



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes Park Advisory Commission

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

4:00 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street

CALL TO ORDER

Chair J. Grand called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Colin Smith called the roll.

Staff Present:

C. Smith, J. Straw, M. Warba, G. Trocchio; 4

Present: 8 - David Barrett, Timothy Berla, Chair Julie Berson Grand, Gwen Nystuen, Samuel Offen, Mike Anglin, Karen Levin, and Tim Doyle

Absent: 3 - John McCoy Lawter, Christopher Taylor, and Douglas Chapman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Grand asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

A motion was made by Berla, seconded by Levin, that the Agenda be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Lawrence Beard, 1770 Riverwood Drive, stated that he has been enjoying the Ann Arbor's park system for over twenty-two (22) years and brought his concerns regarding the State of Michigan's High Speed Rail Initiative and the completion of the Border to Border trail system.

A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 [12-0401](#) Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2012

A motion was made by Berla, seconded by Levin, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[12-0403](#) MichCon Broadway Facility 2012 Remediation Plan

Colin Smith, Manager of Parks and Recreation Services, introduced Shayne Wiesemann, from DTE, whom would give a presentation on the remediation plan for

the former MichCon Coal Gasification Site (Broadway Facility), which is a State regulated clean up. He said they want to keep the Commission in the loop about the site before the public hearings on the remediation begin. He explained that even though the site isn't parkland, it does border a long stretch of parkland and DTE would be coordinating their work with Park staff.

Shayne Wiesemann, Senior Engineer with DTE, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed project that would take place during the summer of 2012. He stated that they would be holding a public hearing at Cobblestone Farms on April 10, 2012, at 6:00 pm.

He thanked City staff for working diligently with him over the past year to ensure that the project will be a success.

Paul Ganz, Regional Manager of DTE, was also present to respond to the Commission's enquiries.

T. Berla asked if there will be any on-going safety issues of the site after the clean-up.

Wiesemann responded that currently there isn't a safety issue, but they recognize that after the remediation that area will become more widely used for recreational purposes; therefore, the area by the riverfront will be cleaned to a 'residential unrestricted' type of standard, where anyone can use the area without concern or risk. He added that further upland on the site there will be a need to do more remediation work, after they determine what the end use of the property will be.

T. Berla asked if the test results of the site is available to the public.

Wiesemann said, yes, that the information was available through the Department of the Environmental Equality.

T. Berla asked about the visible blue tarps seen on site.

Wiesemann said they have been having issues with homeless people encamping on the site, and DTE is currently working together with the Police Dept. to remedy the situation to permanently remove them.

T. Berla asked if there was a date for when the white water features would be put in.

Wiesemann responded that they are currently going through the permitting process, but they anticipated that it would happen sometime in September during the restoration phase. He said that if all goes well, they will have the project completed in October 2012.

T. Berla asked about the Contractors.

C. Smith said that it was a combined effort between DTE, the City, and Gary Lacey, (from Recreational Engineering) and was the same design with modifications as requested through the DEQ, with the same team on the project as worked on the Cascades.

J. Grand asked about the environmental control to the odor impact when using the proposed foams.

Wiseman responded that they would be using a Rumix foam similar to the Rumix

type mist, that is totally bio-degradable and non-toxic and creates a barrier over the soil so it can't emit toxins.

C. Smith added that he is very pleased with the time and efforts of DTE in working together over the past year to see the remediation efforts come to fruition for DTE while working on the improvements of the Cascades, noting that both projects will benefit the public.

B UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B-1 12-0402 Land Acquisition Fund - Mid-Year Financial Statement

Ginny Trocchio, Program Director for the City of Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Program reviewed the Mid-Year Financial Statement with the Commission.

Received and Filed

C NEW BUSINESS

C-1 12-0404 Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Contract with Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc. for Improvements to Placid Way Park (\$79,980.00)

C. Smith gave an overview of the resolution, explaining the proposal, noting that Placid Way Park was included in the PROS Plan as one of the parks needing upgrades, and the need for the structure on site to meet the Barrier Free Code.

C. Smith read the resolution.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH MICHIGAN RECREATIONAL CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO PLACID WAY PARK (\$79,980.00)

Whereas, the Placid Way Park playground and park furniture is in need of renovation to address barrier free code and replace deteriorated structures;

Whereas, Competitive bids were received by Purchasing on February 23, 2012 ;

Whereas, Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc. submitted the lowest responsive bid;

Whereas, Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc. received Human Rights approval on March 12, 2012; and

Whereas, Funding for the project is available in the approved FY2012 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage;

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommends approval of a contract with Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc. for \$79,980.00 to make improvements to Placid Way Park and recommend authorization of a construction contingency of \$7,998.00 (10%) to cover potential contract change orders to be approved by the City Administrator.

A motion was made by Berla, seconded by Offen, to approve the Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Contract with Michigan Recreation Construction, Inc. for improvements to Placid Way Park (\$79,980.00).

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

D. Barrett asked if the City had worked with Michigan Recreation Construction before.

C. Smith said that he was fairly certain that Amy Kuras had worked with them before.

J. Grand asked C. Smith to explain the location of the park.

C. Smith said it is long, narrow park located northeast of Leslie Park Golf Course south of Dhu Varren, and southeast of Olsen Park

**On a voice vote as follows, the Chair declaring the motion carried.
Unanimously passed.**

Yeas: 7 - Barrett, RAC Rep. Berla, Chair Berson Grand, Nystuen, Offen,
Councilmember Anglin, Levin, and Doyle

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 - Lawter, Councilmember Taylor, and Chapman

C-2 [12-0405](#)

Parks Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage Renewal

Matt Warba, Interim Manager of Field Operations and Colin Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on the upcoming expiration of the Parks Maintenance Millage and sought comment on renewal strategy. They gave background information on the millage and how it is utilized throughout the Park's system, as well as how the Park's system is funded. They also shared information on the renewal process.

T. Berla asked what direction the Commission should move if they would like to see capital funds allocated towards specific projects, such as the completion of border to border trails.

C. Smith answered that at anytime the Commission or City Council wants to highlight or expedite a project, as a group, they should start with a resolution that would help direct staff energy towards different projects. He explained that on the Border to Border Trail's area where the City doesn't own land and where the Land Acquisition Committee have identified areas to be used as a priority to acquire, they can continue to work with Ginny Trocchio to see what they can do to further that process. He said it would also be a good time to have discussions with the Railroad at this time.

C. Smith said that the PROS Plan highlights the CIP Plan, which identifies trails and pathways and associated renovations to them for each year. He pointed out that the discussion they need to continue to have is what those renovations should include. He said that it becomes a fine balance between maintaining the fifty (50) plus miles of trails that they currently have and adding new ones.

S. Offen asked what major projects might be considered to be included in an upcoming millage.

C. Smith responded that within the next year there will be significant improvements to the Gallup Park Canoe Livery, which would require the additional millage funding outside of the matching grant monies they have received for the project. He said there is a larger scale project need at Leslie Science Center as well Veteran's Memorial Ice Arena, where a new roof is needed. He said the pathway that runs parallel to the river in Gallup Park, between Geddes Dam and the youth pond, is

likely going to need significant work.

M. Warba added that they are hoping to be able to replace the shelter at Vet's Park as well as several other Park shelters making sure they are accessible for all users.

K. Levin asked how project funding is delineated between the millage and the general fund.

C. Smith offered to email an outline of projects and activities that can be funded through the millage and which ones from the general fund. He said capital projects, park planning, NAP and park forestry is millage funded, while most maintenance activities are also millage eligible.

D. Barrett asked if the information is available on the City's website.

C. Smith said that the work group is currently in the process of putting together a webpage devoted to the millage and what it has accomplished throughout the last six (6) years. He said that all administrative policies would be included on the webpage that would be available hopefully within a week.

G. Nystuen commented that the photo choices were great.

M. Anglin said that an issue he is concerned about is the Fuller Road Station, noting that the discussion was not over yet and there is currently a study going on as to the appropriateness of a train station at that spot, given that the original deal is over since the other partner has disappeared. He said when you have an agreement and one partner pulls out, you no longer have an agreement, which brings the City back to the drawing board.

He said that he hopes any proposal will find its way back to PAC. He added that he would be the first to support the parks and would support the millage a 100 percent and he knows that the parks do a tremendously good thing for the City and the people love the parks and use them.

J. Grand pointed out that it is important to clarify that the park millage is totally separate from the Fuller Road Station issue.

C. Smith added that it is important to note that no Park funds have been spent towards the Fuller Road Station or the feasibility of such a project. He said that a train station doesn't fall under the City Charter's allowable uses for the Park's Millage.

C. Smith presented possible dates when the PAC hosted meetings for the millage would occur.

D COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

S. Offen mentioned that with the good weather a lot of citizens have been using the golf courses and parks and pedestrians using the paths along the Argo Cascades.

E REPORTS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith reported that both golf courses are open as the weather allowed.

He said that Leslie Park opened on March 12, which is the earliest opening that he can recollect.

He said while the weather has been good, Buhr Park Ice Arena has had to close early, due to 75 and 80 degree weather. He said they are working with Vet's Ice Arena to move the league games there.

He said the Argo bridge abutments were installed last week and April 17, is the set date for the last modifications to the runs and head race.

C. Smith noted that today was the first day of registration for all classes for the summer in the Spring/Summer brochure.

F REPORTS FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

M. Warba said there has been high usage of the park's facilities with the summer temperatures we have been having, and they have been working hard to get water turned on to the various restrooms in the facilities. He reiterated that they are looking forward to having staff presence in the parks to monitor issues.

G REPORTS FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

None

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

J. Grand mentioned that the Sustainability Committee would be meeting in April, and that at the last meeting they had had 110 persons in attendance.

I PUBLIC COMMENTARY - GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Lawrence Beard, 1770 Riverwood Drive, reviewed a map from the PROS plan and continued to share future possible connections of the trails that he felt were important. He asked that the B2B trail connections be prioritized.

J CLOSED SESSION

K TRANSMITTALS

K-1 [12-0406](#) City Council Items Update

Received and Filed

K-2 [12-0407](#) Park Projects Update

Received and Filed

K-3 [12-0408](#) City of Ann Arbor 2008 - 2013 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage Status

Received and Filed

L ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Berla, seconded by Nystuen, that the meeting be Adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously.

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