



CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2010

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, July 20, 2010 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 4:09 p.m. by Chair J. Grand.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (7) J. Grand, S. Offen (left meeting at 5:17 p.m),
T. Berla, D. Barrett, G Nystuen, D. Chapman,
T. Doyle

Ex-Officio Members Present: (2) C. Taylor, M. Anglin (arrived at meeting at 4:17 p.m.)

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None.

Members Absent: (2) J. Lawter, K. Levin

Staff Present: (5) S. Bahl, J. Straw, C. Saam, A. Kuras, L. Bowen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Grand asked for approval of the agenda.

Commissioner Nystuen moved, supported by **Commissioner Offen** to approve the agenda as written. The Commission approved the agenda unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

L. Reubin spoke on the Argo tow drain issue.

S. Munzel spoke on the Argo tow drain issue.

A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Grand asked for a motion to approve the current minutes.
Commissioner Berla moved supported by **Commissioner Offen** to approve the minutes of June 15, 2010 as written. The minutes of June 15, 2010 were approved unanimously as written.

SPECIALPRESENTATIONS

Argo Dam Consent Agreement

A. Consent Agreement

52 **M. Wade** explained the Argo Dam consent agreement as well as the PowerPoint
53 presentation; this included items addressed in the consent agreement.

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55 **J. Straw** spoke on the options available involving repairing the tow drain and the
56 embankment along the river.

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58 **B.** RFP Scope of Services

59
60 **J. Straw** spoke on the issuance of the RFP by August 2, 2010 for reconstruction. **J.**
61 **Straw** also spoke on the timeline for selecting an option regarding the embankment
62 reconstruction.

63
64 **J. Grand** complimented **D. Barrett** on his representation regarding this issue.

65
66 **D. Barrett** asked if the reconstruction includes a series of designs to allow easier
67 access along the embankment of the river.

68
69 **J. Straw** stated yes.

70
71 **D. Barrett** asked if the reconstruction will affect the issue of the tow trains.

72
73 **M Wade** explained the process.

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75 **D. Barrett** asked for an explanation on how the decisions were made regarding the
76 issues with tow drains.

77
78 **M. Wade** stated the ends of the tow drains would be exposed; afterwards the issues
79 regarding the tow drains would be investigated.

80
81 **S. Bahl** explained due to the end of the tow drain not being visible the indication is
82 they are not fully functioning properly.

83
84 **D. Barrett** asked if the ends of the tow drains could be seen at Barton Dam.

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86 **S. Bahl** stated there were ends of the tow drains that could be seen at Barton Dam
87 but not at Argo Dam.

88
89 **G. Nystuen** expressed concerns with the safety and conditions of the Argo Dam.

90
91 **S. Offen** asked if the State of Michigan is suggesting the removal of the trees along
92 the embankment.

93
94 **S. Bahl** stated the slope is very steep at this location and would prefer not to have
95 grass in that area.

96
97 **S. Offen** asked if the mill race would be available before or by June 2011.

98
99 **S. Bahl** stated the date of completion would depend on a number of circumstances,
100 first being which decision is made on how to proceed and if weather permits.

101
102 **J. Grand** asked if the date of construction will start as scheduled.

103

104 **S. Bahl** stated the construction date could possible start earlier, depending on
105 circumstances that may arise.

106
107 **G. Nystuen** asked if the cost of the project is known at this point.

108
109 **S. Bahl** stated this information is not available at this time.

110
111 **D. Barrett** stated other communities have completed this project with an estimated
112 amount of \$300,000.00 - \$900,000.00 depending on the direction taken with
113 construction.

114
115 **T. Berla** expressed concern regarding decisions made by City Council to keep Argo
116 Dam.

117
118 **C. Taylor** explained the City was working with the State of Michigan to resolve their
119 issues with the embankment; the consent order was agreed to by City Council, and
120 has not been voted on by City Council at this point.

121
122 **S. Bahl** stated the City is complying with the consent agreement by proceeding with
123 the re-construction of the Dam.

124
125 **G. Nystuen** asked for reassurance that the Dam is not a danger to the public

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127 **S. Bahl** stated there are deficiencies and repairs are needed, but there is no
128 emanate danger or threats of the Dam failing.

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130 **D. Barrett** explained the City's position on this issue as well as the Commissions
131 interpretation of the situation.

132
133 **S. Bahl** explained if there is an emergency; there is an action plan and procedures
134 are in place to be acted upon.

135
136 **S. Offen** asked if the process be explained regarding the selection of contractors for
137 the re-construction.

138
139 **M. Wade** explained there will be a team which will include representation from the
140 Park Advisory Commission (Commissioner David Barrett) that will evaluate the bids
141 submitted, after which City Council the options will be decided upon.

142
143 **J. Grand** asked how the repairs will be funded.

144
145 **S. Bahl** stated this decision has not been made at this time.

146
147 **T. Berla** asked if Barton Dam is water source for the City.

148
149 **S. Bahl** stated yes.

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151 **PUBLIC HEARING**

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B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B-1 Project Team Update on Fuller Road Station

E. Cooper updated the Commission on the proposed Fuller Road Station; including drawings shown to the Commission. E. Cooper explained there are different entities available for funding for grants pertaining to the design development of the master concept plan and high speed rail.

E. Cooper also the Commission on important dates for upcoming meetings regarding this project.

D. Mitchell explained the master concept plan; including the drawings shown to the Commission.

T. Doyle asked if there were future phases of the project and if so, how many.

E. Cooper explained he was not able to answer at this time.

T. Doyle asked if the parking structure will be located on top of the proposed building.

E. Cooper stated yes

C - NEW BUSINESS

D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

D. Barrett updated the Commission about the ball fields; including the appearance and maintenance of the fields.

D. Barrett explained T. Berla suggestion of bringing users of the fields to speak at the Park Advisory Commission meetings.

T. Berla stated the issues surrounding the appearance and maintenance of the fields are perceived by the users to be complex and complicated.

J. Straw stated there is a new volunteer outreach coordinator position that will address with these issues.

G. Nystuen asked if there are fields that have been well maintained.

D. Barrett stated yes.

E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

J. Straw updated the Commission on Huron River Day attendance; also thanking staff for their hard work and participation.

A Consultant will be chosen regarding the strategic planning for the Senior Center.

208 The soccer fields at Fuller Park are functional and running.

209
210 Both swim teams at Veterans Memorial Park and Buhr Park have seen an increase of
211 participation.

212
213 The City is in the process of discussing the parking agreement with the University of
214 Michigan for another 2 years for the north and south side at Fuller Rd.; the agreement
215 being discussed would be revenue of approximately \$31,000.00 per lot which would
216 possibly be an additional \$4,000.00 – \$5,000.00 in additional revenue.

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

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

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222 **H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK**
223 **FORCES**

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

226 **N. Kaplin** spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station project.

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

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231 **K - TRANSMITTALS**

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233 **K-1** City Council Items Update

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235 **K-2** Park Project Update

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237 **K-3** City of Ann Arbor 2008 – 2013 Park Maintenance and Capital
238 Improvements Millage Status

239
240 There being no further business to come before the **Commissioner Berla** moved supported
241 by **Commissioner Chapman** that the open meeting be adjourned at 6:20 p.m.