



CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2009

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Washtenaw County Administrative Building, Public meeting Room, 220 N. Main St. Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:04p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (8) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, D. Barrett, J. Lawter, 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: (1) G. Nystuen

Staff Present: (8) C. Smith, J. Straw, D. McGuire, P. Simmons
M. Warba, K. Henderson, D. Borneman, L. Bowen

Guest(s) (27) Numerous speakers regarding the Leslie Science and Nature Center, Mack Pool and the Senior Center

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berauer stated the agenda would stand approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Anne Remley complimented the City and spoke in support of Mack pool, stating the Dawn Ducks program is a great asset, a very good program and is glad the City offers such amenities for all ages.

A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 Commissioner Rosencrans moved, supported by **Commissioner Offen** to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2009 meeting as written. The minutes of March 17, 2009 were approved unanimously.

B. Macomber stated she was pleased with the new format of the minutes.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

C. Smith presented an overview of the proposed FY10 budget and FY11 financial plan; this information was discussed in depth and was also included in the packet for the Commissioners.

52 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

53
54 **C-1** Resolution to Approve Revised Partnership Agreement between City of Ann
55 Arbor and Leslie Science & Nature Center

56
57 **C. Smith** gave an overview of the agreement between the City of Ann Arbor
58 and Leslie Science & Nature Center. This agreement was included in the
59 packet.

60
61 **L. Berauer** moved to discuss the agreement, support by **J. Grand**.

62
63 **S. Offen** stated the Science Center is in full agreement with the terms.

64
65 **Lisa Brush** stated the Board at the Leslie Science and Nature Center is in full
66 support of this agreement.

67
68 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission to vote on approving the Revised
69 Partnership Agreement between City of Ann Arbor and Leslie Science &
70 Nature Center.

71
72 *On a voice vote **Motion Approved** unanimously.*

73
74 **PUBLIC HEARINGS – (3 Minutes per Speaker)**

75
76 FY 10 Proposed Budget and Two Year Financial Plan

77
78 **Malloria Miller** spoke in support of Mack Pool and requested this facility remain open. M.
79 Miller stressed this facility has been an asset to her health as well as her social life being a
80 senior citizen.

81
82 **Joel Levitt** spoke on the issue of the possible closing of the Senior Center, he stressed that
83 the activities at the center are an asset to the community and is one of the few remaining
84 meeting places for senior citizens to gather and socialize. J. Levitt also stated there are
85 many that can and are willing to pay a higher real estate tax that could possible assist in
86 keeping this facility open. He also suggested a fundraiser that could provide monies to the
87 Parks Department and/or the City.

88
89 **Nancy Livermore** stated she has been a resident for approximately 50 years and spoke in
90 support of Mack Pool remaining open.

91
92 **Nancy Darnell** stated The National Association of Retired Person's magazine listed Ann
93 Arbor as one of the top places for seniors to live. N. Darnell stated the Senior Center and
94 Mack Pool and the activities offered are a big part of this recognition and would like to see
95 these facilities remain open.

96
97 **Kathy Linderman** stated her back yard is adjoined to the Leslie Science and Nature Center
98 and would to see funding for this facility continue. The programs offered and cannot be
99 duplicated.

101 **Gilbert Cross** stated been a resident since 1966 and also passed a handout to the
102 Commissioners. G. Cross spoke in support of the Senior Center remaining open and is
103 willing to assist in raising funds.
104

105 **Jeff Basch** spoke in support of the Leslie Science and Nature Center remaining funded.
106

107 **Michael Hymes** spoke in support of the Leslie Science and Nature Center and the activities
108 offered there.
109

110 **Lisa Brush** stated and read Article 1, page 4 of the contract pertaining to the Leslie Science
111 and Nature Center.
112

113 **Ryan Shea** spoke in support of the Leslie Science and Nature Center and shared how
114 much he has learned over the years by attending the camps and activities offered at this
115 facility.
116

117 **Andy Buchsbaun** spoke in support of continued funding for the Leslie Science and Nature
118 Center.
119

120 **Bob Synder** spoke in support of the Senior Center and stated the social aspect and the
121 activities at the Senior Center are very rewarding and very important.
122

123 **Al Gallup** spoke in support of the Senior Center and is on the Senior Board.
124 **Judi Trenton** spoke in support of the Senior Center remaining open.
125

126 **Ed Sketch** spoke in support of Mack Pool remaining open as he participates in programs
127 every week, feels the pool is well maintained, clean and is one of the best pools he has
128 swam in and is used by all ages. E. Sketch is also very supportive of the Senior Center
129 remaining open as well.
130

131 **Leann Chadwick** spoke in support of Mack Pool, Leslie Science and Nature Center and the
132 Senior Center.
133

134 L. Chadwick stated the City needs all three of these facilities to remain open.
135

136 **Bethany Wilinston** spoke in support of Mack Pool remaining open, stating this facility
137 speaks to all ages. B. Williston stated the programs offered at Mack Pool are not found in
138 the surrounding areas.
139

140 **Joe Hymes** spoke in support of Leslie Science and Nature Center remaining open.
141

142 **Harlan Gilmore** spoke in support of the Senior Center remaining open and stated the
143 facility is a welcoming resource fro many senior citizens.
144

145 **Cecille Lindgren** spoke in support of the Senior Center remaining open.
146

147 **James D Amour** spoke in support of Mack Pool, the Leslie Science and Nature Center and
148 the Senior Center remaining open. J. D Amour stated these facilities offer wonderful
149 amenities to the community.
150

151 **Emily Kennedy** stated AARP has designated Ann Arbor being the number one place for
152 retirees and feels the facilities are needed for seniors.
153
154 **Donna Bevins** spoke in support of the Senior Center remaining open and suggested
155 fundraisers to help with the revenue for this facility.
156
157 **Tom Cavalier** spoke in support of the Senior Center remaining open and asked if the Park
158 Advisory Commission would recommend this to City Council.
159

160 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
161

162 **B-1** Resolution to Approve Fiscal Year 2010 Fee Adjustments
163

164 **C. Smith** provided an overview of the Parks fee adjustments for the
165 Commission; this information was included in the packets.
166

167 **L. Berauer** stated the proposed fee increase did not seem unreasonable
168 compared to other agencies.
169

170 **C. Smith** read Resolution to the Commission.
171

172 **L. Berauer** moved supported by **S. Offen** to approve the Resolution to
173 Approve Fiscal Years 2010 Fee Adjustments.
174

175 *On a voice vote **Motion Approved** unanimously.*
176

177 **B-2** FY 10 Proposed Budget and Two Year Financial Plan
178

179 **L. Berauer** complimented C. Smith and staff for the harmonious work with
180 PAC during the budget process.
181

182 **B. Macomber** also thanked C. Smith and staff regarding the budget
183 process.
184

185 B. Macomber asked if the programs offered at Mack Pool can be moved to an
186 alternative venue with minimal inconvenience.

187 **C. Smith** stated Mack Pool was renovated in 2002. At that time programs
188 offered at Mack Pool were moved to alternative sites.
189

190 **D. McGuire** stated Mack Pool was closed from September 2002 through January
191 2003. The programs offered at this facility were moved to a alternative venues with
192 minimal inconveniences.
193

194 **D. Barrett** asked if there have been any conversations with Ann Arbor Public
195 Schools regarding the venue changes.
196

197 **C. Smith** stated these conversations have not taken place at this time.
198

199 **D. Barrett** asked if the proposed changes take place, the public would
200 need a contact person.
201

202 **C. Smith** stated he is willing to address any concerns regarding this process.

203
204 **C. Smith** stated the summer programs that are scheduled have already been
205 redirected to alternate sites.

206
207 **J. Grand** stated there are positive ideas and neighborhood groups that are
208 involved regarding changes regarding the Senior Center.

209
210 **L. Berauer** asked what the impact would be by changing the mowing cycle.

211
212 **M. Warba** explained the impact in depth to the Commission.

213
214 **K. Henderson** explained in depth the items on the budget impact list.

215
216 **M. Warba** stated the work and appearance of the parks will be maintained to
217 prevent the parks from becoming unsightly.

218
219 **J. Lawter** suggested reducing the mowing cycle in the areas where it would
220 be less noticeable.

221
222 **M. Warba** stated there are safety issues that are also taken into consideration.

223
224 **C. Taylor** asked how the parks would be affected if the mowing cycle is
225 extended.

226
227 **M. Warba** stated if the cycle were to go a 14 day to a 21 day cycle of
228 mowing detailed work will suffer greatly.

229
230 **C. Smith** stated he has not received any complaints regarding the appearance of the
231 parks with the 14 day mowing cycle.

232
233 **M. Warba** stated the 14 day cycle is allowing the needs to be met for those
234 participating in the active recreation in the park.

235
236 **J. Lawter** stated he agreed with the mowing cycle.

237
238 **D. Borneman** spoke on the different parks that could be re-naturalized versus
239 being mowed.

240
241 **B. Macomber** read the Park Advisory Commission Resolution on the Fiscal Year
242 2010 Parks Budget and Proposed Two-Year Financial Plan.

243
244 **T. Berla** moved, supported by **S. Offen** to reinstate funds for Leslie Science
245 Center, and stated he would like to have this topic as a separate Resolution.

246
247 **C. Taylor** stated City Council would appreciate having a directive from the
248 Parks Advisory Commission.

249
250 **C. Smith** stated the most valuable Resolution would be the one that covers
251 the proposed budget in totality.

S. Rosencrans stated the Leslie Science and Nature Center is a unique jewel to the City and is in agreement to reinstating funding for it..

L. Berauer asked the Commission to vote on having a separate Resolution regarding the Leslie Science and Nature Center.

Ayes: (2) T. Berla, S. Offen

**Nays: (6) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, J. Grand,
J. Lawter, D. Barrett, S. Rosencrans**

Absent: (1) G. Nystuen

*On a voice vote – **Motion Failed***

B. Macomber read the Park Advisory Commission Resolution as written regarding the 2010 - 11 Budget Draft.

L. Berauer moved, supported by **S. Offen** to have discussion regarding the Resolution.

B. Macomber stated clauses 3, 4, and 6 were included to raise awareness of millage guidelines in regards to what activities are supported by the general fund versus the millage.

The intention of the clauses is to draw attention to the fact that it is not clear to PAC, and likely the public, what expenses the millage can and cannot cover. In order to prevent inappropriately moving general fund expenses to the millage it would be helpful to PAC and the public to clarify this for current and future budget cycles.

C. Smith explained that guidelines for the use of millage funds are in existence and can be reviewed at a future meeting

S. Offen moved to remove clauses number 3, 4 and 6 in the Resolution; supported by T. Berla.

L. Berauer asked the Commission to vote on removing the above mentioned clauses from the Resolution.

**Ayes: (7) L. Berauer, T. Berla, S. Offen, J. Grand,
J. Lawter, D. Barrett, S. Rosencrans**

Nays: (1) B. Macomber

Absent: (1) G. Nystuen

*On a voice vote – **Motion Passed***

304 **T. Berla** stated he is not in support of the Mack Pool recommendation.

305
306 **S. Rosencrans** stated he felt there is an adequate solution with the proposed
307 closing of Mack Pool.

308
309 **D. Barrett** asked if there would be any damage to the pool if it is left drained
310 for a period of time

311
312 **D. McGuire** stated no.

313
314 **L. Berauer** moved to add a statement to the resolution recommending that
315 alternate venues be found for the displaced Mack Pool user groups.

316
317 L. Berauer read the amended Resolution to the Commission.

318
319 **Park Advisory Commission Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2010 Parks**
320 **Budget and Proposed Two-Year Financial Plan**

321
322 Whereas, a vibrant, extensive, and healthy parks system is part of every great town
323 and city;

324
325 Whereas, Ann Arbor Residents value their parks and pay substantial taxes based on
326 the assumption that, in part, they pay for the daily operation of the current excellent
327 park facilities and services;

328
329 Whereas, the Park Advisory Commission (PAC) commends staff for their efforts to
330 include PAC members in the budget process as early as possible and as much as
331 possible, and in producing an overall fair and reasonable budget draft that follows
332 PAC's recommended budget priorities to preserve the most affordable facilities and
333 activities for the most number of residents, especially 'captive audiences' such as
334 children, low income, and seniors, particularly where these services are not otherwise
335 available;

336
337 Resolved, that PAC recommends that City Council approve the parks budget
338 developed by staff with the exceptions specified below.

339
340 Resolved, that PAC recommends that, for FY 2010 and FY 2011, the Leslie Science
341 Nature Center (LSNC) be funded in the amount suggested in the "Amended and
342 Restated Partnership Agreement Between the City of Ann Arbor and Leslie Science
343 and Nature Center" dated May 4, 2009, in order to preserve the unique and critically
344 important environmental education services to City residents and residents in
345 surrounding areas. PAC recommends that this be funded by closing the city-owned
346 swimming pool at the Mack Open School at the beginning of FY 2010 (July 1, 2009)
347 in consideration of the availability of swimming facilities in that general area that have
348 the capacity to accommodate those residents who currently use Mack Pool for Parks
349 and Recreation programs.

PAC further recommends that the facility be offered to the Ann Arbor Public Schools for either purchase, lease, or, if feasible, a joint operations agreement, in order to allow the schools to continue to provide the swimming programs they currently offer at Mack Pool.

Resolved, that PAC recommends that staff will work with representatives of the displaced Mack Pool user groups, including the Dawn Ducks, Masters Swimmers, and Seniors, to find alternative swimming facilities for their activities.

Resolved that PAC recommends that a task force be formed, to include interested seniors and other community members and members of the Senior Center Advisory Board, to study the impact of closing the Ann Arbor Senior Center in the second year of the budget; to document adequate alternative services, if any, for the approximately 500 seniors currently using the facility; and to develop a proposal for alternative funding sources to allow for the sustainability of the current Ann Arbor Senior Center.

PAC requests that the task force submit its report to PAC by December 1, 2009 so that PAC may review and forward a recommendation to City Council by January 1, 2010, so that Council can advise park staff and users of the Senior Center of their final decision regarding the disposition of the Senior Center well before the proposed closing date of July 1, 2010.

P. Simmons stated there are many volunteers that are interested in becoming members on the Board for the Senior Center. There is also a task force being put into place.

L. Berauer discussed new language in the Resolution regarding the proposed plans for the Senior Center.

L. Berauer asked the Commission to vote on the amended Resolution.

**Ayes: (7) L. Berauer, T. Berla, S. Offen, J. Grand,
J. Lawter, D. Barrett, S. Rosencrans**

Nays: (1) B. Macomber

Absent: (1) G. Nystuen

*On a voice vote – **Motion Passed***

D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

- 404 H - **REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK**
405 **FORCES**
406
- 407 I - **PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL** (3 Minutes per Speaker)
408
- 409 J - **CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH PRIVELEDGED CLIENT ATTORNEY INFORMATION**
410
- 411 K - **TRANSMITTALS**
412
- 413 K-1 City Council Items Update
414
- 415 K-2 Park Project Update
416
- 417 K-3 City of Ann Arbor 2008 – 2013 Park Maintenance and Capital
418 Improvements Millage Status
419
- 420 K-4 Amended and restated partnership agreement between City of Ann Arbor and
421 Leslie Science and Nature Center
422
- 423 K-5 Parks and Recreation Services, General Fund
424
- 425 K-6 Enterprise Funds, Open Space, Bandemer, Memorials
426
- 427 K-7 Capital Projects, Fund 071
428
- 429 K-8 Capital Projects, Existing
430
- 431 K-9 Park Operations, All Funds
432
- 433 K-10 Proposed changes in FY 10 proposed budget and two year financial plan
434
- 435 There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Berauer**
436 moved that the meeting be adjourned. The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:31p.m.
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443