



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

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, March 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 4:11p.m. by Chair L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (9) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, D. Barrett, J. Lawter, G. Nystuen, S. Rosencrans, T. Berla, S. Offen J. Grand

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

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None.

Members Absent: (0) None.

Staff Present: (5) C. Saam, S. Buhl, A. Kuras, L. Bowen, C. Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berauer approved the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 Commissioner Berauer moved, supported by **Commissioner Rosencrans** to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2009 meeting with the noted corrections on page(s) 8, line 367, pg. 9, line 433, pg. 11, line 504, pg. 12, line 570 and pg. 14, line 660. The minutes of February 24, 2009 were approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Resolution Recognizing Cheryl Saam

S. Rosencrans read and presented the Resolution of recognition to Cheryl Saam and the Commission.

L. Berauer moved, supported by G. Nystuen to accept the language of the Resolution.

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

51 C. Saam thanked the Commission.

52

53 **PUBLIC HEARING**

54

55 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

56

57 **B-1** Vote on PAC By-laws with PAC-initiated and Attorney office revisions

58

59 **L. Berauer** moved supported by S. Rosencrans for the Commission to discuss
60 the revision of the by-laws.

61

62 *On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous approved on a voice vote.*

63

64 **S. Offen** stated he was initially critical of the process regarding the revisions of the
65 by-laws and wanted to convey that he is pleased with the revisions and thinks the
66 language is better. He thanked the Attorney’s office for their hard work revising the
67 by-laws.

68

69 **L. Berauer** thanked everyone their hard work.

70

71 **L. Berauer** asked for a voice vote to accept the revised by-laws as they are
72 currently written in the document discussed at this meeting.

73

74 *On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous approved by the Park
75 Advisory Commission*

76

77 **L. Berauer** stated she will draft the resolution and accompanying memo to
78 Council and once approved my Council the by-laws will go into effect.

79

80 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

81

82 **C-1** Capital Project Criteria Process

83

84 **L. Berauer** stated the Commission has wanted to work with staff regarding the
85 priority of Capital Projects for some time.

86

87 A committee was formed and the working relationship regarding these issues
88 has greatly improved.

89

90 **A. Kuras** explained the presentation regarding Capital Improvements to the
91 Commission in depth. A. Kuras also stated a group was assembled to help
92 define and prioritize these issues and proved to be very productive.

93

94 **S. Bahl** explained there is a model used for the prioritization of capital projects
95 at the Water Plant – this was used as a model for the Parks Prioritization
96 model. Sumedh presented the second half of the PowerPoint to the
97 commission.

98

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100

101 **S. Offen** expressed concerned and confusion regarding the last criteria shown
102 on the presentation.

103
104 **C. Smith** stated in the PROS Plan there are themes that the community find
105 important, this opinion is taken very seriously and is taken into consideration in
106 the criteria process – this is the goal of the last criteria.

107
108 **L. Berauer** asked for an explanation as to how the ranking of regulatory
109 compliance is determined.

110
111 **C. Smith** stated while regulatory compliance is mandatory, certain projects go
112 above and beyond what is actually required. An example would be the
113 construction of a play ground that exceeds ADA requirements.

114
115 **C. Smith** thanked Sumedh Bahl for his work and enthusiasm. He also stated
116 he would like to see this process be ongoing. The goal is to meet at least twice
117 a year (every 6 months) to rate projects. The proposed times to meet are in
118 March and September.

119
120 **C. Smith** stated the goal is for staff and the group to meet in September and
121 review the process. Afterwards, the information will be brought before the Park
122 Advisory Commission.

123
124 **B. Macomber** asked for an explanation regarding the role that the Park
125 Advisory Commission will have during this process.

126
127 **C. Smith** stated he would like the communication to remain open with the
128 Commission as well as participation in the twice yearly meetings.

129
130 **B. Macomber** asked where public input would come into play regarding this
131 process.

132
133 **C. Smith** stated the time frames have not been completely finalized at this
134 time, but that public input will be an important part of the process.

135
136 **L. Berauer** stated including the public in the meetings would allow clarity on
137 how the criteria are decided in terms of the entire process.

138
139 **G. Nystuen** expressed she was pleased to see the Allen Creek Greenway on
140 the list shown in the presentation and also expressed being pleased with the
141 presentation.

142
143 **L. Berauer** thanked everyone for the presentation and feels it is very positive.

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145 **C-2** Budget Update

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147 **L. Berauer** stated B. Macomber would give an update to the Commission
148 regarding the budget.

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150 **B. Macomber** explained the budget situation in depth and stated 3% cuts in
151 the FY10 budget proposal were expected.

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153 B. Macomber stated the finance committee will be meeting with staff for the
154 next 4 Mondays to get detailed information regarding the proposed budget.

155
156 The Commission will vote on the draft budget at the April 2009 meeting. The
157 public will have an opportunity to provide feedback at this meeting as well at
158 a town hall meeting offered by City Council on April 14, 2009.

159
160 **L. Berauer** reiterated the Park Advisory Commission email is available as
161 well for any feedback from the public (PAC@a2gov.org).

162
163 **C. Smith** stated a 3% budget cut is targeted for the first fiscal year and a 7%
164 budget cut is targeted for the second fiscal year. .

165
166 **C-3** Discussion on Format of PAC minutes

167
168 **L. Berauer** stated the minutes have evolved to become very detailed and have
169 proven to be drain on staff time.

170
171 Copies of minutes from other Boards and Commissions including City Council
172 are included in the packet. L. Berauer asked the Commission to review and
173 possibly reconsider the demands and expectations regarding the minutes.

174
175 **C. Smith** asked if the commission would consider going to a more concise
176 summary of minutes C. Smith stated most of the Boards and
177 Commissions minutes are an average of 6 pages long.

178
179 **L. Berauer** publicly thanked Lynn Bowen for her hard work regarding the
180 minutes and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Park Advisory
181 Commission.

182
183 **T. Berla** stated it would be nice if the public could see pertinent information on
184 the web in the form of a video link,

185
186 **S. Offen** stated he agreed that the minutes should be consolidated and feels
187 the new format for the minutes should go into effect as soon as possible,
188 especially as the meetings are now available as video on the web.

189
190 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission if everyone approved to having less
191 discussion in the minutes, the Commission agreed.

192
193 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

194
195 **G. Nystuen** stated she was pleased to see better signage in the various parks
196 explaining where and how millage funds are being used, and would love to have an
197 update from staff in the future.

199 **C. Smith** stated the idea is to keep the public informed as to where the funds are being
200 used. The web sites are also being updated. Another suggestion would be to have a
201 poster explaining what improvements have been made at the specific facilities.

202
203 **L. Berauer** stated there are times when navigating through the City web site can be
204 challenging.

205
206 **C. Smith** stated that staff is just beginning the process of improving the navigation.

207
208 **J. Grand** stated her experience has proven that the web site has improved.

209
210 **E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER**

211
212 **C. Smith** stated Huron Hills Golf Course is open and has been busy

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

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215 **G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

216
217 **T. Berla** asked if Councilperson Christopher Taylor would become the Recreation
218 Advisory Commission representative.

219
220 **C. Taylor** stated he didn't know if it would be a formal position but planned to attend
221 the meetings when possible.

222
223 **T. Berla** stated he asked Sara Aeschbach to attend the meeting and also to attend the
224 Park Advisory Commission meeting when possible.

225
226 **S. Aeschbach** gave a RAC update and spoke about the 3rd party user fees for ball
227 fields.

228
229 **L. Berauer** asked if the new contract will have a specific timeline.

230
231 **S. Aeschbach** stated the timeline would be a one year contract.

232
233 **S. Offen** asked if there would be a revenue change seen in next year's budget due to
234 various teams no longer playing on the City's fields.

235
236 **C. Smith** stated no, the City has not received any revenue for third party teams and
237 continue not to do so.

238
239 **L. Berauer** stated she was glad the contract between the 2 parties was close to being
240 signed and thanked S. Aeschbach for attending the meeting.

241
242 **H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK**
243 **FORCES**

244
245 **J. Grand** stated Huron Hills Golf Course is open and there are many new activities for the 2009
246 season planned.

247

248 **A. Kuras** stated there are 2 upcoming public meetings planned; one will be held on March 25,
249 2009 and will focus on discussions regarding Argo Canoe Livery. The third meeting regarding
250 West Park will be held at New Hope Baptist Church on April 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
251

252 **L. Berauer** stated there will be a public meeting with the Park Advisory Commission and the
253 Environmental Commission to hear the HRIMP committee recommendation on river
254 management.. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m., and end at 9:00 p.m. on May 7, 2009 at
255 Cobblestone Farm. The public is encouraged to attend.
256

257 **I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL** (3 Minutes per Speaker)
258

259 **J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH PRIVELEDGED CLIENT ATTORNEY INFORMATION**
260

261 *L. Berauer moved the Commission will move to close session at 5:42 p.m.*
262

263 *Roll call was read and there was a quorum for close session.*
264

265 **K - TRANSMITTALS**
266

267 **K-1** City Council Items Update
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269 **K-2** Park Project Update
270

271 **K-3** City of Ann Arbor 2008 – 2013 Park Maintenance and Capital
272 Improvements Millage Status
273

274 There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Berauer**
275 **moved** that the open meeting be adjourned and the Commission would go into close
276 session. The regular meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.
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