



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 4:00 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 4:10 p.m. by Acting Chair, B. Macomber.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present:	(8)	J. Grand, B. Macomber, D. Barrett J. Lawter, S. Offen (arrived at 4:08 p.m.), G. Nystuen, S. Rosencrans, T. Berla (arrived at 4:18 p.m.)
Members Absent:	(1)	L. Berauer
Ex-Officio Members Present:	(1)	S. Kunselman
Ex- Officio Members Absent:	(0)	None
Staff Present:	(7)	C. Smith, J. Dehring , A. Kuras, D. Borneman, K. Bemish, L. Bowen, T. McMurtrie
Guests:	(12)	Bill Cassebaum, Bill Thompson, Ed Walsh, Paul Bancel, Trevor Staple, Montatip Krishnamra, Bob Weisman, Bill Newldmbe, Jane Lumm, Matt Nelson, Manishe Mata, Rashal Mata

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Rosencrans moved, supported by **Commissioner Lawter** to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Member of the audience (name was not listed on the sign in sheet) spoke of the value of maintaining the Huron Hills Golf Course. The Huron Hills Golf Course is an affordable recreation opportunity in the community and it is very important to a large segment of the Ann Arbor residents.

Bill Cassebaum spoke on the Golf Course study stating that he and his wife hold season passes for Huron Hills and Leslie Park Golf Courses and play several times a week. He also expressed that both he and his wife feel very strongly that both golf course should be maintained as 18-hole courses. He indicated that his statements reflect those of most patrons who play the courses. Huron Hills has been neglected by the City for a number of years and is need of repair. He does not think that the golf course needs capital investments of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the City should make a modest increase in the operating budget to provide for replacement of equipment and full-time, on-site management of the Golf Course operations and the clubhouses.

Bill Thompson spoke on the Golf Course study and stated that he recently decided to return to the sport of golf and has found that Huron Hills Golf Course is a perfect place to play golf and he enjoys not only the golf game but also the scenery of golf course.

Ed Walsh spoke on the Golf Course study and expressed the importance of keeping Huron Hills as an 18-hole course. The course is playable for young people as well as retirees.

60 **Paul Bancel** stated that he and his 91-year old father play golf together. He indicated that there is not an
61 over-supply of Golf Courses in this area. Low rounds at the City courses may be a result of the city's lack
62 of advertisement and failure to offer promotions and discounts to attract players to the golf courses.
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64 **Trevor Staples** addressed the Commission about a Skate Park facility. He indicated that an online petition
65 has been created and as of the end of September 2007 there were 528 online supporters for a skate park
66 facility. In addition, several hundred people have signed the paper petitions in support of a skate park
67 facility. The skate park group will address fundraising options. The cost and liabilities of a skate park facility
68 will be discussed at the December meeting
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70 **Montatip Krishnamra** stated Huron Hills Golf Course was the first course she played and golf has enriched
71 her life through exercise, learning the game and improved health. She would like to have the City continue
72 to operate the golf courses.
73

74 **Bob Weisman** spoke about the importance of Huron Hills Golf Course in the community. He stated that
75 people driving by the course on a regular basis enjoy the beautiful golf course property; younger people
76 who have learned to play golf enjoy playing at Huron Hills. In addition, retirees enjoy playing the Huron
77 Hills course and he would like to have the course maintained as an 18-hole course.
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79 **Bill Newcdmbe** distributed handout information to the Commission that included an article from the Ann
80 Arbor News. He described himself as a long-time resident of the City of Ann Arbor, as an avid golfer, and a
81 golf course architect. He indicated that the residents of Ann Arbor are fortunate to have the Huron Hills Golf
82 Course. His suggestions included investing modest monies to improve the course and management staff at
83 the course to improve the operations.
84

85 **Jane Lumm** expressed opposition to any changes to the Huron Hills Golf Course. She stated that the golf
86 courses should be moved into the general fund and should not be maintained in the enterprise fund. Leslie
87 Park and Huron Hills are not similar courses, Leslie Park is an advanced course. Huron Hills is for
88 beginning players and younger players.
89

90 **Rashal Mata** introduced himself as a 9th Grader at Huron High School and indicated that he learned to play
91 golf at Huron Hills Golf Course and still enjoys playing on this course with his family and friends do not want
92 any changes to the golf course.
93

94 **Matt Nelson** spoke about the Golf Course study and indicated his support for maintaining the golf courses.
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96 **Manishe Mata** spoke in support of maintaining the golf course facilities.
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98 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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100 **A-1 Commissioner Macomber** suggested that approval of the minutes of May 15, 2007 be
101 postponed until the December 18, 2007 meeting. The Commission agreed.
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103 **Commissioner Berla** moved, supported by **Commissioner Rosencrans** to approve the
104 minutes of October 16, 2007 with corrections. The minutes of October 16, 2007 were
105 approved unanimously
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107 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

108 **Storm Water Management**

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110 **T. McMurtrie** provided an overview of the new stormwater rate system. The Stormwater Utility has
111 been looking for opportunities to educate the public about stormwater including education about the
112 new rate system, opportunities to reduce stormwater payments through practices such as rain
113 gardens and rain barrels, and broader watershed management. One such opportunity has been
114 found with Parks and Recreation. For a number of years, Parks and Recreation Services and Park
115 Operations have been conducting activities that are beneficial to the stormwater system. These
116 activities range from educational signs about the new stormwater features at Olson Park to activities
117 conducted by the Natural Area Preservation unit, such as rain garden workshops and wetland
118 surveys.
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120

121 **S. Offen** asked if the \$92,000 stormwater billing was included in the budget.
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123 **C. Smith** stated that these billing were not budgeted. Staff has worked together to identify
124 approximately \$85,000 in stormwater educational credit. The total stormwater billing for the current
125 fiscal year for the parks will be approximately \$7,000.
126
127 **T. McMurtrie** stated that the intent of the stormwater education is to help people recognize the value
128 of the storm water mediation.
129
130 **G. Nystuen** asked if this assessment has been done with each of the parks so the cost can be
131 assessed at each park site.
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133 **T. McMurtrie** indicated that storm water would be assessed for each individual parcel.
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135 **G. Nystuen** stated that a number of the parks include areas that store storm water, and she asked
136 whether the parks would receive credits for those stormwater management areas.
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138 **T. McMurtrie** stated that these areas are still under discussion.
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140 **B. Macomber** asked if the Mary Beth Doyle Park would be used as credit for stormwater management
141 because of the stormwater management feature.
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143 **T. McMurtrie** indicated that the park system would be credited for the retention area at Mary Beth
144 Doyle Park.
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146 **B. Macomber** asked if there would be a credit given at Buhr Park the rain gardens in the park.
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148 **T. McMurtrie** stated the educational credits have been assessed for Buhr Park.
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150 **B. Macomber** asked for confirmation that the parks stormwater billing is \$92,000, the parks are being
151 credited for \$85,000 in educational activities, and the billing will be about \$7,000.
152
153 **T. McMurtrie** directed the commissioners to the City website for further information about the
154 stormwater program.
155

156 PUBLIC HEARINGS

157 B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

158 B-1 Allen Creek Greenway Task Force Resolution

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162 **B. Macomber** suggested that discussion of the Allen Creek Greenway Task Force Resolution be
163 discussed by the Commission at the January 2008 meeting. The Commission agreed.
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165 B-2 Park Security Pilot Report

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167 **C. Smith** directed the Commissioner's attention to the Park Security Pilot report. The project was a
168 three-month pilot. The City Council has requested comment from PAC regarding the pilot project.
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170 **D. Barrett** asked C. Smith for her impression about the success of the Park Security Pilot.
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172 **C. Smith** stated this pilot was a three-way partnership with the Police Department, Park & Recreation
173 Services and Park Operations. C. Smith stated there were challenges. Staff have met on a regular
174 basis to share information that was not shared in the past. C. Smith stated she feels the pilot has
175 worked well. She cited warning and citations for off-leash dogs, parking tickets, camping in parks, as
176 examples of common violations that have been addressed.
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178 **G. Nystuen** inquired about the number of police officer hours and the number of community
179 standards staff hours. She also expressed concern with issuing parking tickets in the parks. She
180 inquired about park security reports for October and November.
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J. Lawter asked whether the program is continuing on a month-to-month basis.

C. Smith stated the park security program is on a month-to-month basis. The purpose of today's discussion is to gather comment about the pilot program from the Park Advisory Commission as requested by the City Council.

G. Nystuen asked when the comments from the Park Advisory Commission will be submitted to City Council.

C. Smith stated the report would be forwarded to City Council in December.

J. Lawter asked if there were any charges for the park security program.

S. Offen stated his concerns about charging the parks budget for the costs of providing park security.

G. Nystuen stated the costs for this pilot program were to come from the General Fund.

C. Smith stated that the Safety Services General Fund budget is currently being charged for park security.

T. Berla stated City Council should have a plan for future funding of the park security program if this pilot program continues. He encouraged a discussion of alternative funding options.

B. Macomber asked about how an emergency call at a Park would be charged. She expressed concern with one department paying another department for services and indicated that the public and very concerned about transferring monies to cover services.

D. Barrett also expressed concern regarding the cost of the services.

G. Nystuen stated that she is not in agreement to transferring monies.

J. Lawter asked to see information about current police assignments in the parks.

S. Rosencrans stated the police should be patrolling entire City, and the parks are within the City.

T. Berla stated that the park's department did have Park Rangers and there are no alternatives for park security being discussed.

S. Offen stated the duties have been transferred to the police and does not feel there is enough information to make a decision about the park security program and asked for a more comprehensive report.

J. Lawter suggested that a discussion of the park security program be scheduled when further information is gathered.

C - NEW BUSINESS

D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith reported that the Swift Run Dog Park would open on December 1, 2007.

C. Smith informed the Commission that an RFP was released for the Community Center outsourcing. One proposal has been received.

C. Smith indicated that Jim Keegan would present the golf course study report to the Commission on November 27, 2007. Keegan will present his report to the City Council in a work session on December 10, 2007. Copies of the report are available to the public and comment will be accepted on the City website.

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E-1 Market Business Plan

Jessica Black presented the Market Business Plan and provided an overview of the services and programs offered at the Market.

S. Offen asked how many stalls are available at the market.

J. Black stated that a total of 144 covered stalls and approximately 40 uncovered stalls are available at the Market.

S. Rosencrans asked about the Market renovation schedule.

C. Smith stated that planning for the renovation is in process and staff is working with the consulting firm to identify priorities and establish a budget for the project.

G. Nystuen asked if there was a Market Commission.

C. Smith indicated that a new Public Market Commission has been appointed and the new commission will begin meeting regularly in January 2008.

F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

T. Berla reported that the Rec & Ed budget was discussed at the November meeting. T. Berla also reported that he has spoke with Rob Millett about the field lights at Veterans Memorial Park and has suggested options that will enable staff to turn the lights on and off and save power.

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

H-1 Athletic Field Task Force Update

D. Barrett stated the Park Advisory Commission should be aware of the problems and conditions of the fields. The City has recognized that the fields are in need of repair and City Council has recommended monies be allocated for the repairs.

There are three primary active fields for soccer: Olson, Southeast and Fuller. Southeast Area Park irrigation is being repaired and Fuller Park irrigation is on the schedule to be repaired.

There has been discussion of signage on fields that marks fields that are closed for renovation.

T. Berla shared with the Commission that the irrigation process has started at Fuller Park.

G. Nystuen asked if the monies for the repairs are in the budget.

B. Macomber stated there was \$287,000 allocated by City Council and asked if there have been decisions made on how these monies will be allocated.

C. Smith stated staff would provide a report in December for allocation of the funding.

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

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

K - TRANSMITTALS

K-1 City Council Items Update – (Information in Packet)

K-2 Parks Project Update (Information in Packet)

- 304
- 305 **K-3** Parks and Recreation Events for August - September 2007
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- 307 **K-4** Golf Course Study Project Questions
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- 309 **K-5** PAC Work Session Summary
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- 311 **K-6** Golf Report Schedule
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- 313 **K-7** Parks and Recreation Events for August - September 2007
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316 There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Rosencrans**
317 moved supported by **Commissioner Berla** that the meeting be adjourned. The regular meeting was
318 adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

319
320 Respectfully submitted,
321 *Lynn Bowen*
322 Lynn Bowen
323 Administrative Support Specialist V
324