advisory
131 Commission.

132
133 **T. Berla** nominated Scott Rosencrans for the position of Vice-Chair

134
135 **L. Berauer** asked John Lawter and Scott Rosencrans if they would accept the
136 nominations for the position of Vice-Chair, they responded yes.

137
138 The vote was in the order of nominations received.

139
140 **J. Grand** asked if the Commission could hear comments from both nominees.

141
142 **J. Lawter** thanked everyone for the kind comments and stated he would be happy to
143 serve as Vice-Chair for this Commission. J. Lawter explained his role has been
144 versatile on a number of different committees, which is what a vice-president's role
145 would be as far as standing in for the Chair if needed.

147 J. Lawter also stated he felt he had a rounded back round regarding the financial
148 aspect of the Parks Department. Also stating he would not want to hold the position of
149 Chair due to the time restraints.

150
151 **S. Offen** asked J. Lawter if after a year if he would be willing to accept the nomination
152 of Chair for the Commission.

153
154 **J. Lawter** stated he would consider it.

155
156 **S. Rosencrans** stated he is very interested in the Vice-Chair position and believes it
157 ties in with the duties he is performing on the Task Force and primarily being liaison to
158 City Council.

159
160 S. Rosencrans explained he also has worked with staff regarding the Parks Planning
161 process and the infrastructure issues with other Commissions that tie into the work that
162 the Parks Advisory Commission is doing.

163
164 **L. Berauer** stated the Commission would vote for the nominees for Vice-Chair in order,
165 first being J. Lawter, second being S. Rosencrans.

166
167 The vote for J. Lawter to serve in the position as Vice-Chair for the Parks Advisory
168 Commission was as follows:

169
170 **Ayes: (5) L. Berauer, G. Nystuen, J. Grand**
171 **J. Lawter, S. Offen**

172
173 **Nays: (2) S. Rosencrans, T. Berla**

174
175 **Absent: (2) B. Macomber, D. Barrett**

176
177 *On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous*

178
179 ***John Lawter will hold the position of Vice-Chair for the Parks Advisory***
180 ***Commission.***

181
182 **G. Nystuen** stated she felt the Commission was very fortunate to have both nominees
183 for the position of Vice-Chair; stating S. Rosencrans has taken the job of coordinating
184 issues regarding the Parks Planning process and B. Macomber will continue to chair
185 the work on the budget process.

186
187 **L. Berauer** asked if there could be a brief discussion regarding the by-laws.

188
189 **G. Nystuen** asked if there had been any difficulties encountered where the by-laws
190 may be a problem.

191
192 **L. Berauer** stated she has not had any problems with the by-laws except for when the
193 Park Advisory Commission wanted to form a committee and invite outside members to
194 the committee.

196 It is clearly stated in the by-laws that the Commission has the authority to do this, but
197 there was resistance in some quarters and this effort was stalled to the point the idea
198 was not feasible. If the need arises the Commission has the authority to set a
199 committee on a particular subject and invite outside experts to sit on a committee.
200

201 **S. Offen** stated there were City official jobs that were inaccurately stated in the
202 by-laws. It would be appreciated if C. Smith reviewed the current positions and
203 identified the current changes.
204

205 **S. Offen** stated on the page 3, article 5, section 6 of the by-laws; the statement
206 referring to The Leslie Science Center is no longer valid since they have their own
207 Board and is now a separate non-profit. A representative being on their Board is a
208 request of The Leslie Science Center and the Parks Advisory Commission does not
209 have this as a rule.
210

211 **L. Berauer** confirmed that a representative from the Parks Advisory Commission being
212 on The Leslie Science Center's Board is a rule of this Commission.
213

214 **S. Offen** suggested the wording be changed in the by-laws to reflect the current status
215 of The Leslie Science Center.
216

217 **J. Grand** stated this is a larger responsibility to sit on the Board of the Leslie Science
218 Center.
219

220 **S. Offen** stated he is a voting member on this particular Board.
221

222 **L. Berauer** stated that S. Offen is the liaison.
223

224 **S. Offen** stated yes that he has been the liaison since the summer of 2007.
225

226 **L. Berauer** asked if changes to the by-laws should be presented in writing at the next
227 meeting, waiting a month before the changes are voted on.
228

229 **T. Berla** stated in recent years a representative of the Leslie Science Center that was
230 not a member of the Park Advisory Commission came to the meeting, but S. Offen's
231 position on the Board at the Leslie Science Center is different and seems to work better
232 as is.
233

234 T. Berla suggested the present wording be taken out of the by-laws all together due to
235 not knowing what the formal arrangement will be in the future and there may not be a
236 reason to keep them in the Commissions by-laws.
237

238 **S. Offen** stated Leslie Science Center has the request of a representative from the
239 Park Advisory Commission on their Board in their by-laws. And after his term has
240 expired, the Leslie Science Center will request for another member of this Commission
241 to be on their Board.
242

243 **L. Berauer** asked if the decision of which Commissioner will be on their Board is to
244 come from the Leslie Science Center.
245

246 **G. Nystuen** stated the City would maintain the property and a close connection should
247 be kept.

248
249 A chart of our current organization positions is quite different and is not clear to many
250 people.

251
252 **C. Smith** stated there have been many changes and an organizational chart would be
253 provided to explain the different facilities, the staff members and other areas that have
254 new relationships such as the Leslie Science Center and the Community Centers.

255
256 **G. Nystuen** stated the golf course has a separate committee and is temporary.

257
258 **L. Berauer** stated the separate committee for the golf course being temporary is
259 correct and asked if the issue regarding a Board member at the Leslie Science Center
260 needed to be included in the by-laws.

261
262 **S. Offen** stated he didn't think a reference was needed in the by-laws regarding a
263 Board member at Leslie Science Center.

264
265 **S. Offen** stated on page 5, Section 9 of the by-laws references the Leslie Science
266 Center Advisory Committee as a standed committee of the Parks Advisory Commission
267 and this is inaccurate.

268
269 **L. Berauer** stated the revision of the by-laws should be brought to the next meeting.

270
271 **C. Smith** stated he would review the changes in staff positions.

272
273 **L. Berauer** stated she would like the Commission to consider the creation of a third
274 office on the Commission.

275
276 This office would fulfill the function that B. Macomber has done in terms of the
277 leadership role regarding the budget process; she has the background and experience
278 to accomplish this task and has done so along with the position of Vice-Chair.

279
280 L. Berauer stated she did not think this should be a requirement of the Vice-Chair and
281 should not be added to the duties of the Chair because it would be burdensome for one
282 person.

283
284 The budget committee can be made a standing committee and always have that
285 committee elect its Chair to fulfill that function.

286
287 If the third position is made into an actual office for the Park Advisory Commission, it
288 would carry more weight with staff due to that individual working closely with the
289 financial staff and Parks Manager. This position would carry a higher level of
290 responsibility if this person were elected for this role by the entire body of the Parks
291 Advisory Commission rather than a committee.

292
293 **S. Rosencrans** stated depending on who is nominated by City Council to serve on this
294 Commission that individual may not have the financial background needed for this new
295 position.

296 If there is an official office to fulfill this responsibility, would the Commission have to ask
297 City Council to place someone that has the financial background required to serve on
298 the Parks Advisory Commission.
299

300 **L. Berauer** stated she does not mean someone that is trained as a CPA, when she
301 refers to someone having a back round in finance; she is referring to someone who is
302 knowledgeable of how budgets and the accounting process works through the course
303 of their jobs which is the case with B. Macomber.
304

305 It is also the case of two other members of this Commission, S. Offen and J. Lawter.
306

307 L. Berauer continued to explain the person functioning as chair of the budget
308 committee would be doing the same thing. The by-laws would state whomever is
309 elected to this position would share the budget and finance committee.
310

311 **S. Offen** stated this new position would be valuable and would be part of the executive
312 committee, which would include to the Chair and Vice-Chair. This is a subject that has
313 been discussed often. The finances of this department are critical and this person
314 would need to understand the financial reports.
315

316 **S. Offen** asked what this new position would be called.
317

318 **L. Berauer** suggested the position be called "Chair of the budget/finance committee"
319 but could be a Park Advisory Commission office elected rather than a committee office.
320

321 Very few of the Commissions within the City work with the departments with such a
322 huge budget and have so much critical input into budget and millage issues. That in
323 itself makes it a large responsibility of the Park Advisory Commission.
324

325 Giving it it's own position is very important, being on this Commission five years we
326 have always struggled with budget issues, there is never enough time to fully
327 understand. It is very important for our representation of the public interest in terms of
328 the millage funds that we provide responsible oversight.
329

330 **S. Offen** stated this new position would take the burden from the Chair and Vice-Chair
331 from having to spend a lot of time tracking down budget issues.
332

333 **J. Lawter** agreed that it is very important to have representation from the Park Advisory
334 Commission that has an understanding of budgets. Having this office would help
335 ensure the need for a finance person on the Commission.
336

337 **T. Berla** explained this function was not done by the Park Advisory Commission and
338 believes it is an on going problem with the public due to the budget being so confusing.
339

340 It is important the emphasis remain on the budget/finance issues, but stated his
341 preference would be not to place this issue in the by-laws.
342

343 **L. Berauer** stated she would respond to the statements made regarding the Parks
344 Advisory Commission not having the responsibility or charge regarding a position for
345 someone to represent the Commission and oversee the budget/finance issue.

346 This point is mentioned in three different items in the list of the Park Advisory
347 Commissions responsibilities in the by-laws.

348
349 The responsibilities include, providing recommendations to the Parks Manager, City
350 Administrator and City Council regarding annual operating budget, annual capital
351 improvement budget, capital improvement and acquisition funding including millages,
352 bond issues, park foundation or related programs.

353
354 Per the by-laws the Commission has a responsibility to the public to oversee these
355 issues.

356
357 **T. Berla** explained his perception of the overseeing of the budget was at a different
358 level and has increased over the years.

359
360 **L. Berauer** explained the problem in the past was not working with staff closely on
361 major projects. The Commission as well as the public can receive the information and it
362 be easily reviewed. When this process is achieved it will not be as labor intensive.

363
364 **J. Grand** asked who takes the lead as we move into the budget process.

365
366 **L. Berauer** stated staff will take the lead.

367
368 **J. Grand** asked if there was a member of the Parks Advisory Commission that is the
369 point person during this process.

370
371 **L. Berauer** stated staff works on the budget and there is no member of the Parks
372 Advisory Commission involved, when staff is comfortable with the budget it is brought
373 back to the Commission; it is a very labor intensive process. The Commission does not
374 receive the budget very far in advance to when City Council receives it and needs to be
375 approved.

376
377 **S. Offen** stated approximately two years ago the Commission received the budget at
378 the point of approval and had little time to comment.

379
380 **L. Berauer** stated the budget committee will be working with staff for this issue to
381 improve.

382
383 **C. Smith** stated Kelly McKinnon (Financial Manager for Community Services) will start
384 to have conversations regarding creating a schedule for the budget. Once this
385 information is obtained it will be shared with the Commission.

386
387 **L. Berauer** stated she and B. Macomber hope to have a better process in place before
388 their terms expire.

389
390
391 **G. Nystuen** stated she supports a third position on the Commission and feels for the
392 foreseeable future this is a very important element for communicating with the public as
393 well as internally. The budget of Parks is large and very complex due to the millages
394 and different funds. A third position is appropriate allowing a point person to
395 concentrate on the budget at this time. This can be changed in the future.

396 **L. Berauer** stated she and C. Smith would work on language including title changes
397 and the Leslie Science Center issue and will bring this information to the next meeting
398 so that the Commission can vote on the amendments one by one.
399

400 **S. Offen** stated that in article 4, section 2 under membership in the by-laws it mentions
401 representation from the Ann Arbor Public Schools.
402

403 **L. Berauer** explained there is still representation for the Ann Arbor Public Schools and
404 she is welcome to attend the meetings at any time.
405

406 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
407

408 **A-1 Commissioner Berauer** moved, supported by **Commissioner Lawter** to
409 approve the minutes of the August 19, 2008 meeting with corrections.
410

411 The minutes of August 19, 2008 were approved unanimously.
412

413 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
414

415 **Project Grow**
416

417 **M. Kesterson** spoke on Project Grow along with passing photos to the Commission and
418 explained in detail regarding the pilot program that was discussed approximately 2 years
419 ago.
420

421 Last season a garden was opened at Buhr Park, pictures were explained to the Commission
422 showing how nice the garden is. The season at Buhr Park was very good and only positive
423 comments have been received.
424

425 Guidelines were created due to concerned neighbors; these guidelines are to be followed by
426 the gardener's in the community garden. This has been well received.
427

428 Other sites are being considered, one being South Maple, the other is Hunt Park. This is a
429 slow process and the neighbors are very involved with the decision making. If the
430 neighborhood support is in tact then a community meeting will be held regarding the garden.
431

432 **S. Offen** asked if all the space at the Buhr garden is used or if only what would be used is
433 created.
434

435
436 **M. Kesterson** stated it was important to the neighbors that the space for the garden was
437 very definitive. The agreement was to have eight spaces; those are all 25 by 30 plots and
438 there is a 2 -3 foot aisle down the middle.
439

440 After the garden was full, there were more people calling wanting to participate. It would be
441 nice to make the garden larger if possible.
442

443 **S. Offen** asked if there were any plans to expand the garden at this time.
444
445

446 **M. Kesterson** stated not at this time.
447

448 **S. Rosencrans** asked if there is a donor base within the membership and what other
449 sources of funding is available.
450

451 **M. Kesterson** stated yes, the majority of the monies come from the gardener's who rent
452 plots for the season, which is a significant portion of the budget. The County provides
453 money and Project Grow has been reinstated in the budget with the City for 2009 fiscal
454 year.
455

456 **J. Lawter** asked if there was an outreach program and fundraisers.
457

458 **M. Kesterson** stated yes there are fundraiser's, letters are sent, plant sales and grants.
459

460 **G. Nystuen** asked how many people are participating in this endeavor.
461

462 **M. Kesterson** stated approximately 500 gardeners, if one person signs up there may be a
463 family that is actually participating. This number does not include the donations to Food
464 Gathers, neighbors and friends.
465

466 **S. Offen** asked C. Smith if Project Grow would be a part of the budget in the 2010 – 2011
467 fiscal year.
468

469 **C. Smith** stated all programs and facilities are evaluated during the budget process; and it is
470 too early to be able to answer effectively.
471

472 **S. Offen** asked if the monies would come from the Parks budget as oppose to the
473 Community Services budget.
474

475 **C. Smith** stated yes.
476

477 **T. Berla** asked if there is a garden at the Church on Liberty.
478

479 **M. Kesterson** stated yes, and there are many smaller sites to make up for the bigger site at
480 the Church.
481

482 **T. Berla** asked if there was any way to know how many people would like to participate and
483 have project grow gardens. Also asking what the City could do to help promote this project.
484

485 **M. Kesterson** expressed her thanks and stated the City is already helping by allowing
486 people that are a part of the Parks Department to identify spots to place gardens. Part of the
487 guidelines are to identify spots where people want to garden.
488

489 **T. Berla** asked if there has ever been a problem with neighbors that did not want a garden
490 to be put in.
491

492 **M. Kesterson** stated no.
493

494 **L. Berauer** asked how many plots there are.
495

496 **M. Kesterson** stated approximately 200 plots and this number is subject to change. For
497 example at Greenview Garden, the swamp is coming in and a few plots are lost due to this;
498 the plots are approximately 25 x 30.

499
500 **L. Berauer** asked how many locations are there.
501

502 **M. Kesterson** stated approximately 12; two of those are discovery gardens which are
503 gardens for children, seniors and handicap accessible plots.
504

505 **L. Berauer** asked if the guidelines for each location are customized.
506

507 **M. Kesterson** stated yes and explained the over arching guidelines which are the all
508 organic gardening. Within each garden the guidelines are customized to fit the designated
509 area.
510

511 **M. Anglin** thanked Jayne Miller for re-working and re-funding the budget to include Project
512 Grow. City Council was in full support of Project Grow. The community is also in full support
513 and it is very important and has been in existence for a long time.
514

515 **PUBLIC HEARING**
516

517 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
518

519 **B-1** HRIMP Update
520

521 **S. Rosencrans** spoke on this issue, explaining the topic of discussion is
522 whether to remove Argo Dam or if the Dam can be repaired. This topic will go
523 to the Public in September 2008 in a series of meetings to get feedback on
524 ideas concerning the Dam.
525

526 The State of Michigan found a deteriorating condition on the earth and berm
527 section of the Argo Dam, which could compromise the Dam itself. The
528 mechanical concrete and steel section which controls the flow with moveable
529 gates, there is an island attached to it; that is where we are referring to the
530 earth and berm.
531

532 There have been new developments with a possibility of altering the earth and
533 berm section of the Dam that would facilitate increased recreational activities
534 as well as maintain the Dam and preserve the rowing program that is in place.
535
536

537 There are five different rowing associations; there is a private rowing club and
538 school teams including the University of Michigan who use that body of water
539 for their rowing programs. There are hundreds of thousands of dollars invested
540 in their boats and facilities; these are successful programs that are sending
541 children to many of the Ivy League schools.
542

543 On one side of the earth and berm you have the flow of the river that comes
544 out of the concrete and steel mechanical area and that is not the one that you
545 canoe from when you go down the river.

546 There is a by-pass on the other side of the earth and berm where a short white
547 water rafting run could be developed.

548
549 David Barrett is on this task force. The hard numbers are not available
550 regarding what the cost would be to repair the Argo Dam. There are very
551 broad estimates at this point.

552
553 The actual numbers need to be defined before a decision is made whether or
554 not to remove or repair the Dam.

555
556 **J. Lawter** asked if the silting, health of the river and the depth being lost are
557 points of concern.

558
559 **S. Rosencrans** stated wherever there is a Dam there is silt built up.

560
561 **B. Delaney** explained at one point the Dam was drained, and they could
562 cruise the river, pull firearms out of the river and re-condition them.

563
564 **S. Rosencrans** stated the periodic drainage also facilitated some of the
565 clearing of the silt.

566
567 **G. Nystuen** stated another problem with the Dam would be the vegetation and
568 the growth of the invasive waterweeds, which has gotten worse.

569
570 **S. Rosencrans** explained there are different methods for management of
571 vegetation being proposed.

572
573 **L. Berauer** stated the Argo Dam question is the largest issue in terms of
574 impact on recreational uses and potential expense.

575
576 The larger purpose of the study is exactly managing the water quality in terms
577 of siltage and invasives.

578
579 **S. Rosencrans** stated the investments and popular rowing programs are very
580 large issues.

581
582 **S. Offen** asked if the state has set a deadline that should be met.

583
584 **S. Rosencrans** stated yes, the original deadline was January 2008.

585
586 **S. Offen** asked if there would be any penalties imposed due to missing the
587 deadline.

588
589 **S. Rosencrans** stated he was not aware of any penalties.

590
591 **T. Berla** stated when there is standing water the normal course of events is for
592 vegetation to grow and turn into swamp.

593
594

595 The overall health of the river is a concern and generally Dams are not
596 positive.

597
598 The rowing clubs cut off the top of the vegetation when it is in their way, which
599 may not be the best solution; this could be spreading the plants or creating
600 dead material at the bottom. If the Dam remains open, an agreement should
601 be made with the rowing clubs, to consider having them pay for a portion of
602 the work that is needed.

603
604 **S. Rosencrans** stated the removal of the Dam gives the opportunity of the
605 direction of having the river system within the City limits work in a natural
606 fashion. It would not be possible to maintain the City structures and
607 infrastructure as we have them today if the Dams were removed.

608
609 It is not economically feasible to remove all of the Dams and restore it to a
610 completely natural state. It would be a huge global change to what we've
611 done.

612
613 The removal of the Argo Dam would wreak havoc on the rowing programs that
614 are in place. Since this is a City wide problem it should be the City's
615 responsibility to help whatever replacement those rowing clubs need.

616
617 **T. Berla** stated the U of M women's club rows in different places.

618
619 **S. Rosencrans** stated the U of M women's rowing club rows at Ford Lake.

620
621 **T. Berla** asked if some of the Dams are producing electricity.

622
623 **S. Rosencrans** stated yes, both Barton Dam and Superior Dam produce
624 electricity.

625
626 **C. Smith** explained the immediate concern is the Dam, but it is good to keep
627 in mind that part of what this committee is dealing with is a long term vision for
628 the rivers. Regardless of the results, there will be an impact both
629 environmentally and recreationally.

630
631 The recreation aspect is a big part of the decision due to so many people
632 using the river, whether it is for rowing or the canoe liveries which is also
633 popular.

634
635 **L. Berauer** asked if the idea has been discussed regarding the Parks
636 Department assisting with the cost of the repairs to the Dam.

637
638 **S. Rosencrans** stated the topic of the City assisting with the cost of repairs
639 was mentioned in the meetings on the task force.

640
641 **C. Smith** stated there were discussions pertaining to the possible increase of
642 recreational opportunities, and whether this is something the Parks system
643 would be interested in or able to fund.

644

645 **B-2** Update on Charter Amendment regarding Voter Approval for Sale of Parkland

646
647 **L. Berauer** explained the Park Advisory Commission wrote a Resolution
648 attempting to close the loop hole pertaining to the sale of parkland.

649
650 Retired Councilperson Robert Johnson took the Resolution to City Council and
651 it failed.

652
653 Currently the ordinance requires the sale of parkland to go to the voter's for
654 approval, there is a loop hole in the current language that was used
655 successfully by the City of Novi.

656
657 Novi City Council severed a portion of land from the Parks system, thereby
658 allowing that land to be sold simply by a majority of Council votes rather than
659 having to go to the voters. The Park Advisory Commission vote was intended
660 to say non-severability and the voter's would be involved with any parcel of
661 land within the Park system.

662
663 Recently the Mayor sponsored a similar Resolution, took it to Council and it
664 passed. L. Berauer asked Councilperson Mike Anglin to explain in further
665 details.

666
667 **Mike Anglin** strongly suggested the Commission look at the videotape of that
668 specific meeting where the actual resolution was passed.

669
670 The Resolution was re-written at City Council on the night of that particular
671 meeting. It was a situation in which you are asked to support an issue that is
672 extremely important. There is a possibility that changes as well as law suits
673 will take place in a result of the Resolution.

674
675 Parks and parcels of land are defined differently with many people and could
676 result in an endless discussion. The intent that I voted for was for the citizens
677 due to it being an important item. Most issues that go to ballot are open to
678 interpretation; this issue was one of those issues.

679
680 There were opinions that this issue was already protected by the State, that it
681 was a redundancy and there was not a need to actually vote.

682
683 **L. Berauer** stated the language that Robert Johnson worked on with the Park
684 Advisory Commission, the City Attorney's office and ultimately taking it to the
685 Attorney General office to make sure it was approved at the State level
686 because it is changed to an ordinance.

687
688 The language brought forth to City Council was different. The understanding is
689 that the Resolution was changed further at the Council meeting.

690
691 **M. Anglin** stated there would be a better understanding if the tape from that
692 particular meeting is viewed.

693

694 **S. Rosencrans** stated there is existing legislation at the State level; the
695 situation in Novi resulted in the parcels being re-designated as non-parkland
696 and therefore were able to sell that land. This was in fact the loop hole.
697

698 S. Rosencrans disagreed that the Resolution did not have a leg a stand on;
699 people in this City are very passionate regarding parkland.
700

701 **L. Berauer** stated the definition of a Park was clear in the original resolution
702 that the Park Advisory Commission presented.
703

704 **M. Anglin** stated we do not want to sell this land unless we as citizens are
705 asked about it; this is a complicated issue that requires further investigation.
706

707 **T. Berla** stated the political connection that we have with preventing the sale
708 of parkland is not enough, we want a legal solution.
709

710 There is confusion regarding this issue. There is a parcel of land on Fuller Rd.
711 that is used as a parking lot for the University of Michigan, the revenue goes to
712 Parks; is it a Park or not.
713

714 This Resolution may make it harder to buy land if the millage money went to
715 buy land.
716

717 **L. Berauer** stated it would not make it impossible to do this, we should ask the
718 voters.
719

720 **B-3** Park Operation Budget & Updates from the Budget Committee
721

722 **G. Nystuen** explained a meeting will be set up in October to discuss the
723 upcoming budget. We have not received very much information regarding the
724 budget for Forestry and Park Operations.
725

726 The formula is of interest for the General Fund allocation and the plan for the
727 upcoming two year cycle.
728

729 The Golf budget will be viewed closely.
730

731 **J. Lawter** hopes the meetings with Kelly McKinnon will take place
732 regularly.
733

734 **C. Smith** stated there are plans to have regular meetings to explain the Cost
735 Center details with the Commission.
736

737 **S. Offen** asked if Kelly McKinnon was a Parks employee.
738

739 **C. Smith** stated yes she is a Community Service employee and does not work
740 solely for the Parks & Recreation Services.
741

742 **C. Smith** explained the end of year reports pertaining to Field Operations and
743 Park Operations. The reports are a three year running history, 2005 – 2008.

744 **S. Offen** asked for an explanation of a line item called debt service.

745
746 **C. Smith** stated he would confirm this information.

747
748 **G. Nystuen** stated that line item could be the building debt for the new facility
749 (The Wheeler Building).

750
751 **M. Warba** stated one of the line items under maintenance athletic field is a
752 large amount of money. This was the money City Council had ear marked for
753 the Athletic Field project. As a result of the project not being underway at that
754 time, the money could not be used for any other function.

755
756 This is why a large amount of unspent money is seen. The money is ear
757 marked for the project that is under way now.

758
759 **T. Berla** asked about the monies that were allocated for the ball diamonds
760 maintenance.

761
762 **M. Warba** stated the only part of maintenance the City does not currently do is
763 line the fields for play. We drag the fields, water the fields, mow the fields,
764 maintain the fences at the fields, we install the bases and the anchors.

765
766 **T. Berla** asked where this item would be found on the report.

767
768 **M. Warba** stated this item would be part of a millage function.

769
770 **S. Offen** asked for an explanation of non park mowing.

771
772 **M. Warba** stated we contract out some of the mowing of the boulevards, but
773 there are some areas that are not contracted out and we are responsible for
774 those areas.

775
776 **S. Offen** asked why the budget was so low for mowing and non park mowing.

777
778 **C. Smith** stated he would clarify and explain to the Commission.

779
780 **M. Anglin** asked for the lighting at Veterans Memorial Park to be
781 explained.

782
783 **M. Warba** explained at the start of the season through the efforts with Rob
784 Millett and Larry Dishman the new lighting system was installed and is an
785 automated the system. We have the ability to call in changes to the schedules
786 that Rec. & Ed. supplies us for the field usage.

787
788 We now have the ability to go on line if the weather is not feasible as well as
789 call an 800 number that allows you to provide a user ID to have the lights
790 continue if needed.

791
792

793 **T. Berla** stated the new lighting system is better for the City, the players and
794 staff.

795
796 **L. Berauer** stated it was not an expensive purchase.

797
798 **M. Warba** stated the total cost was approximately \$19,000.00 and has been
799 well received.

800
801 **S. Offen** asked if the lights were new or if the same lamps were being used.

802
803 **M. Warba** stated he did not think the lights were changed.

804
805 **M. Warba** explained the progress of the two fields at Fuller Park. The drainage
806 work is complete on field #4; the drainage work is well on the way on field #5.

807
808 There will be additions made to the irrigation system and all of the irrigation
809 pipes will have a GPS system. Once the earth work is complete on field #5 the
810 project will be moved over to Olson Park.

811
812 **T. Berla** asked if there is a timeline on when fields 4 and 5 will be open for
813 play.

814
815 **M. Warba** stated hopefully by late spring of 2009 or early summer of 2009.

816
817 The underground work will be done so the work that is complete will not be
818 disturbed. It will be the same type of computer operated system that we have
819 at Southeast Area Park and Veterans Memorial Park.

820
821 Seven new water fountains are being installed throughout the parks. We have
822 the ability to customize the fountains to the needs of the park.

823
824 **S. Offen** thanked M. Warba for the new water fountains in Gallup Park.

825
826 **M. Warba** stated we now have the ability to have dog drinkers on all of the
827 fountains.

828
829 **S. Offen** asked if there are handicap accessible fountains in the parks as well.

830
831 **M. Warba** stated based on the volume of the park the fountains are being
832 installed and increase capacity and use of the fountains as well as the
833 handicap fountains.

834
835 **M. Anglin** thanked M. Warba for all of the efforts that are being made to
836 improve the parks.

843 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

844

845 **C-1** 415 West Washington Project as it relates to Greenway (**deferred to the next**
846 **meeting**)

847

848 **C-2** Capital Project Prioritization and Capital Process (**deferred to the next**
849 **meeting**)

850

851

852 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

853

854 **D-1** Carbon Neutral Concert Series

855

856 **S. Rosencrans** stated this is an idea that he was working with Brian Delaney
857 to achieve.

858

859 **B. Delaney** explained that he was a full time musician here in Ann Arbor, and
860 stated he uses the term “full time musician” very loosely. B. Delaney also explained
861 a poster to the Commission in depth.

862

863 As you are probably already aware, in June of this year, 81 acre Brown Park
864 was rededicated as Mary Beth Doyle Park, recognizing the late Mary Beth
865 Doyle’s long-standing commitment to environmentalism, around which she
866 shaped her life.

867

868 Scott and I both being friends of Mary Beth, we were in attendance for the
869 Dedication Ceremony, which was a beautiful event.

870

871 As the ceremony ended, a small group of musicians gathered to play a few
872 songs as the crowd was dispersing. Later, as we cased up our instruments, it
873 occurred to us that the site of the park could be a viable venue for the concept
874 of an environmentally sound concert series.

875

876 In the ensuing months, I have taken the time to speak with numerous
877 musicians about the concept of a “Green” concert series, (potentially in 2009)
878 and received a very positive response.

879

880 But just what would an “environmentally sound” concert series look like in Ann
881 Arbor? I tapped a talented friend, Mr. Eric Kelly to come up with a mock up
882 poster to give you a visual idea, and here are the concepts.

883

884 First, the project would be absolutely carbon-neutral and environmentally
885 friendly at a time when awareness of such issues is important and is being
886 championed by the city. At a glance, this means a musical series completely
887 devoid of the use of electrical amplification. You heard right- no traditional
888 power sources- no generators, solar panels- no power whatsoever beyond the
889 musicians and their creativity and ability to put their music across.

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How might this work?

For some it may be somewhat difficult to imagine, but history shows us that musicians have created art in public spaces for thousands of years without the use of external amplification. Only in the last 70 years has electricity been a tool harnessed for such a purpose.

Many of today's musicians rehearse and sometimes play in an acoustic manner and typically will only use amplification in a public setting to reach a vast cross-section of people.

S. Offen asked if the performers would be paid and would people be required to pay admission.

B. Delaney stated the intention is to solicit sponsorship from local businesses.

S. Rosencrans stated it is against park regulations to solicit funds; this is why we are seeking sponsorship.

L. Berauer asked if sponsorship is received, would there still be a charge for admission.

B. Delaney stated the goal would not to charge admission

S. Offen asked if there was proper space in the Mary Beth Doyle Park.

B. Delaney explained the original idea came to mind at the dedication of the park.

L. Berauer asked if there was anything specific that the Park Advisory Commission could do to help this project.

S. Rosencrans stated the idea was brought to the Commission as informational purposes only.

C. Smith there would not be a reason for the Park Advisory Commission to act on this idea; this would be discussed through the rental/special events application process.

D-2 Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair (**moved to the beginning of the meeting**)

D-3 Review of Park Advisory Commission Work Plan for 2008-09 (**deferred to the next meeting**)

E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith gave an update on the vacancies and the interviews that have taken place.

F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

943 **G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

944
945 **T. Berla** gave an update on the water main project that disturbed the volley ball courts
946 at Forsythe School.

947
948 Recreation & Education has started to partner with a soccer team for disabled
949 children.

950
951 **H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK**
952 **FORCES**

953
954 **J. Lawter** stated there is good news regarding the Golf Courses, largely due to marketing,
955 customer service and capital improvements.

956
957 **C. Smith** stated Cheryl Saam will return to the Canoe Liveries and Jason Nealis will return to
958 Veterans Memorial Park. There will be a transition period for training purpose with the new hires.

959
960 **S. Rosencrans** stated the golf cart tunnel issue will be resolved for approximately \$10,000 -
961 \$20,000.00 which was far less than expected.

962
963 **C. Smith** stated the cart lease will have to be re-biddded. One suggestion is to purchase carts that
964 have canopies, and to have bumpers on both sides of the tunnels to assist in guiding the carts
965 through the tunnels.

966
967 **I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL** (3 Minutes per Speaker)

968
969 **J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES** (If Applicable)

970
971 **K - TRANSMITTALS**

972
973 **K-1** City Council Items Update

974
975 **K-2** Park Project Update

976
977 **K-3** Park and Recreation Events for August – September 2008

978
979 **K-4** By-Laws of the Park Advisory Commission – City of Ann Arbor, Michigan
980 **(moved to the beginning of the meeting)**

981
982 There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner**
983 **Berauer** moved, supported by Commissioner Rosencrans that the meeting be
984 adjourned. The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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