



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 18, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 4:12 p.m. in the Council Chambers located in City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present:	(8)	L. Berauer, B. Macomber, D. Barrett T. Berla (arrived at 4:17 p.m.), J. Lawter, S. Offen, G. Nystuen, S. Rosencrans
Ex-Officio Members Present:	(1)	S. Kunselman (left meeting at 6:15 p.m.)
Ex- Officio Members Absent:	(1)	R. Johnson
Members Absent:	(0)	None.
Staff Present:	(7)	J. Miller, Christen Smith, Colin Smith, M. Warba, D. Borneman, J. Dehring, L. Bowen
Guests:	(5)	Paul Bancel, Nancy Kaplan, Harvey Kaplan Jim Keegan, Jerry Grey

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner**

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

**Paul Bancel** spoke on the Golf Course project.

**Nancy Kaplan** spoke on the Golf Course project.

**Harvey Kaplan** spoke on the Golf Course project.

**A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A-1 L. Berauer** stated that approval of the minutes for the May 20, 2007 meeting would be deferred to a later meeting.

**A-2 T. Berla** moved, supported by **G. Nystuen** to approve the minutes of August 21, 2007 with corrections. The minutes of August 21, 2007 were approved unanimously.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**A-3** Golf Course Operations Project Discussion by Jim Keegan, Golf Course Convergence, Inc.

**Jim Keegan** made a presentation with preliminary data that has been gathered for the Golf Course study. The discussion included an overview of the economic factors influencing golf, an analysis of the golf market conditions in Southeast Michigan, an operational analysis of the golf courses, and a financial analysis of the golf courses. Keegan will develop and recommend a business plan for the golf courses. The discussion also included a summary of two public meetings that were conducted to gather comments from residents and golfers. J.Keegan stated that the study work would continue over the next few months with a final report delivered in December.

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63 **D. Barrett** asked how league play at the Golf Course could be enhanced.

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65 **J. Keegan** spoke about the common preference among golf league participants to have access to  
66 food and beverages services in the clubhouse.

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68 **S. Offen** expressed his displeasure that the meetings were scheduled on the Jewish holiday. Offen  
69 also commented on the residents' expression of strong feeling at the Huron Hills Golf Course meeting.

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71 **S. Kunselman** stated that most of the City Council is not interested in selling the Huron Hills Golf  
72 Course property. Kunselman also asked whether the business plan would include outsourcing the golf  
73 course operations to the private sector.

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75 **J. Keegan** indicated that his study will include an analysis of outsourcing the golf operations to a golf  
76 management company.

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78 **B. Macomber** asked about the availability of an alcohol license for the golf course.

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80 **J. Keegan** stated a Class C license would have to be obtained; The City had submitted an application  
81 for a license and the application is under review.

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83 **T. Berla** expressed the importance of maintaining the golf course as park land indicated that he did  
84 not support selling the Huron Hills Golf Course property as an option for this study.

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86 **D. Barrett** asked if building a driving range could be expected to generate increased revenues for the  
87 golf course operations.

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89 **J. Keegan** suggested that the addition of a driving range and offering food and beverage services  
90 could be expected to generate increased participation at the golf courses and result in increased  
91 revenues.

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93 **S. Kunselman** inquired about the schedule for additional public meetings to disuses the golf courses.

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95 **J. Keegan** stated that further public meetings are anticipated in November and early December to  
96 review and consider options for golf course operations.

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98 **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

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100 **Jerry Gray** spoke and provided a slide presentation on the Huron Hills Golf Course as an open  
101 space/park area.

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103 **S. Offen** asked Dave Borneman if NAP maintains the woodlands and the trails in the Huron Hills Golf  
104 Course area.

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106 **L. Berauer** stated that the Park Advisory Commission has a responsibility to maintain a focus on  
107 protecting the City's parkland.

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109 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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111 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

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113 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

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115 **D-1** Election of Chair of the Commission

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117 **L. Berauer** asked Christen Smith to lead of the discussion; the nominations for Chair of the  
118 Commission were opened.

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120 **G. Nystuen** nominated **L. Berauer** to continue as Chair of the Commission.

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122 **S. Rosencrans** supported the motion.

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**L. Berauer** accepted the nomination and stated that she would be willing to continue to serve as Chair, but asked if any other commissions had an interest in serving as chair.

There were no more nominations or volunteers. Being none, the Commission voted on the motion to approve L. Berauer as Chair.

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

**Ayes: (8) B. Macomber, L. Berauer, G. Nystuen J. Lawter, T. Berla, S. Rosencrans, D. Barrett, S. Offen**

**Nays: (0) None.**

**Absent: (0) None.**

**D-2** Election of Vice-Chair of the Commission.

**Christen Smith** opened the nominations for the office of Vice-Chair.

**S. Rosencrans** nominated B. Macomber to continue as Vice-Chair for the Commission.

**J. Lawter** supported the motion of the nomination.

**B. Macomber** stated she would be willing to continue serving as vice-chair, and asked if any other commissioners wished to be considered for Vic-chair.

**There were no further nominations or volunteers. Being none, the Commission voted.**

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

**Ayes: (8) B. Macomber, L. Berauer, G. Nystuen J. Lawter, T. Berla, S. Rosencrans, D. Barrett, S. Offen**

**Nays: (0) None.**

**Absent: (0) None.**

**D-3** Natural Areas Task Force

**G. Nystuen** introduced a resolution addressing Natural Preserve Areas and read a Resolution that is recommended by the Natural Areas Task Force.

#### **RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH PRESERVE AREAS WITHIN THE CITY PARK SYSTEM**

September 13, 2007

(Resolution by Robert Johnson, Scott Rosencrans, Gwen Nystuen)

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor recognizes that the preservation of nature's diversity is a vital goal. Other species add to the beauty of life and create a more interesting environment. We also recognize that other species have a right to exist on this planet just as humans do, and a good community ought to provide some space for the plants and animals that share the earth with us;

Whereas, for many urban residents, an opportunity to experience an environment where non-human forces define the landscape is a precious respite from everyday life and a valued recreational and visual resource;

Whereas, the City has extensive 'natural areas' in our parklands that contribute to the preservation of biological diversity within the Ann Arbor area;

Whereas, the Natural Area Preservation program (NAP) has undertaken an extensive analysis of the ecological status of natural areas within the city parklands, and classified them, based on floristic quality, as either Conservation Areas (higher quality, restorable sites) or Greenspace (lower quality disturbed sites).

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Whereas, the Natural Area Preservation program has designated as Wildlife Sanctuaries those Conservation Areas or Greenspace that meet one or more of these criteria: A) part of a contiguous block of 20+ acres of Natural Area or other undeveloped habitat, or B) part of a contiguous block of 5+ acres of Natural Area or other undeveloped habitat and adjacent to the Huron River or one of its tributaries, or C) known to contain useable habitat for note-worthy species of wildlife.

Whereas, at the present time there are no development restrictions on the use of our natural area parklands;

Resolved, the Parks Advisory Committee recommends that Council establish a category of parkland termed '*Preserve*' intended to protect the ecological integrity and character of the *Preserve* for present and future generations. *Preserve* sites are designated based on high floristic quality, biodiversity of native plant and animal species, sensitivity to disturbance and ecological integrity. The *Preserve* designation will include Wildlife Sanctuaries;

Resolved, parkland designated as *Preserve* will not be built on, developed, or graded for any purpose, including athletic fields or facilities, or off-trail uses;

Resolved, the Park Advisory Commission recommends that the following be designated as preserves, Furstenberg Nature Area excluding the parking, garden and picnic areas, Gallup Park Wet Prairie, Barton Nature Area excluding the parking and picnic areas and already developed portions associated with Barton Dam, Bird Hills Nature Area excluding parking areas, Cedar Bend Nature Area Woods, Dolph Nature Area excluding the area adjacent to Liberty Rd, Mary Beth Doyle Nature Area Woods, Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area and Black Pine Woods Nature Area as shown on the map and all of these as shown on the maps in short of preserves.

Resolved, the Parks Advisory Commission requests that a map and description of specific properties appropriate for the *Preserve* designation be prepared by NAP in consultation with other park staff. PAC recommends that *Preserves* should include the Conservation Areas and Wildlife Sanctuaries;

Resolved, PAC also recommends that public input be solicited by the City on the concept of designating park areas as *Preserves* and on the specific areas to be so designated;

Resolved, *Preserves* shall be designated by City Council and the designation made part of the PROS Plan.

**Dave Borneman** spoke on the proposed resolution and explained the maps that provide illustrations of the proposed Preserves to the Commission.

**S. Offen** asked for further clarification as to why these preserves are unique.

**D. Borneman** stated that the purpose of the preserve designation is to block the preserve areas from future development.

**D-4** Allen Creek Greenway Task Force

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

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

**G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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

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

**J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES** (If Applicable)

**K - TRANSMITTALS**

- 248           **K-1**       City Council Items Update – (Information in Packet)
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- 250           **K-2**       Parks Project Update (Information in Packet)
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- 252           **K-3**       Parks and Recreation Events for August - September 2007
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- 254           **K-4**       PAC Work Session Summary
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257    There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Berla** moved  
258    supported by **Commissioner Macomber** for the Commission to go into Closed Session. The regular  
259    meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,  
*Lynn Bowen*  
Lynn Bowen  
Administrative Support Specialist V