



City of Ann Arbor

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

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

4:00 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grand called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

B ROLL CALL

Colin Smith called the roll.

Staff Present:

C. Smith, A. Kuras, D. Borneman; 3

Present: 11 - Timothy Berla, Chair Julie Berson Grand, Mike Anglin, Christopher Taylor, Karen Levin, Tim Doyle, Ingrid Ault, Alan Jackson, Bob Galardi, Melissa Stults, and Graydon Krapohl

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

D PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Ethel Potts, 1014 Elder Blvd. spoke in support for parks and open green space in the central area of Ann Arbor, requesting that PAC inform City Council of that need.

Jamie Pitts, 1210 Newport Road, spoke of the need for a park in the downtown area, for families living in the downtown to use, adding that there will be many supporters who will offer their support and time to the park once it becomes a reality.

Alan Haber, 531 Third Street, spoke in support of a green space on the surface library parking lot.

Judy Bonnell-Wenzel, 2771 Braeburn Circle, asked to be considered as a resident who uses the downtown, since it is easier for her to use the expedient bus service to get downtown, than it is for her reach local destinations in her neighborhood.

George Gaston, 1217 Island Drive, # 103, spoke of Riverside Park, noting that the public is using it for parking. He said since the City is leasing part of the park's parking to the University of Michigan, he feels the City is sending a message that is OK for others to use the park for parking in the grass. He reiterated the need for more downtown parks.

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES

E-1 [13-0016](#) Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of December 18, 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.

F **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Chair J. Grand welcomed new Parks and Recreation member Graydon Krapohl to the Commission.

G **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

[13-0017](#) Mid-Year Budget Update on Parks & Recreation Facilities

PAC Budget Chairperson, Tim Doyle, reviewed the mid-year budget reports on the parks and recreation facilities, with the Commission.

T. Doyle stressed that Colin Smith and his staff has done a great job budgeting and maintaining the parks and facilities of Ann Arbor.

T. Berla asked about the golf fund changes.

C. Smith explained that the golf funds are continuing to operate as enterprise funds until the new fiscal year begins, July 1, 2013.

T. Berla asked if the golf enterprise funds will be dissolved and the golf courses will become a part of the whole budget.

C. Smith said, yes, and explained specific line item revenues and expenses.

Discussion ensued regarding the mid-year budget report.

H **NEW BUSINESS**

I **COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

[13-0018](#) Discussion on Desirability of New Parks In or Near the Downtown Area

J. Grand opened the floor to the Commission for discussion on desirable park locations in or near the downtown area.

C. Smith reviewed packet material with the Commission.

The Commission evaluated the need for parks in the downtown area and how community input could be gathered on this discussion.

C. Smith asked the Commission for a desirable timeline to gather recommendations and data as necessary.

M. Anglin said that he felt putting a timeline to this evaluation process might hinder their goals.

C. Taylor said a 4 - 6 month timeframe should be adequate time for gathering the necessary data.

The Commission felt they needed parameters established, relative to vicinity, definition, and scale; with the end result being a recommendation the Commission sends to City Council.

C. Smith offered to set up meetings for a subcommittee to establish the criteria and purpose as discussed.

The Commission agreed upon the following language as the charge for the subcommittee;

"To determine whether and what additional parks are wanted and/or needed in downtown Ann Arbor, focusing on City-owned parcels in the DDA district while maintaining awareness of additional nearby properties, like Liberty Plaza, 721 N. Main and 415 W. Washington. The 'deliverable' will be a set of recommendations for the City Council."

No motion was passed on the discussion, but unanimous agreement was present.

I. Ault asked for volunteers who were interested to sit on the subcommittee.

J REPORTS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith reported that registration for day camps begins February 1st.

C. Smith reported that further modifications are being made on drop 9 of the Argo Cascades, to make it easier.

C. Smith reported that the dog park resolution was being withdrawn from the City Council agenda, after further concerns had been brought to their attention.

J. Grand explained some of the concerns that were brought that made it clear that they needed to withdraw the resolution. She added that the need and desire for a dog park in the near downtown area hasn't gone away, so the Commission is continuing to pursue other options for a location.

C. Smith reiterated the need for a dog park hasn't diminished, but they would like this first park to be successful so others might follow.

I. Ault asked if the Commission could revisit the list of potential sites, and next steps for the Commission.

K. Levin suggested that the Committee meet with Amy Kuras to decide on next steps for a location for a dog park.

K REPORTS FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

L REPORTS FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

J. Grand reported that the North Main task force has been divided into four subcommittees, of which she is on the one studying the Michcon site.

N PUBLIC COMMENTARY - GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Alan Haber, 351 Third Street, spoke in support of the Library Green Conservancy Group efforts in providing an evaluation of green space and cultural center in the downtown area.

C. Smith thanked Haber and said as the process moved ahead there will be opportunities for public input.

O CLOSED SESSION

P TRANSMITTALS

P-1 [13-0019](#) City Council Items Update

Received and Filed

P-2 [13-0020](#) Park Projects Update

Received and Filed

P-3 [13-0021](#) City of Ann Arbor 2008-2013 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage Status

Received and Filed

Q ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by RAC Rep. Berla, seconded by Jackson, that the Meeting be Adjourned at 6:10 p.m. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

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