



City of Ann Arbor

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

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

4:00 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grand called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Colin Smith called the roll.

Staff Present:

C. Smith, J. Straw, M. Warba, A. Kuras, S. Spooner, D. Kelly, J. Lawson; 7

Present: 10 - David Barrett, Timothy Berla, Chair Julie Berson Grand, John McCoy Lawter, Mike Anglin, Christopher Taylor, Karen Levin, Tim Doyle, Ingrid Ault, and Alan Jackson

Absent: 1 - Douglas Chapman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Berla, seconded by Levin, that the Agenda be Approved.

Agenda amended to add C1a item; Resolution to recommend approval of a contract with JB Contractors Inc. to make barrier free improvements to the path system at the Leslie Science and Nature Center (\$115,309.50).

Motion made by Lawter, seconded by Levin, to approve the amended agenda. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Alan Haber, 531 Third Street, spoke as an advocate on behalf of the library lot, expressing desire for it to become a cultural center and a central greenspace and park. He asked PAC to take a proactive approach to listen to the people's desire for that space in proposing a park. He also welcomed everyone to a family picnic on July 14th at the Library Lane as an opportunity to imagine a park in that location.

A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 [12-0863](#) Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2012

A motion was made by RAC Rep. Berla, seconded by Levin, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**B UNFINISHED BUSINESS****B-1 [12-0864](#) Update on Traver Creek Stream Bank Stabilization Project at Leslie Park Golf Course**

Harry Sheehan from Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office, gave a presentation and update on the Traver Creek Stream Stabilization Project at Leslie Park Golf Course.

Discussion pursued regarding the estimated timing and funding for the project.

C NEW BUSINESS**[12-0988](#) Resolution to recommend approval of a contract with JB Contractors Inc. to make barrier free improvements to the path system at the Leslie Science and Nature Center (\$115,309.50).**

C. Smith introduced Susan Westhoff, Executive Director for Leslie Science Nature Center.

S. Westhoff introduced the Center's newest raptor, a snowy owl. She shared information on their raptor project and explained that currently the raptor enclosures and critter house are not accessible to people with strollers, walkers or wheelchairs. Westhoff said the proposed path system will make the paths around the Leslie Science Nature Center barrier free.

A. Kuras reviewed the proposed project with the Commission.

Levin asked what the timeframe for the construction would be and if it would interfere with the programming of the Center.

A. Kuras said she believed the duration of the project would be 6-8 weeks, however, a construction schedule from the Contractor was still forthcoming. She said they would have to work closely with the staff during the construction due to the extensive work proposed, noting there would be impact to the site. She explained that the contractor has been made aware that the facility is a public park and needs to remain safe at all times.

Barrett asked if the City had previously worked with JB Contractors.

A. Kuras responded, not with them, however they had recently merged with Abbott Concrete, whom the City has worked with

Barrett asked if the Contractor understand that the facility is a park.

A. Kuras said yes.

Grand asked if the schools had been notified of the upcoming work, since it would impact the fieldtrips.

Westhoff said that September works out to be a lighter month at the Center in

programming, and October is a month when they usually take the raptors off site to visit schools and other facilities, which wouldn't be an issue.

C. Smith read the resolution.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH JB CONTRACTORS, INC. TO MAKE BARRIER FREE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PATH SYSTEM AT THE LESLIE SCIENCE AND NATURE CENTER (\$115,309.50)

Whereas, the pathway system at the Leslie Science and Nature Center is not barrier free, and there is no existing pathway that connects to the raptor enclosures;

Whereas, A master plan was prepared to address pedestrian circulation including improving barrier free access, constructing a path to the raptor enclosures, clarifying way finding and decreasing impervious surfacing;

Whereas, these improvements are identified as infrastructure needs in the current Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan;

Whereas, Competitive bids were received on June 7, 2012;

Whereas, JB Contractors, Inc. submitted the lowest responsive bid;

Whereas, JB Contractors, Inc. received Human Rights approval on June 11, 2012; and

Whereas, Funding for the project is available in the approved FY2012 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage budget;

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommend approval of a contract with JB Contractors, Inc. to make improvements to the pedestrian pathways at the Leslie Science and Nature Center and approve a construction contingency of \$11,531.00 (10%) to cover potential contract change orders for a total contract amount of \$126,841.00 for the life of the project without regard to fiscal year.

A motion was made by RAC Rep. Berla, seconded by Doyle, that the Resolution be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Yeas: 8 - Barrett, RAC Rep. Berla, Chair Berson Grand, Lawter, Councilmember Anglin, Councilmember Taylor, Levin, Doyle, Ault, and Jackson

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Chapman

C-1 [12-0865](#)

Resolution to Approve Wally Hollyday Skateparks to Design and Provide Construction Oversight for the Skatepark at Veterans Memorial Park (\$ 89,560.00)

C. Smith gave a review of the background and history of the skatepark.

A. Kuras reviewed the RFP and design process as related to the skatepark project.

Trevor Staples from Friends of Ann Arbor Skate Park spoke about the selected designer for the Skatepark at Veterans Memorial Park.

Jeff Dehring, from Washtenaw County Area Parks and Recreation Commission and Jenny Elliot from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation were present to

respond to the Commission's enquiries.

Levin asked where designer Wally Hollyday originated from.

Staples said his company is located in the San Diego area, California, adding that while they plan to incorporate Michigan workers and artists on this project, there were no Michigan skatepark designers that could manage a project of this scope and size.

C. Smith noted that Wally Hollyday had designed and built at least eight to ten skateparks in climates similar to that of Michigan.

Lawter congratulated Staples for the long term efforts. He asked if they already had the necessary funds for the project.

Staples responded that they are still fundraising, since their goal was to raise \$ 1,000,000, of which \$ 900,000 was to cover the design and construction and \$ 100,000 for an endowment that would pay for maintenance and improvements of the park. He said of the approximately \$ 800,000 that they have raised so far, the majority is in grants and can not be used for the endowment. He said they still in need of approximately \$150,000 that would go towards the endowment.

C. Smith added that this proposal will go before City Council at their July 16th, meeting, and following that he would be working together with Staples on developing an agreement for maintenance, followed by construction to occur in early 2013.

Barrett asked staff to point out the proposed location for the skatepark on the aerial map. He noted that this location will allow member of the public of all ages to be a part of the skatepark experience whether they are skateboarding or watching the action.

C. Smith said the location at Vet's Park is important because it has the potential and expectation of becoming a regional attraction, because of its accessibility and visibility.

Staples said that they have no plans of touching the tall trees located on the site and are happy to have them provide shading for half the day.

Taylor asked when the funding from the County and State would be provided and if the matching funds don't expire.

C. Smith explained that the State is still in the process of distributing their DNR grant trust funds, with the possibility of funds arriving in July.

Jeff Dehring stated that as soon as the construction contract is awarded the County would release funding as agreed.

Staples added that the design plans need to be reviewed before the State funds would be paid.

Barrett asked Staples how interested donors could purchase a brick.

Staples provided donation options available.

Barrett asked if brick donations are tax deductible.

Staples said they are a non-profit organization, so he believed part of brick donations

would qualify towards tax deductions.

Anglin noted that Wally Hollyday is quite an inspirational character in the way he approaches the people who play this sport, adding that the sport itself is unique in that people encourage each other throughout the action and he believed it would make a positive difference to the Vet's Park area.

Barrett verified that the skatepark would have barrier free access.

Staples said, yes.

Grand said for those who have followed this project for many years it was extraordinarily gratifying to see the project move forward.

C. Smith read the resolution.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH WALLY HOLLYDAY SKATEPARKS TO DESIGN AND PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT FOR THE SKATEPARK AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (\$89,560.00)

Whereas, Construction of a custom, concrete skatepark is being proposed using funds from a State of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Friends of Ann Arbor Skatepark to be constructed in Veterans Memorial Park;

Whereas, proposals were submitted by six firms to provide design and construction oversight services;

Whereas, a committee composed of members of the Friends of Ann Arbor Skatepark, the Parks Advisory Commission, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission staff, and City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation staff reviewed and rated the proposals and selected two firms for interviews; and

Whereas, interviews were held with two highly qualified firms, and Wally Hollyday Skateparks was chosen as the firm best suited to perform the design work based on qualifications, the quality of the interview, and the fee proposal;

Whereas, the fee for Wally Hollyday Skateparks is \$89,560;

Whereas, the Ann Arbor Community Foundation has provided a letter of commitment demonstrating funds raised by the Friends of the Ann Arbor Skatepark are available to cover the cost of the contract with Wally Hollyday Skateparks;

Resolved, that the Parks Advisory Commission recommend that City Council approve a contract with Wally Hollyday Skateparks to perform the design work and oversee future construction of the skatepark to be located at Veterans Memorial Park.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Lawter asked if the word concrete could be taken out of the resolution since brick would also be a material used.

C. Smith stated that the word concrete was necessary because it was the main construction material to be used. He explained that the requirements as outlined in the RFP state that they meet or exceed the stormwater management requirements

for the City

Staples said since this structure would be a permanent skatepark, it would be built with concrete.

A motion was made by RAC Rep. Berla, seconded by Jackson, that the Resolution be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Yeas: 8 - Barrett, RAC Rep. Berla, Chair Berson Grand, Lawter, Councilmember Anglin, Councilmember Taylor, Levin, Doyle, Ault, and Jackson

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Chapman

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Berla asked for procedural clarification on the funding aspect of the project, since there were multiple parties involved.

C. Smith and Staples explained the funding process.

Doyle asked about possible design specifications that Hollyday might need to comply with as related to PAC.

A. Kuras said that they would rely on Wally Hollyday to write specifications that are specific to this type of project, which would then become a collaborative effort together with a consultant, the committee, and the City to make sure they meet necessary requirements.

C-2 [12-0866](#) Quarterly Financial Updates

C. Smith reviewed the Parks and Recreation Services Quarterly Financial Update with the Commission.

Matt Warba reviewed the Park Operations Quarterly Financial Update with the Commission.

D **COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

D-1 [12-0867](#) Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Renewal of the Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage for Submission to the Voters at the November 2006 Election and to recommend City Council renew the millage policies for administration to inform voters of the manner in which it intends to oversee the administration of the millage if the proposed renewal is approved.

C. Smith reviewed the millage renewal process with the Commission and read the resolution.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND PLACEMENT ON THE NOVEMBER 6, 2012 ELECTION BALLOT RENEWAL OF THE PARK MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MILLAGE AND TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL AFFIRM THE ADMINISTRATIVE MILLAGE POLICIES TO INFORM VOTERS OF THE MANNER IN WHICH IT INTENDS TO OVERSEE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MILLAGE

IF THE PROPOSED RENEWAL IS APPROVED

Whereas, The Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage has been a significant funding source for the City's park and recreation capital improvement programs and park maintenance activities;

Whereas, The Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage will expire in 2012;

Whereas, With the expiration of the millage approaching, a work group consisting of Park Advisory Commission and City staff members was created to evaluate the millage and associated funding guidelines;

Whereas, The Park Advisory Commission sought public input the millage renewal during several public meetings in April and May;

Whereas, It is in the City's best interest to present a millage renewal to the voters which continues providing essential resources for the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the parks system;

Whereas, City Council established millage policies for administration in 2006, and has during the term of the millage reviewed and revised those policies to inform voters of the manner in which it oversees the administration of the millage;

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommend to City Council that November 6, 2012 be designated as the day for holding an election on the proposed millage renewal and that the ballot question be determined to read as follows:

ANN ARBOR CITY RENEWAL OF PARK MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MILLAGE

Shall the City renew the existing park maintenance and capital improvements millage for 2013 through 2018, which will raise in the first year of the levy an estimated revenue of \$4,900,000 for park maintenance and park capital improvements?

Yes No

A motion was made by Doyle, seconded by Barrett, that the Resolution be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Yeas: 8 - Barrett, RAC Rep. Berla, Chair Berson Grand, Lawter, Councilmember Anglin, Councilmember Taylor, Levin, Doyle, Ault, and Jackson

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Chapman

D-2 [12-0868](#)

Appointment of a Chair for the PAC Budget and Finance Committee

Grand informed the Commission that this meeting was Commissioner David Barrett's last meeting. She thanked him for his tireless efforts to the fields and for advocacy to Park's issues, adding that he would be greatly missed.

Barrett thanked the Mayor for appointing him to PAC and said it had been a great pleasure to serve on PAC and get to get to know the delightful staff of the City, adding that he has been unfailingly impressed by staff whom do a great job. He said he is impressed by the PAC members and knows that we are all in good hands. He said it has been a great honor to serve on PAC.

Grand nominated Tim Doyle to the position of Chair for the PAC Budget and Finance Committee, noting that he had worked closely with former Chair Sam Offen. On a roll call vote, the Chair declared the motion carried Unanimously.

Yeas: 8 - Barrett, RAC Rep. Berla, Chair Berson Grand, Lawter, Councilmember Anglin, Councilmember Taylor, Levin, Doyle, Ault, and Jackson

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Chapman

E REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith reported that they are expecting the manufacturer for the swirl concentrator units to be delivered shortly to West Park to be installed over a three week period, followed by the City's contractors to rebuild the diverters and finish the access paths and complete the plantings along with restoration work as necessary, which could take the remaining summer to complete. He explained that the middle entrance to West Park from Seventh Street would remain open allowing activities to continue unhindered.

He reported that in the next couple of weeks they will be doing aquatic plant management at Gallup Park Livery which will assist with recreational operations.

F REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

G REPORTS FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

T. Berla said that he believes it is time for PAC to begin the discussion about the library lot and what PAC can do to facilitate such discussions in allowing citizens the opportunity for input and advocacy.

C. Smith explained that whenever PAC has an interest in an issue they can create a subcommittee or focus group to look into such interests.

Grand said that once Barrett's replacement came on board they would be getting together for a goal setting session for PAC.

Lawter added that he believed there was to be follow-up discussion with the DDA on possibilities for the library lot.

Anglin said there have been several good points made, noting that there is a lot of movement going on with various projects and it is very important for PAC to be involved. He said folks have mentioned that they would like a common shared space that is a focal point of the town. He said the library is also thinking of starting a discussion on the topic and it could be beneficial for PAC to establish a request to be invited to the table of various discussions that might involve park issues.

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

I PUBLIC COMMENTARY - GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)

J CLOSED SESSION

K **TRANSMITTALS****K-1** [12-0869](#) City Council Item Update

Received and Filed

K-2 [12-0870](#) Park Projects Update

Received and Filed

L **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Barrett, seconded by RAC Rep. Berla, that the meeting be Adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

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