



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 17, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 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 4:12 p.m. by Chair J. Grand.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (7) J. Grand, T. Berla, D. Barrett, J. Lawter  
G. Nystuen D. Chapman, S. Offen (left meeting at 5:57 p.m.)

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

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None.

Members Absent: (2) K. Levin, T. Doyle

Staff Present: (3) C. Smith, A. Kuras, L. Bowen, D. Dykman, E. Cooper

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Grand** asked for a motion to approve the agenda, **Commissioner Lawter** moved, supported by **Commissioner Nystuen** to approve the agenda as written. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)**

**G. Gaston** spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station project. G. Gaston also expressed concern regarding the maintenance of the Greek Revival Shelter at Island Park.

**A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Berla** moved, supported by **Commissioner Barrett** to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2011 with one correction on page 4, line 192. The minutes of April 26, 2011 were approved with the above correction unanimously.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Update on Fuller Station and Federal Funding

**E. Cooper** gave an overview regarding the current status of the Fuller Road Station project.

E. Cooper explained the latest developments as to the recent funding for the project including a \$2.8 million grant from the Federal Rail Administration for environmental assesment and engineering at the site.

53 The agreement between the University of Michigan and the City of Ann Arbor is nearing  
54 completion for the project and will be shared with the Commission in a briefing as this  
55 process continues. The partnering of this project includes the Michigan Department of  
56 Transportation (MDOT) and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

57  
58 **G. Nystuen** stated phase one is in progress and asked for an explanation of what has taken  
59 place thus far and how much has been spent to date

60  
61 **E. Cooper** outlined the proposed schedule of events within the next few months; phase one  
62 is coming forward as a concept plan, City Council will be asked to approve this plan,  
63 following the completion of an agreement with the University of Michigan to build, operate  
64 and maintain the facility. The utilities would be relocated and the building of the project  
65 would be underway.

66  
67 **D. Dykman** shared that the only approved expenditure to date is a \$640,000 contract with  
68 JJR for design. Staff time has not been factored yet.

69  
70 **G. Nystuen** asked if the City would be responsible for the operation of the rail station.

71  
72 **E. Cooper** stated this issue is unresolved at this time, but that the City would own the  
73 station.

74  
75 **S. Offen** asked staff to remind the negotiating team of PAC's concern that Parks receive  
76 appropriate revenue for use of park property and that the project should not result in lost  
77 revenue for the Parks department.

78  
79 **D. Barrett** asked if there were permits for work to begin next to the river at this time.

80  
81 **D. Dykman** stated no work at this time is being done near the river at this stage.

82  
83 **S. Offen** asked about initial environmental assessment findings.

84  
85 **E. Cooper** said the report sent to the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) found no significant  
86 impact. The FRA has not commented on the finding at this stage.

87  
88 **J. Grand** asked if bike and pedestrian safety concerns that have continued to be raised  
89 have been taken into consideration in any design changes.

90  
91 **E. Copper** stated no. The only trail improvement relates to widening the path on the Fuller  
92 Station side of Fuller Road to 10 feet.

93  
94 **T. Berla** stated he was disappointed that the project did not address trail improvements.

95  
96 **G. Nystuen** shared that the trail system should be part of the project.

97  
98 **C. Taylor** asked for an update regarding the intersection/roundabout of Fuller Rd and  
99 Maiden Lane.

100  
101 **E. Cooper** explained how the process would be handled pertaining to the intersection.

102  
103

104 **C. Taylor** asked if the construction of the Fuller Road Station would delay the construction  
105 of the intersection.

106  
107 **D. Dykman** stated it would be ideal if the Fuller Road Station was complete before the  
108 construction of the intersection began.

109  
110 **T. Berla** asked if the Commission would be informed about the budget pertaining to phase  
111 one, along with the construction agreement to the Commission.

112  
113 **C. Smith** stated S. McCormick will update the Commission when this information becomes  
114 available.

115  
116 **D. Barrett** stated he thought it would be valuable to explain how the use of parkland for this  
117 project is allowed.

118  
119 **C. Taylor** explained that as parkland is not being sold the use is allowable.

120  
121 **C. Smith** explained that the land is zoned PL, which stands for Public Land. The Planning  
122 Commission recommended and City Council approved an amendment to appropriate use of  
123 PL zoned land to include transportation facilities.

124  
125 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

126 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

127  
128 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

129  
130 **G. Nystuen** asked for an update of the May 16, 2011 City Council meeting.

131  
132 **C. Taylor** gave an overview, also stating the budget was not passed at the recent City  
133 Council meeting due to the meeting being recessed. The Administrative Policy for the  
134 Millage was amended to allow non-general funds to count as general fund dollars for  
135 the purpose of calculating the parks fairness portion of the policy. Council is still  
136 working on restoring the \$90,000 to the Parks Budget so that the fairness portion of the  
137 policy is adhered to.

138  
139 **E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER**

140  
141 **C. Smith** updated the Commission on recent grants received; Huron Hills Golf course  
142 received a \$12,000.00 grant from the National Recreation and Parks Association for a  
143 program called SNAG (Starting New at Golf) aimed at young children 4-5 years old.

144  
145 The City also received a \$7,500.00 State grant for the design of Gallup Park boat  
146 launch.

147  
148 The City has submitted a permit application to the State for the construction at Argo  
149 Dam.

150  
151 **C. Smith** explained there was a question from the City Council May 9<sup>th</sup> work session  
152 that asked what the parks budget would look like if all operations were funded by a  
153 millage. **C. Smith** stated it would cost approximately \$9,000,000.00, which is about  
154 twice what the current millage covers.

155

156 C. Smith shared that a resolution for approval of architectural and engineering services  
157 contracts to select consultants that are on retainer for parks projects goes to Council in  
158 June. This continues a practice in place the last 3 years.

159  
160 The outdoor swimming pools will open May 28, 2011.

161  
162 **F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS**

163  
164 **G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

165  
166 **T. Berla** stated the Recreation Advisory Commission will meet quarterly.

167  
168 **G. Nystuen** stated the Environmental Commission is working on several issues  
169 including green streets and the water committee.

170  
171 **H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK**  
172 **FORCES**

173  
174 **I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL** (3 Minutes per Speaker)

175  
176 **L. Deck** spoke on the Fuller Road Station proposed project for the Washtenaw Bicycling and  
177 Walking Commission.

178  
179 **A. Ralph** spoke on the parking aspect of the Fuller Road Station proposed project.

180  
181 **J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH PRIVELEDGED CLIENT ATTORNEY INFORMATION**

182  
183 **K - TRANSMITTALS**

184  
185 **K-1** City Council Items Update

186  
187 **K-2** Park Project Update

188  
189 **K-3** City of Ann Arbor 2008 – 2013 Park Maintenance and Capital  
190 Improvements Millage Status

191  
192 There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Doyle**  
193 moved that the open meeting be adjourned at 7:07p.m. The Commission unanimously  
194 agreed.