

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Parks Advisory Commission

DATE: February 15, 2019

RE: Park Advisory Commission Communication Regarding Council Resolution 18-2178:
Resolution to Add “The Center of the City” to the list of Available Public Park Rental
Facilities

The Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) discussed City Council’s resolution regarding “The Center of the City” public space and establishing a fee for its use at our most recent meeting, on January 29, 2019.

PAC heard from Jessica Black, Recreation Supervisor in charge of rentals and special events in the Parks and Susan Pollay, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) about the process the public uses to utilize parks, parking lots, and other public space in the DDA. It was explained to PAC that the DDA is presently under contract until 2033 with the City of Ann Arbor to manage and operate the parking facilities, which includes the top of the Library Lane garage which is known as the “Center of the City” location.

Previous requests to use the top of Library Lane for public events have been managed through the DDA in conjunction with the City’s Special Event review and application process. The DDA sets its parking lot use fees as equal to the number of parking spots that are bagged for the event. In this location there are 35 parking spaces which could be bagged at the current cost of \$25.00 per bag per day, for a total daily fee of \$875.00. The DDA regularly waives meter bag fees for non-profit organizations. In this location the DDA has had several requests from the “Civic Commons” group, and has waived fees in every instance. This is similar to how the DDA has managed special event requests for other surface lots, including Palio Lot. In the case of Library Lane, as part of its special event process, DDA staff contacts the Library to inform them of a request to ensure there isn’t a competing need for the parking spaces.

At this point, with the property under contract to the DDA, PAC recommends continuing the process in place for the rental of the public space known as “Center of the City”.