

CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES November 17, 2009

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Washtenaw County Administration Building in the County Board of Commission Public Meeting Room, 220 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. by Chair S. Rosencrans.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (9) S. Rosencrans, S. Offen

G. Nystuen, T. Berla, D. Barrett, J. Grand,

D. Chapman, K. Levin, J. Lawter

Ex-Officio Members Present: (2) M. Anglin, C. Taylor

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None

Members Absent: (0) None

Staff Present: (5) C. Smith, D. Kelly, A. Walton, D. Borneman,

J. St. John (attending for L. Bowen in her absence)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Rosencrans asked for a motion to approve the agenda, Commissioner Offen moved, supported by Commissioner Berla to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Rosencrans stated there would be an addition (Art on the River) to the agenda under Special Presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Paul Bancel, member of the Golf Advisory Task Force, expressed thanks to several members and staff pertaining to the hard work for the past 2 years.

Jane Lumm, member of Ann Arbor Golf Association expressed thanks and stated many were impressed by Doug Kelly's attention to detail at the golf courses; she also thanked the Park Advisory Commission for their support.

A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

T. Berla moved, supported by K. Levin to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2009 meeting as written. The minutes of October 20, 2009 were approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Golf Courses - Review of 2009 Season

D. Kelly summarized in depth the highlights and changes that have occurred over the last 2 years for both Leslie Golf Course and Huron Hills Golf Course in a Power Point presentation. He also summarized upcoming plans for 2010.

- T. Berla asked if D. Kelly knew the financial results at each golf course.
- **C. Smith** said he will update the Commission with the financial information regarding the golf courses.
- **J. Grand** stated the number of rounds at the golf courses has gone up but revenues haven't gone up as fast due to focusing bringing people back to the golf courses. She also stated the golf courses are doing progressively well.
- **C. Smith** added the rounds were increasing but revenues were not increasing as much, but are consistent with other golf courses. C. Smith stated people are playing golf, but are paying less.
- **J. Lawter** complimented D. Kelly on the good job that is being done at the golf courses.
- **M.** Anglin stated community involvement and staff involvement has brought positive results.
- **S. Rosencrans** asked if there has been an increase with leagues, outings, and food sales.
- **D. Kelly** stated leagues are fairly stable. There is a plan for in-house leagues this year and when they are up and running well; they will be turned over to one of the members of the league to continue. There has been an improvement with the travel groups with 40 –50 people.

An addition of a chicken salad croissant was added to the menu and is well received.

- D. Barrett asked about merchandise sales.
- **D. Kelly** stated merchandise sales were low on the priority list; the plan for the upcoming year is to develop new logos for each golf course.
- **S.** Offen stated that Miles of Golf had been helpful in promotional activities.
- **D. Kelly** stated they were a key tournament sponsor with financial backing and the City has Miles of Golf logo on certain merchandise. D. Kelly also stated Miles of Golf has been instrumental in promoting the game of golf.
- **J. Grand** felt the expertise of the Golf Task Force was great and hoped it continued.

Natural Area Preservation – Reporting on Flying Wildlife

- **D. Borneman** read the Proclamation of Appreciation for being the Natural Area Preservation Volunteer of the Year, Roger Wykes.
- R. Wykes stated he has volunteered for many years and appreciated being recognized.
- **D. Armstrong** outlined all the aspects of what the Natural Area Preservation and its volunteers do for the breeding bird survey, which has been conducted each year since 1995.
- **S. Rosencrans** asked if there were any species in trouble, particularly in Ann Arbor.
- **D. Armstrong** stated that the Blue Winged Warbler was having trouble. She said the City has a good habitat, but birds may be having trouble outside our area.

- S. Rosencrans asked if any species are doing well in Ann Arbor.
- **D. Armstrong** stated that Bobolinks are doing great at the Wheeler Center site.
- **D. Borneman** added that making small changes have made great improvements.
- **J. Lawter** asked if there were descriptions of the habitats located anywhere.
- **D. Armstrong** stated no, but staff can answer questions regarding habitat locations in the City.
- **T. Berla** asked if signage regarding leashing your dogs was going to go up at any parks.
- **D. Borneman** stated they would look into either posting signs or postcards being located at those parks where people walk dogs.

Art on the River

- **William Dennisuk** shared a presentation regarding public art in depth with the Commission. W. Dennisuk shared his background stating he was invited by the University of Michigan as part of the Visiting Artist program as a guest artist to help organize a public art project.
- W. Dennisuk stated public art can transform an environment it's located in and temporary public art projects can enrich our environment, create a destination for visitors, explore the potential of nature, and create points of contemplation.
- The process of developing ideas and getting permission has begun and hopes are to install several pieces of temporary artwork in the Huron River and other areas. Pictures were shared with the Commission of various types of public (outdoor) art.
- **S.** Offen asked if the City wanted to keep the art permanently, would this be possible.
- **W. Dennisuk** said if the City wanted to keep the temporary art permanently, it would be turned over and be the City's responsibility.
- **S.** Offen expressed concern regarding the canoeist's use of the river.
- **C. Smith** said there was concern and C. Saam, the Liveries Facility Supervisor would be consulted in regards to the placement of the art should the project move ahead.
- **D.** Barrett stated there are a number of river users and asked if these users have been consulted.
- **C. Smith** stated he was aware of the potential impact of the placement of anything in Argo Pond that would interfere with rowing and this would be taken into consideration if the project moved forward.
- **W. Dennisuk** stated that there would be public meetings to allow the public's input. W. Dennisuk asked if the City or the Park Advisory Commission support this idea so he could start working with students at the University.
- **S. Rosencrans** stated this project should be discussed further with other city departments and the public prior to it moving forward.
- **J. Grand** stated W. Dennisuk had a short deadline regarding this project.
- T. Berla suggested a timeline be developed and work with staff and possibly City Council.
- **S. Rosencrans** requested that C-2, Review of PAC Retreat, be moved to the next meeting in December, the Commission agreed.

B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C - NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

- C-1 Proposed Amendment of Pac By-laws
 - **S. Rosencrans** outlined his proposed changes and explained why he proposed the changes to the by-laws.
 - **S.** Offen asked why a unanimous vote would be needed when appointments were made.
 - **S. Rosencrans** stated the community holds the service of the Commission in high standards and feels a unanimous vote would give full faith and credibility behind their responsibility.

The Commission was asked to think about the proposed amendments to be voted on at the December 2009 meeting.

- C-2 Review of PAC Retreat (*This item was moved to the December 2009 meeting*)
- D COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS
- E REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER
- 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 PRIVELEDGED CLIENT ATTORNEY INFORMATION
 - **S. Rosencrans** asked for a motion for the Commission to go into closed session.
 - **T. Berla** moved, supported by **S. Offen** for the Commission to move into closed session. The Commission agreed unanimously. A roll call vote was done.

K - TRANSMITTALS

- K-1 City Council Items Update
- **K-2** Park Project Update
- **K-3** City of Ann Arbor 2008 2013 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage Status

There being no further business to come before the Commission; Commissioner Berla moved, supported by Commissioner Offen that the open meeting be adjourned at 6:05 p.m. the Commission moved to a closed session.