



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 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 4:10 p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present:	(9)	L. Berauer, B. Macomber (arrived at 4:11 p.m.), D. Barrett, J. Grand, J. Lawter, S. Offen (arrived at 4:25 p.m.), G. Nystuen (arrived at 4:14 p.m.), S. Rosencrans (arrived at 4:18 p.m.), T. Berla
Ex-Officio Members Present:	(1)	S. Kunselman
Ex- Officio Members Absent:	(0)	None.
Members Absent:	(0)	None.
Staff Present:	(9)	C. Smith, J. Miller, A. Kuras, D. Borneman, K.C. Bemish, J. Dehring M. Warba, R. Millet, L. Bowen, K. Henderson, J. Davis, G. Trocchio
Guests:	(0)	None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berauer requested that discussion of item C-1 be moved to follow approval of the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Glen Thompson spoke on the Farmer’s Market renovation. Thompson expressed concerns with the improvements that are included in the renovation plans. Thompson inquired about the funding sources for the Market renovation project. Mr. Thompson also indicated that he is not supportive of closing a City Golf Course.

A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 The Parks Advisory Commission approved the minutes of May 15, 2007 as written. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Commissioner Berla moved, supported by **Commissioner Grand** to approve the minutes of November 20, 2007 as written. The minutes of November 20, 2007 were approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Skate Park Facility

Trevor Staples and **Doug Song** indicated their interest in development of a skate park facility in Ann Arbor. Local skate park enthusiasts have circulated petitions in support of a skate park in Ann Arbor and approximately 365 on-paper signatures and 569 on-line signatures have been gathered. Staples and Song presented a conceptual drawing of a proposed skate park facility that would be

62 approximately 30,000 square feet in size and cost approximately \$800,000 to construct. The skate
63 park group expects to get the facility development funding through fundraising in the community.
64 They expect that the City will contribute 15% (\$120,000) of the development costs. Fundraising by the
65 skate park support group will begin in 2008. Staples indicated that the group would like to be able to
66 tell potential donors that a site has been selected for the future skate park. **Song** stated that at this
67 time the group is looking for a commitment from the City for a site for a skate park.

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69 The anticipated annual maintenance costs for a skate park facility, based on research for maintenance
70 costs at existing facilities in southeast Michigan, are expected to range from \$1,000 - \$5,000. **Staples**
71 and **Song** have organized a group of youth who have agreed to assist with the maintenance of the
72 skate park. Most public skate parks are not operated with on-site staffing. On-site signage provides
73 notice of facility rules and required safety equipment.

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75 **Staples** asked for a PAC resolution to support the development of a skate park facility.

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77 **S. Offen** asked for clarification of site requirements for a skate park. **Staples** stated that the group
78 would like to have the skate park in an existing park with other recreational facilities.

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80 **D. Barrett** suggested that the skate park group prepare a report for PAC that would provide basic
81 information about the skate park group's proposal such as the number of skate park supporters in the
82 community, the number of skaters in Ann Arbor, maintenance requirement for a skate park, and
83 similar information.

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85 **S. Rosencrans** asked about the dimensions of the proposed facility, specifically, the depth of the
86 proposed bowl areas.

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88 **B. Macomber** asked about the operations of other area skate parks and the sale of passes for
89 entrance into the facility.

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91 **D. Barrett** and **J. Dehring** discussed risk management and liability and Dehring indicated that the City
92 Attorney's office has reviewed skate parks liability because the City has had skate park equipment at
93 Buhr Park for a number of years.

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95 **S. Kunselman** commented on the popularity of skate boarding and indicated his support for a skate
96 park in Ann Arbor. He indicated that identifying a location is very important so fund raising can begin.
97 He encouraged PAC to do everything possible to move this skate park project forward. **L. Berauer**
98 stated the next step would be for Commission to discuss the skate park proposal with staff. **T. Berla**
99 proposed that PAC approve a resolution by February 26, 2008 and asked whether a site could be
100 identified by the summer (2008). **C. Smith** stated that the process for consideration of development
101 of a new park facility begins with a series of public meetings. She stated that the staff will begin
102 working with the community this winter and organize public meetings that address a skate park
103 facility.

104 PUBLIC HEARINGS

105 B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

106 B-1 Land Acquisition Strategic Plan Approval

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109 **L. Berauer moved, supported by S. Offen** to consider the Land Acquisition Strategic Plan
110 Resolution.

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113 **G. Trocchio** reviewed the land acquisition strategic planning process.

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116 **G. Nystuen** expressed concern with action on the resolution at today's meeting because new
117 Commissioners may not be aware of the planning process. She also inquired about whether the
118 strategic planning document includes not only the GIS information, but also other analysis that have
119 been used with recent properties that LAC has considered. **T. Berla** reviewed the two means by
120 which parcels are identified for consideration for acquisition as parks: either the owner of a property
121 approaches the City and indicates their interest in selling the property to the City as a park, or the GIS
122 program is used to generate a list of vacant parcels that the City may investigate for purchase as

123 parkland. **G. Trocchio** confirmed that the strategic plan provides for review of GIS system data, as
124 well as a broad scope of other data, as parcels are considered for acquisition as parkland. **G.**
125 **Nystuen** agreed that the GIS would be useful information. She indicated that she continues to have
126 concerns with the approval of the strategic plan at this time.
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128 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission whether they would like to discuss the strategic plan at an open
129 session before the next Land Acquisition meeting. She also asked whether the Commission could
130 address their concerns with an amendment to the resolution to be discussed at the January LAC
131 meeting. **G. Nystuen** voiced her support for discussion of the strategic plan at an open meeting prior
132 to the next Land Acquisition meeting.
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134 **B-2** Golf Course Report
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136 **L. Berauer** asked Commissioner **J. Lawter** and the Golf Course Study task force group to lead the
137 discussion of the golf course report. She indicated that one of the important recommendations will be
138 to discuss maintaining the golf course operations in the enterprise fund or to move the golf operations
139 to the City General Fund. **J. Lawter** reviewed a number of questions that the task force has been
140 discussing: Is it appropriate for the General Fund to subsidize the golf course operations? Is PAC
141 supportive of obtaining a liquor license for the Leslie Park Golf Course and selling liquor at a park? Is
142 PAC supportive of the Golf Course Business Plan as presented by Keegan? Should the PAC
143 Resolution for the golf course report be broad-based with the recommendation that staff address
144 immediate operational details with further study of long-range decisions?
145

146 **D. Barrett** asked for Lawter's impression of Keegan's recommendations in the golf course report. He
147 also expressed concerns with the significant costs for irrigation improvements at Huron Hills Golf
148 Course. **M. Warba** stated the irrigation system is in need of replacement. The repairs have been
149 deferred for a number of years. A new irrigation pump station was installed in July 2007.
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151 **J. Lawter** indicated that a fundamental question is whether the private sector is meeting the need for
152 golf?
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154 **L. Berauer** commended the staff for operating the golf courses on a limited budget in recent years. **G.**
155 **Nystuen** agreed and indicated that staff have done a tremendous job with operation of the golf course
156 facilities with limited funding resources.
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158 **S. Kunselman** asked for clarification of revenues at Huron Hills and inquired specifically about
159 positive cash flow at Huron Hills Golf Course. **M. Warba** stated that during the past two years Huron
160 Hills has not maintained a positive cash flow. **S. Kunselman** asked if the decreased revenues are due
161 to the economy. **J. Lawter** mentioned that continued construction of the Huron Parkway road and
162 bridge may be impacting golf participation at Huron Hills.
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164 **L. Berauer** asked if there was a comparable golf course that provided for play by beginning golfers in
165 the immediate Ann Arbor area. She inquired about the travel that would be required by beginners to
166 get to a course that is similar to Huron Hills. **S. Rosencrans** requested that staff provide a listing of
167 beginning golf courses in the Ann Arbor area. **M. Warba** stated that staff will provide information on
168 area golf courses that are similar to Huron Hills.
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170 **T. Berla** asked if staff would be making a recommendation on the golf course report. **J. Miller**
171 indicated that staff is providing information to the golf course task force and PAC.
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173 **T. Berla** asked about the estimated costs to operate the golf courses as open space parks. **J. Miller**
174 indicated that the costs would vary based on the level of maintenance and the facilities that were
175 developed. **L. Berauer** asked whether a range of costs could be provided to the Commission. **S.**
176 **Offen** stated the Commission should consider focusing on the 2008 season. He recommended
177 focusing the discussions on rates, staffing and other topics that need immediate attention for the 2008
178 season.
179

180 **L. Berauer** suggested that PAC hold a public hearing regarding the sale of alcohol at the Leslie Park
181 Golf Course. **S. Rosencrans** suggested the public hearing should be publicly noticed regarding
182 alcohol. **J. Miller** reviewed the current policy that allows patrons to request an alcohol permit and
183 bring/consume beer and wine at the golf course or one of the other parks. She indicated that the

184 liquor license is an urgent issue that should be addressed. **T. Berla** suggested that PAC request
185 public input and make a recommendation on an alcohol permit at the January PAC meeting. **J.**
186 **Miller** stated that the Golf Course has applied for a license and there are two other businesses that
187 are also under consideration for this license.
188

189 **B-3** Park Security Pilot Program Report

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191 **C. Smith** provided a brief overview of the park security pilot program and reviewed the report that was
192 distributed in the packets. **L. Berauer** asked for clarification of the projected costs for three full time
193 Park Rangers.
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195 **B. Macomber** asked about the target date for the recommendation on the pilot program. **C. Smith**
196 stated that City Council had requested an October recommendation from PAC. **B. Macomber** asked
197 if the February 2008 recommendation would be appropriate. **C. Smith** stated that this pilot program
198 was originally intended to continue for 3 months (July – September 2007). **L. Berauer** asked whether
199 Commissioners would like any additional information for further discussion of the program at the
200 January 2008 meeting. **B. Macomber** requested a survey of park patrons prior to implementation of
201 the pilot to determine whether the pilot is making a difference or not. She also asked for a copy of a
202 contract between the City and the DDA for similar services, with costs and hours of service. **S. Offen**
203 asked for 2007 statistics for park incidents.
204

205 **J. Lawter** asked if Safety Services would be agreeable to a more flexible “services as-needed” type
206 contract. He also asked for clarification of the source of funding for current security services. **Smith**
207 stated that Safety Services is funding current services.
208

209 **B-4** Gift Policy

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211 Discussion was deferred due to time constrains.
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213 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

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215 **C-1** Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Partnership Agreement Between the City of Ann
216 Arbor and the Community Action Network for Operation of Bryant Community Center and
217 the Northside Community Center
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219 **C. Smith** reviewed the proposed contract for operation of the Bryant Community Center and
220 Northside Community Center and indicated that this agreement is similar to the partnership with the
221 Leslie Science and Nature Center.
222

223 **L. Berauer** asked about the impact of the partnership on current staffing at the community centers.
224 **C. Smith** stated that currently there are no permanent staff assigned to the site. The temporary staff
225 will continue to provide exiting programming through spring 2008. At that time the staff may apply for
226 positions at other City parks facilities. The Community Action Network (CAN) may have positions
227 available for the community centers and the temporary staff may wish to apply to work for CAN.
228

229 **S. Offen** asked if there were programs in place at both Community Centers at this time.
230

231 **S. Rosencrans** asked how the services would be enhanced under the contract agreement with CAN.
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233 **C. Smith** stated that current programming at Norhside is limited to food distribution. Programming at
234 Bryant includes food distribution, WIC, after school homework help, day camp on no-school days,
235 and social services. City programming will continue through spring 2008. New programming would
236 be added immediately by CAN with a full program of services planned beginning summer 2008.
237 Some new programs that may be added at Bryant immediately include a children’s reading program,
238 a toy library, a youth fitness program, and family trips.
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240 **S. Kunselman** stated that it is his understanding the Community Action Network has done a very good
241 job with working with other non-profit and community organizations.
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L. Berauer moved, supported by **D. Barrett** to vote on the Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Partnership Agreement between the City of Ann Arbor and the Community Action Network for Operation of Bryant Community Center and the Northside Community Center.

L. Berauer stated she would not read the entire Resolution and asked the Commission and call for a voice vote to recommend approval of the resolution.

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

D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

D-1 Athletic Field Lighting

E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C Smith mentioned that a number of the parks facilities were selected as recipients of the Reader Choice Awards by the Ann Arbor News. She commended staff at the facilities for their extra efforts to provide outstanding services.

F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK FORCES

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

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

K - TRANSMITTALS

K-1 City Council Items Update

K-2 General Fund Allocation Plan

K-3 Parks Projects Update

K-4 Ann Arbor News Reader's Choice Awards

K-5 PAC Work Session Summary

K-6 Parks and Recreation Events for December – January 2007/2008

K-7 Parks Advisory Commission 2008 Meeting Schedule

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **S. Rosencrans** moved supported by **T. Berla** that the meeting be adjourned. The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bowen

Lynn Bowen

Administrative Support Specialist V