



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Washtenaw County Administration Building, Public Meeting Room 220 N. Main St, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (9) L. Berauer, B. Macomber (left @ 6:35 p.m.), D. Barrett (left @ 6:38 p.m.), J. Lawter, G. Nystuen, S. Rosencrans, T. Berla , J. Grand (left meeting @ 6:32 p.m.) S. Offen (arrived at meeting at 5:28 p.m., left meeting at 6:23 p.m.)

Ex-Officio Members Present: (2) M. Anglin (left meeting at 6:09 p.m.), C. Taylor

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None.

Members Absent: (0) None.

Staff Present: (5) J. Straw, J. Frenzel, M. Warba L. Bowen, C. Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berauer stated there are 2 additions to the agenda, a presentation by the Audubon society and a discussion regarding 415 W. Washington.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Sally Churchill-Kulka spoke on the possible fee increase to use the baseball diamonds.

S. Churchill-Kulka stated if an increase is implemented the team would be forced to practice and play baseball elsewhere due to the cost and asked that an increase in fees is reconsidered.

T. Berla asked which leagues were the children playing in that were present at the meeting.

Joe Moorehouse spoke on the baseball leagues (Ann Arbor Area Baseball Association & Kensington that play on the fields. Also stating these are traveling leagues and the local teams would like to continue to practice and play on the fields here in the City.

J. Morehouse stated while waiting for a decision to be made regarding the fees, the leagues are at a stand still as far as their budget as well as scheduling.

51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

L. Berauer stated the comments made pertaining to this issue are appreciated, but there has not been a decision made regarding a fee increase between the Parks Department and the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

S. Rosencrans stated the sense of urgency heard from the speakers present at the meeting are due to the teams putting together their budgets as well as their schedules.

J. Moorehouse stated March 9, 2009 is the scheduling meeting to determine cost and location on rental of the various fields and that this information is pertinent to the scheduling process.

L. Berauer stated she understood the importance of this process.

Mark Mullin spoke on behalf of the Ann Arbor Baseball Association, which supplies youth baseball in the area with fields since home games are played in Ann Arbor. Stated that this non-profit organization normally rents 50 – 100 fields in the summer and that the Recreation and Education Department indicated there could be a proposed rate increase. If proposed rental increase occurs then the organization will not be able to afford it and it will be a significant loss to the City of Ann Arbor. The Association’s proposed sites include Eastern Michigan University or the use of the high school playing fields.

L. Berauer stated that this decision was not finalized and she did not know how this information was leaked out.

D. Barrett asked if there is time frame as to when a decision will be made.

C. Smith stated he did not have a final time frame at this time

D. Barrett asked if anyone can be notified that could possibly make a decision regarding this issue before the March 9, 2009 deadline.

M. Warba stated there has been dialogue between Sue Mc Cormick and Sara Aeschbach and a copy of the draft has been sent to the attorney’s office and hopefully a final decision will be made by the end of this week or the first of next week.

D. Barrett asked if when a final decision is made, how this information will be communicated to others.

M. Warba stated that discussions are continuing and when the decision is finalized this information will be made public.

B. Macomber asked if there has been a dialogue with the teams and organizations.

M. Warba stated that at this point the teams have not been part of the discussions and mainly the dialogue has been with Sara Aeschbach and Larry Dishman but he has not personally spoken with representatives from the teams.

B. Macomber asked how many hours the fields are rented.

101 **T. Berla** stated from the reports given to the Commission approximately 210 hours. He
102 asked if the March 9, 2009 schedule deadline was for the entire year or spring and summer.
103
104 **J. Moorehouse** stated that in the Kensington Valley League the March 9, 2009 schedule is
105 for spring and summer.
106
107 **T. Berla** No audio (microphone not activated)
108
109 **M. Mullen** stated he is anticipating 15 teams and that scheduling is normally done the first
110 part of March.
111
112 **T. Berla** asked how much of the year is the scheduling done.
113
114 **M. Mullen** stated it was the entire year through August.
115
116 **T. Berla** stated that due to the time constraints is it possible to postpone the proposed fee
117 increase and asked if rescheduling can be done in the middle of the season.
118
119 **M. Mullen** stated no they can not reschedule in the middle of a season. He stated there are
120 teams that are trying to decide if they will continue to play in Ann Arbor and that with this
121 potential fee schedule our fees are increasing \$300.00 per team and that teams are going to
122 Kensington Valley or other places to play.
123
124 **J. Grand** asked for the process to be explained between the intermediaries and the City.
125
126 **C. Taylor** No audio (microphone not activated)
127
128 **M. Mullen** stated the City cost is passed through Recreation and Education.
129
130 **C. Taylor** No audio (microphone not activated)
131
132 **M. Mullen** stated the invoices are received from Recreation and Education. There is a
133 permit fee to rent the fields. There is a lining and grooming fee that is also charged by the
134 City. There is also a \$21.00 per hour usage charge.
135
136 **C. Taylor** No Audio (microphone not activated)
137
138 **C. Smith** explained the \$80.00 grooming fee is not currently passed on to Recreation and
139 Education. That is grooming that the City does that subsidizes their programs. The City
140 completely absorbs that cost.
141
142 In the negotiations that are currently being discussed the City is looking to recover these
143 costs in some capacity. It is entirely possible for Recreation and Education to decide if they
144 choose to absorb these costs or if they wish to pass these costs on.
145
146 **L. Berauer** stated it is of the utmost importance for this discussion to be held with
147 Recreation and Education.
148
149 **M. Mullen** stated that if these fees get increased then the league will have to take their
150 business elsewhere.

151
152 **L. Berauer** stated that in her opinion this is a problem between the City and the public
153 schools and that it is not fair that the fee increase is coinciding with the scheduling by the
154 baseball leagues. States that decision should be made now but implementation postponed
155 for a year.

156
157 **T. Berla** stated that from his prospective this issue is not between the City and Recreation
158 and Education and that these additional fees for third-party users are being passed on.
159 States that in the previous two years different scenarios have occurred with regard to the
160 division of work and that Recreation and Education has been in agreement.

161
162 **L. Berauer** stated that yes Recreation and Education has been happy because the City is
163 subsidizing their programs.

164
165 **T. Berla** stated that Recreation and Education is not responsible for who plays on the fields
166 and does not change any subsidies to them.

167
168 **L. Berauer** suggested that this discussion end with a final clarifying statement from Colin
169 Smith.

170
171 **C. Smith** explained the agreement has actually expired (this was a 2-year agreement). This
172 is the reason conversations are occurring and we are trying to do this as efficiently and as
173 quickly as possible. He further states that when information that has not been formalized
174 leaks out ahead of time, it makes it difficult to accomplish this task.

175
176 The City, schools and Recreation and Education have begun discussions on this issue and
177 to meet well in advance so that this problem does not reoccur and affect the teams and
178 leagues. Recreation and Education charges \$63.00 for the fields to be marked and the City
179 continue to groom these fields in this agreement and that cost is not passed on to either
180 Recreation and Education or the third parties that make their rentals through Recreation and
181 Education.

182
183 **T. Berla No Audio (microphone not activated)**

184
185 **C. Smith** explained the \$21.00 fee mentioned earlier is actually for renting park space.

186
187 **D. Barrett** stated he wanted the persons in the audience to know who to contact regarding
188 this issue.

189
190 **J. Moorehouse No audio (microphone not activated)**

191
192 Radashata Hoffman who plays on the Ann Arbor Hawks Baseball Team read a statement to
193 the Commission regarding the fees on the baseball fields. He explained how important the
194 game of baseball is and stated if the fees are increased it will be a hardship on many
195 families.

196
197
198 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

199

200 **A-1 Commissioner Macomber** moved, supported by **Commissioner Rosencrans** to
201 approve the minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting with the noted corrections on
202 page 11, lines 515 and 580. The minutes of December 20, 2008 were approved
203 unanimously.
204

205 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

206 **Audubon Society**

207 **Will Weber** spoke on the safety of migrant birds and passed communication to the
208 Commission. The non park areas and tall buildings in the City are creating a fair amount of
209 damage when the birds try to move through the City.
210
211

212 There is a problem with tall lighted structures. The main times are migration times and if the
213 owners of tall buildings can be convinced to turn the lights off it will be a tremendous help.
214 The suggestion would be to turn the lights off after 11:00 p.m. until dawn this will save
215 thousands of birds.
216

217 The Resolution before the Commission is intended to build public awareness.
218

219 **D. Barrett** asked if the City of Detroit has embraced this concept and in what way.
220

221 **W. Weber** stated that the City of Detroit has been doing this for two years and there is a
222 group of about 15 including representatives from the Sierra Club and other organizations
223 that have started a public education campaign and is publicizing this need to reduce lighting
224 in tall buildings. The program has been quite successful in getting compliance from these
225 communities.
226

227 **D. Barrett** asked if mainly the problem is with buildings over five stories.
228

229 **W. Weber** stated yes. The problem is particularly bad during the migration periods and in
230 bad weather. The birds use the stars and the moon for navigation and lighted windows
231 confuse the birds and they will fly toward the light.
232

233 **D. Barrett** asked why owners of these buildings leave the lights on.
234

235 **W. Weber** stated that it is his belief that building owners take pride in having their buildings
236 illuminated.
237

238 **D. Barrett** asked if there was a safety issue involving airplanes and a lack of lights.
239

240 **W. Weber** stated there are other regulations regarding the placement of lights and that
241 research indicates that blinking white strobe lights are less damaging and disorienting to
242 birds than a steady red or white light.
243

244 **S. Rosencrans** asked if the Audobon Society was asking for a voluntary program of
245 cooperation or a mandatory one.
246
247
248

249 **W. Weber** stated that they were looking for a voluntary one that endorses the idea. States
250 that Governor Granholm issued a proclamation noting the significance of the problem and is
251 in favor of cooperation. Most communities have been really receptive to this idea due to
252 energy savings however no cities have actually forced compliance.
253

254 **L. Berauer** stated that the resolutions on this issue appear to ask the City to direct
255 employees to make it mandatory for City buildings and optional or voluntary for other
256 buildings and asked for clarification from the Society.
257

258 **D. Armstrong** explained that this Resolution is a draft resolution and that what they are
259 looking for is support from the City for these efforts and not a mandate. The program would
260 be carried out by the Audubon Society through education and she welcomes any
261 suggestions on changing the wording if it is not agreeable as is.
262

263 **L. Berauer** stated she does not have any problem with the wording in the Resolution but
264 there is a distinction between what is expected of City buildings and what is expected of
265 other buildings residing in the City.
266

267 **D. Armstrong** stated that other City officials have been included on these discussions and
268 are looking for ways to implement this plan.
269

270 **J. Grand** asked if there is any cost for implementing this program for businesses. J. Grand
271 also asked if there are shades at the windows if letting the shades down would help the
272 cause.
273

274 **D. Armstrong** stated that the Society is asking for an effort to be done and recognize that
275 the lights have to go on in some instances. The shades would be of some assistance if they
276 were pulled down.
277

278 **W. Weber** No Audio (microphone not activated)
279

280 **J. Lawter** asked if this request also includes the illuminating and outside lighting.
281

282 **W. Weber** stated yes this request could include any illumination above the fifth floor.
283

284 **L. Berauer** asked when this Resolution will be presented to City Council.
285

286 **D. Armstrong** stated at the March 200 meeting.
287

288 **L. Berauer** stated it may be helpful to if the Park Advisory Commission had a Resolution in
289 place when this issue goes o City Council.
290

291 **C. Taylor** stated he was uncomfortable with directing City Council to ask for lights to be
292 turned off above the fifth floor with directive language and replace it with encouraging
293 language.
294

295
296 **D. Armstrong** stated the wording in the Resolution could possible read “when possible”.
297

298 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission to propose a Resolution regarding this issue:

299
300
301
302
303
304
305
306
307
308
309
310
311
312
313
314
315
316
317
318
319
320
321
322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347

L. Berauer read a Resolution, **moved** the Resolution, **supported** by T. Berla.

PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT CITY COUNCIL
SUPPORT THE WASHTENAW AND MICHIGAN AUDUBON SOCIETIES SAFE PASSAGE
GREAT LAKES DAYS TO PROTECT
NIGHT-MIGRATING BIRDS DURING THE SPRING (MAR. 15 – MAY 31st)
AND FALL (AUG. 15th – OCT. 31st) MIGRATIONS

WHEREAS, More than 250 species of night-migrating birds, including warblers, thrushes and tanagers, some declining steeply in numbers, fly over Michigan, including Ann Arbor, during their migration seasons; and

WHEREAS, the lights of tall buildings interfere with the navigation systems of migrating birds flying nearby, causing them to repeatedly circle the illuminated buildings until they either die from exhaustion or from colliding into windows; and

WHEREAS, scientists estimate that hundreds of millions of birds are killed every year in North America from lighted tall buildings that are in their flight path; and

WHEREAS, turning lights off from the 5th floor and up between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM (sunrise) and pulling shades in areas where lights must be on will save the lives of many birds that fly over our city at night, as well as save money, save energy, and reduce pollution; and

WHEREAS the Michigan cities of Detroit, Southfield and Jackson have already passed Safe Passage resolutions and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm issued a proclamation in designating the periods of March 15 to May 31 and August 15 to October 31 as Safe Passage Great Lakes days; and

WHEREAS, The Washtenaw Audubon Society and Michigan Audubon Society encourage business owners, building management organizations and property owners to cooperate with the Project Safe Passage program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Park Advisory Commission supports, and recommends that Ann Arbor City Council offer its support, to the Audubon Societies in their furtherance of Safe Passage Great Lakes Days, which cover the periods annually of March 15th through May 31st, and August 15th through October 31st;

RESOLVED, that the Park Advisory Commission recommends that Ann Arbor City Council direct STAFF OF city building staff to turn off lights or pull shades from the 5th floor and above between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM (sunrise), wherever possible and practical, during Safe Passage Great Lakes Days to help protect seasonal bird migration safety;

RESOLVED, that the Park Advisory Commission recommends that Ann Arbor City Council encourage other area buildings five floors and higher to turn off lights or pull down shades from the 5th floor and above between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM (sunrise)

348 wherever possible and practical during Safe Passage Great Lakes days to help protect
349 seasonal bird migration safety.

350
351 **S. Rosencrans** stated encourages is a better way for the language to read rather than
352 stating to mandate this request.

353
354 On a voice vote ***motion passed*** unanimously.

355
356 **PUBLIC HEARING**

357
358 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

359 **B-1** Review of By-laws with Attorney Office Revisions

360
361
362 **L. Berauer** explained the revisions of the by-laws and **moved** the discussion
363 be opened up regarding the by-laws, **B Macomber supported**.

364
365 L. Berauer also stated that the language by-laws is improved and they read
366 better. The city Attorney's Office has added a very good section on ethics and
367 conflict of interest.

368
369 The Budget and Finance Committee will be a standing committee of the
370 Park Advisory Commission and the Chair of that committee is appointed by
371 the Chair the Parks Advisory Commission with the approval of the
372 Commission.

373
374 **B. Macomber** read page 5, section 11 regarding public meetings and had a
375 question regarding this portion of the by-laws.

376
377 **C. Smith** stated if it was more than 5 members of the Commission in
378 attendance it would have to be considered a public meeting and that he would
379 confirm this.

380
381 **C. Taylor** stated if there were not a quorum consisting of at least 5 persons
382 present, then the Commission (which could be considered a gathering) would
383 be in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

384
385 **L. Berauer** stated all meetings of the Park Advisory Commission and
386 it's committees; if there is a quorum shall be open to the public and conducted
387 in accordance to the Public Meetings act be added to the revision of the
388 by-laws.

389
390 **C. Taylor No Audio (microphone not activated)**

391
392 **L. Berauer** asks for a vote on the addition to the by-laws regarding a quorum
393 and being in accordance to the Open Meetings Act.

394
395 On a voice vote ***motion passed*** unanimously.

396
397

398 **T. Berla** asked for an explanation regarding expiration of term regarding his
399 position on the Recreation Advisory Commission.

400
401 **L. Berauer** read the language in the by-laws regarding this issue.

402
403 **T. Berla** explained the language regarding his position on the Recreation
404 Advisory Commission.

405
406 **L. Berauer** stated the language regarding this issue was inconsistent.

407
408 **L. Berauer moved** all voting members with the exception of the Recreation
409 Advisory Commission Representative shall be appointed for a 3 year term,
410 and the Recreation Advisory Commission representative shall be appointed
411 in conformity with the by-laws of the Recreation Advisory commission.

412 **T. Berla supported.**

413
414 On a voice vote ***motion passed*** unanimously.

415
416 **L. Berauer moved, supported by G. Nystuen** to approve the amendments to
417 the by-laws.

418
419 On a voice vote ***motion passed*** unanimously.

420
421 **L. Berauer** openly thanked ATTORNEYS Kevin Mc Donald and Christopher
422 Frost for their hard work ON the by-laws.

423
424 **L. Berauer** stated the changes that have been agreed upon will be in the next
425 packet for the meeting and will vote on the final version.

426
427 **C. Smith** stated he will speak to the City Attorney regarding these changes
428 that were agreed upon.

429
430 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

431
432 **C-1** Discussion of HRIMP Public Meetings

433
434 **L. Berauer** noted that every Commissioner attended at least one of the three
435 public meetings organized by the Huron River Impoundment Management
436 Program. She asked each Commissioner to give their impressions of the
437 meetings and the public input they heard and reminded them that PAC will
438 need to develop a resolution providing its response and recommendation on
439 the final HRIMP committee's recommendations.

440
441 **T. Berla** stated he thought the meetings went very well. T. Berla stated he
442 would like more information regarding if it is decided to remove the dam would
443 this give the City have more parkland and will it be useful land.

444
445 **J. Lawter** stated the meeting he attended focused towards the budget and
446 very good questions were asked and discussed.

447 There was a lot of information given and all of his questions were answered.
448 The hybrid option seemed to be strongly taken into consideration.

449
450 **G. Nystuen** felt the meetings were very informative but wasn't quite clear
451 regarding what department the river may fall in. She felt something should be
452 started on the Argo Dam this year.

453
454 G. Nystuen would also like to know what plans are going to be for the use of
455 the river. The removal of the Argo Dam will not solve the vegetation problem
456 and didn't feel there is an easy solution.

457
458 **B. Macomber** stated one of the main reasons to keep the Dam would be to
459 keep the rowing sport in tact and it would be nice to review the relationship of
460 other users.

461
462 **L. Berauer** explained that there were three breakout groups each focused on
463 one scenario, dam repair, dam removal, and a hybrid option, plus a general
464 breakout group on wider river issues. She attended the dam removal breakout
465 group where rowers and supporters had the largest presence and spoke
466 forcefully in support of keeping the dam.

467
468 **J. Grand** stated she was impressed with the presentation at the second
469 meeting. The hybrid option was a very interesting topic and made an
470 impression at this meeting

471
472 **S Rosencrans** stated the meetings were very organized and it is a major key
473 to this entire process for the public to be able to express their opinions.

474
475 The options were stated as follows: One option is to remove the Dam all
476 together, repair the Dam and the hybrid option.

477
478 The hybrid option is if you take what we now called the mill race and fill it with
479 compacted clay, connected it to the land mass and eliminate most of the
480 drains that are the elements of the Dam that are at risk. This will allow the
481 migration of fish to go downstream and allow more recreational opportunities
482 to take place as well.

483
484 There would be an addition of a whitewater amenity where the mechanical
485 portion of the Dam would also take place. This is strictly a recreational
486 amenity. Phase one of these projects would cost approximately \$763,000.00
487 and the second phase would cost approximately \$2,700,000.00.

488
489 This issue is very complicated and the Commission would need more
490 information regarding the decision. Overall the meetings went very well.

491
492 **D. Barrett** thanked those that organized the meetings together and explained
493 this is a City resource and felt the rowing community may not be at its best if
494 they use Superior for their sport. The configuration of the lake may not be
495 feasible as well as the distance to row.

496 D. Barrett suggested there be a “water committee” to discuss the uses of the
497 river, possible relocation and the financial status of the entire project
498

499 **S. Rosencrans** stated this Commission in particular is in the natural area
500 preservation business as well as the recreational business and the
501 Commission has to be advocates for both issues.
502

503 **G. Nystuen** stated a short term plan as well as a long term plan needs to be
504 discussed regarding the dam.
505

506 **L. Berauer** asked whether the land exposed if the dam was removed would
507 automatically be considered park land or would that requires formal legal
508 designation as park land.
509

510 **C. Smith** stated most likely it would be park land.
511

512 **L. Berauer** stated if this is the case the proper steps would have to take place
513 for the land to be designated park land.
514

515 **L. Berauer** asked how much land would be exposed with the hybrid option
516 there would be no loss or gain of land or water level.
517

518 **D. Barrett** stated there would be no loss of land according to Matt Naud. The
519 water levels would have to be kept the same with the hybrid option.
520

521 **C-2** 415 W. Washington
522

523 **M. Anglin** stated this discussion was a clarification regarding the proceeding with
524 an RFP and the potential of the floodway should be taken into consideration.
525

526 Taking this action is suggesting to the community the potential floodway in 3 City
527 owned sites. The health and safety of the community should be considered.
528

529 We have a resource and also a large liability, there has been flooding in the past
530 and there will be flooding in the future. The water will go through the floodway and
531 do tremendous amount of destruction. Since we are aware of this fact we have
532 the opportunity to make a statement of environmental correctness and safety for
533 the community.
534

535 The intensity increases the closer you get to the river.
536

537 **L. Berauer** stated she is in full support of this effort and asked when this issue
538 would go before City Council.
539

540 **M. Anglin** stated this issue needs to be brought forward again and that this is
541 area is an economic stimulator and enhances the neighborhood.
542

543 **L. Berauer** asked if the plan is being brought before City Council.
544

545 **M. Anglin** stated he brought this issue to the Commission to let others know
546 as well as the Commission that this issue is still in the forefront. Information
547 regarding this issue was passed to the Commission, suggestions and ideas on
548 the language presented were welcomed.

549
550 **L. Berauer** asked if Councilperson Anglin would be taking this language to
551 City Council in March 2009.

552
553 **M. Anglin** stated he wanted to get the opinions and ideas if any regarding the
554 language from this Commission before anything was presented to City
555 Council.

556
557 **S. Rosencrans** thanked Councilperson Anglin for keeping this critical issue
558 regarding the floodways in the forefront and on the table.

559
560 **S. Offen** asks what impact will this Resolution have, and how will any
561 decisions affect the RFP. S. Offen also asked if the Resolution is not passed
562 what would the outcome be.

563
564 **M. Anglin** explained in depth that if the opportunity arises for builders to build
565 elsewhere and not in the floodway areas it would be wise not to do so.

566
567 **S. Rosencrans** stated he didn't feel that any of the proposals were
568 discouraged by the floodway Resolution from the Park Advisory Commission.

569
570 **G. Nystuen** stated we need to be more formally designated.

571
572 **B. Macomber** stated it would be a good idea and proposed the Park Advisory
573 Commission Greenway taskforce work with Councilperson Anglin to help
574 create revised language for the Resolution.

575
576 **M. Anglin** stated the input from those on the Commission and the taskforce
577 would be appreciated.

578
579 **T. Berla** stated what he does see a greenway it is not green it is a parking lot
580 and is dangerous.

581
582 **C. Taylor No Audio (microphone not activated)**

583
584 **L. Berauer** stated hat she and the other PAC Greenway Task Force members
585 would work with Councilman Anglin on the language of his proposed
586 resolution using his language as a starting point.

587
588 **C. Taylor No Audio (microphone not activated)**

589
590 **L. Berauer** stated she strongly disagreed that and explained in depth

591
592 **J. Lawter** suggested the Commission take caution in the language
593 presented.

594

595 **J. Grand** expressed concern with the timelines and budget issues.

596
597 **L. Berauer** asked if the Resolution regarding this issue could wait until May or
598 June due to the constraints regarding the budget.

599
600
601 **M. Anglin** stated he would appreciate any feedback from the Commission.
602

603 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

604
605 **E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER**

606
607 **C. Smith** stated there are several topics he needed to share with the Commission
608 including the duties of the position that Jeff Dehring held will be reviewed.
609

610 Part of Parks staff attended the Parks and Recreation conference in Dearborn, Michigan.
611 Our intent is to become more involved with various conferences to network and gather
612 different ideas and suggestions from neighboring communities as well as sharing our ideas.
613

614 There were two presentations at the conference from our department.
615

616 We are working with Human Resources regarding seasonal employees training to
617 enhance the relationship with Customer Service.
618

619 The task force for the golf courses was re-appointed for another year.
620

621 Jason Frenzel has been being nationally recognized for the work he does regarding
622 the volunteer program.
623

624 **S. Rosencrans** commended Jason Frenzel on his fine work and stated he is an asset
625 to this City.
626

627 **L. Berauer** stated it is a very fine accomplishment.
628

629 **J. Frenzel** stated the certification and to recognize your peers is also great. He
630 also thanked the Park Advisory Commission for their recognition as well.
631

632 **F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS**

633
634 **G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

635
636 **T. Berla** explained in depth the negotiations between the City and the Public Schools,
637 three areas being discussed and feels strongly that everyone involved needs to be
638 kept updated on what these discussions entail.
639

640 Mack Pool: The pool is owned by the City and the school owns the land as well as the
641 actual school. The understanding is that nothing is changing fundamentally. This
642 explanation was discussed in depth.
643

644 Eberbach Culture Arts Building: The land and building is owned by the City and the
645 programs are done by Recreation and Education. This building is frequently used when
646 it is not feasible to use the schools.

647
648 **T. Berla** stated the third areas being discussed are the issues surrounding the ball diamonds.

649 These discussions have been very lengthy on who will be responsible for who will pay for various
650 tasks regarding the fields.

651 There are other important issues that surround this subject and the hopes are the communication
652 will remain open and optimistic.

653
654
655 **S. Rosencrans** thanked T. Berla for the information brought to the Commission and hopes all
656 involved can overcome any obstacles so that the citizens can remain to be served well.

657
658
659 **C. Taylor** stated the relationship between the City and the school district is a very sensitive and
660 complex situation especially regarding the services provided to the school district that could very
661 easily exceed to \$400,000.00 - \$500,000.00 per year. C. Taylor spoke in depth regarding the
662 budget and possible cuts that must take place. The areas that these cuts may have to take place
663 will be a very difficult decision.

664
665 **L. Berauer** stated it was very good to hear both perspectives regarding this issue.

666
667 **T. Berla** suggested invoices and payments be posted on the web site so that everything will have
668 clarity. T. Berla stressed his opinion regarding who is responsible for the provisions of programs,
669 facilities and the cost of programs in depth.

670
671 **C. Smith** stated he didn't think anyone is in disagreement that the City is willing to subsidize
672 recreation in the community. In the proposed contract that is being discussed all programs will
673 continue to be subsidized by the city.

674
675 **T. Berla No Audio (microphone not activated)**

676
677 **L. Berauer** stated she appreciated Tim Berla AND CHRIS TAYLOR OFFERING DIFFERENT
678 PERSPECTIVES on the situation between the City and public schools...

679
680 L. Berauer also stated it is unfortunate that the discussions may hinder the teams and leagues
681 from starting their games when they are supposed to.

682
683 **C. Smith** stated everyone is feeling the tight budgets and hopefully all parties involved can work
684 together to accomplish the main goals at hand.

685
686 **H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK**
687 **FORCES**

688
689 **I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL** (3 Minutes per Speaker)

690
691 **J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES** (If Applicable)

692
693 **K - TRANSMITTALS**

694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706
707
708
709
710
711
712

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

K-4 Jason Frenzel Recognition

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Berauer** moved, supported by **Commissioner Nystuen** that the meeting be adjourned. The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.