



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 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 4:15p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (7) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, D. Barrett,
J. Lawter, G. Nystuen, S. Rosencrans, T. Berla

Ex-Officio Members Present: (2) M. Anglin, S. Kunselman

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None

Members Absent: (2) J. Grand, S. Offen

Staff Present: (5) D. Thompson, M. Warba, J. Dehring, J. Frenzel,
L. Bowen

Guests: (16) Trevor Staples, Rory Quigg, Connie Dunlap,
Jim Clarkson, Fred Kline, Kelly Stupple,
Eric Wheeler, Patrick Quigg, Connor Quigg,
Hanna Huget, Max Davis, Tim Douthit,
Dug Song, Jackie Hofactr, Jef Jenkins,
Glenn Thompson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berla suggested the Skate Park Public Hearing portion of the agenda be moved up due to the over whelming attendance in support at the meeting.

L. Berauer stated after the minutes were discussed this suggestion would be considered. L. Berauer also asked Sara Aeschbach if she would mind the Skate Park public hearing to be held before the Recreation & Education presentation.

Sara Aeschbach agreed as well as the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

L. Berauer stated the Public Commentary is not designed for discussion regarding the Public Hearing; this portion of the agenda is designed for anyone who wishes to speak on an item that is not going to be addressed during the Public Hearing.

51 **L. Berauer** then asked if there was anyone in attendance that would like to discuss an item
52 other than the Skate Park. Being there was not; L. Berauer commented on how good it was
53 to see the level of support for the Skate Park.
54

55 Also stating the hearing is not designed to discuss whether or not to have a Skate Park, but
56 to discuss the potential location of the Skate Park. The location that has been identified is at
57 a corner in Veterans Memorial Park, and we are here to get input on whether the residents
58 feel this is a good location or if there are problems with the proposed location.
59

60 **B. Macomber** stated each speaker should try to maintain a limit of 3 minutes when
61 speaking.
62

63 **T. Berla** requested that when someone speaks to this issue that the other speakers try not
64 to repeat the same points that have been made, being that there are so many in the
65 audience that share the same opinions regarding the Skate Park.
66

67 **Trevor Staples** spoke on the Skate Park and thanked everyone who helped with this
68 project. Mr. Staples explained why the Veterans Memorial Park site was chosen for the
69 Skate Park.
70

71 **T. Staples** stated there was a site criteria that was used which includes how the Park is
72 used, how accessible it is, whether the Skate Park will be tucked away in a corner where
73 people will not feel welcome, are there other activities at the Park and will the users of the
74 Skate Park mix in well with the rest of the community.
75

76 There were other sites considered across the City, Veteran's Memorial Park seemed to be
77 the perfect location for the Skate Park. Mr. Staples brought additional pictures for the
78 Commission to view that show the other side of the Park, letters of support from various
79 groups and businesses (Mr. Staples named a few and passed these letters to the
80 Commission) as well as many supporters that are in attendance to speak.
81

82 **Rory Quigg (minor)** stated Veterans Memorial Park is the perfect place for the Skate Park
83 because when everyone is done they can do other activities and more sports, swim and just
84 have fun.
85

86 **Connie Dunlap** spoke in support of the Skate Park stating the area is ideal because it is not
87 contiguous to any residential area, the surrounding area is heavily commercial and it will not
88 disturb anyone. The development of a Skate Park can enhance the area.
89

90 Skate Parks that have been built in other cities have added to the beauty of the park. It is a
91 little used area, and will not cause any stress to anyone in the area.
92

93 **Jim Clarkson** spoke in support of the Skate Park and expressed this is a great location and
94 is not in the middle of the residential section of town.
95

96 **Fred Kilne** spoke in support of the Skate Park and favors the proposed location, stating he
97 lives near Abbott School and is a Third grade teacher at Haisley School. Both schools are
98 near the proposed location of the Skate Park.
99

100

101 Mr. Kline also stated many of the children are skating in front of the facilities at both schools
102 and this mars the facilities, the railings and the staircases. If the children had an alternative
103 place to go in the neighborhood it would be very beneficial. There are also other good
104 qualities which are swimming and having food close to the proposed Skate Park.

105
106 **Kelly Stupple** read a letter from Shannon Ambovis who is in full support of Skate Park. This
107 letter stated this proposed Skate Park will be an enhancement to the corner of N. Maple and
108 Dexter Rd. Also stating she supports any public effort for children and teenagers.

109
110 Ms. Stupple also stated she herself is in full support of the Skate Park. Being the mother of
111 a young child, her family uses Buhr Park more often, but feels Veterans Memorial is geared
112 towards the older children and thinks Veterans Memorial Park is a great place for the Skate
113 Park.

114
115 **Eric Wheeler** spoke in support of the Skate Park and feels it is the best location due to
116 being on two bus routes, it is centrally located between two high schools, it is also between
117 two highway exits for people from surrounding cities and around Michigan to travel, and
118 easy to find. There does not seem to be any other location to choose from and the shaded
119 areas are an advantage as well.

120
121 **Patrick Quigg (minor)** spoke in support of the Skate Park, stating it is a great idea to have
122 this Skate Park in Veterans Memorial Park. Also stating after a long day of skating the
123 skater's can go into the pool and purchase food across the street.

124
125 **Connor Quigg (minor)** spoke in support of the Skate Park, stating Veterans Memorial Park
126 is a great place because after skating or taking a break from skating everyone can go
127 across the street to the restaurants and eat.

128
129 **Hannah Huget** spoke in support of the Skate Park being located at Veterans Memorial Park
130 because of the central location and easy access to the Park. The Neutral Zone understands
131 the importance of giving youth safe opportunities for recreation and fun in the community.

132
133 **Max Davis** spoke in support of the Skate Park and read part of a letter from Andy
134 Mc Donald who is a world renowned skater who is in support of the Skate Park and started
135 skating here in Ann Arbor.

136
137 **Glenn Thompson** spoke on the Skate Park; stating the issue is not whether or not the
138 Skate Park is desirable, the desirability at today's meeting is evident. The issue is if the
139 proposed location is an environmentally responsible choice and if proceeding at this time is
140 a good financial decision.

141
142 The proposed Skate Park adds 30,000 square feet of impervious surfaces in one of the few
143 remaining undeveloped areas of the Allen Creek Watershed. This is approximately one third
144 of the area of the Farmer's Market or 44 times the roof top area of my home.

145
146 The storm water management was a significant part of the discussion at the recent City
147 Council meeting. Doyle Park was praised for it's storm water management contribution to
148 Malletts Creek Watershed. The Mayor expressed hopes that similar improvements can be
149 made in the Allen Creek Watershed.

150

151 The Mayor also mentioned a proposed multimillion-dollar project near Pioneer High School
152 as a possible means to improve the Allen Creek Watershed.

153
154 Veterans Memorial Park is located in the upper region of the Watershed that would make it
155 particularly well suited for storm water detention and treatment. The drain commission has
156 proposed joint projects at Veterans Memorial Park as well as the one at Pioneer High
157 School.

158
159 It is illogical to consider spending millions to improve the southern area of the Allen Creek
160 Watershed while degrading the western area; it is environmentally irresponsible to add
161 impervious surface in Veterans Memorial Park. To just treat the additional storm water run
162 off because the additional developed area would make it harder to use this site for
163 substantial improvements in the future.

164
165 There is also a concern regarding the financial consideration. Much of the discussions at
166 the recent City Council meeting were regarding the Park's funding. The Park's funding was
167 partially restored, but again for only one year. It is uncertain if you can assume this will
168 happen in future budget years.

169
170 The Skate Park is estimated to cost approximately \$800,000.00 but this cost does not
171 include any storm water management. The proposed funding assumes one third million from
172 the City, State, County or private foundations, but all of these sources have significant and
173 substantial financial problems due to the current economy. Under these financial conditions
174 is it good planning to promise space and commit resources to a very large new capital
175 project.

176
177 **Tim Douthit** spoke in full support of the Skate Park and stated he strongly supports the
178 location of the Skate Park due to safety reasons as well as having sons that are skaters.

179
180 Mr. Douthit stated with respect to the environmental conditions of this corner of the Park; all
181 of the construction projects he has been associated with over the years Mr. Douthit feels the
182 civil engineers have done an outstanding job of either maintaining the existing storm water
183 management characteristics of the sub surface or either improving upon them.

184
185 The natural storm water discharge properties of Ann Arbor are relatively poor to begin with.

186
187 Consequently these issues would be taken in account with any construction that would be
188 done in this area.

189
190 **Dug Song** spoke on the Skate Park, stating the concerns mentioned regarding the
191 environmental impact of the Skate Park are taken very seriously. The bids have been
192 researched. The portion of the Park that the proposed site is on is not a part of the Allen
193 Creek flood plain. It is in the Allen Creek basin as is much of Ann Arbor, but even so these
194 issues have been addressed.

195
196 One of the Builder's/Designers that have been contacted during the research regarding this
197 issue has proposed a number of different solutions to the concerns regarding the storm
198 water issues. (Mr. Song read a letter from one of the Builder's stating their suggestions).

199 Pending cores and samples taken from the Park all of the issues will be taken into account.
200 A portion of the funds raised will be set aside for maintenance as well as the mitigation for
201 any environmental issues that may be encountered.

202
203 **Jackie Hofactr** spoke in support of the Skate Park and expressed concerns regarding the
204 location of the Dog Park and to make the location accessible to residents that do not have
205 access to a vehicle.

206
207 **Jef Jenkins** spoke in support the Skate Park, and stressed the proposed site is family
208 oriented, a convenient site and would be very accessible to the residents.

209
210 **Trevor Staples** stated the support in attendance at the meeting speaks volumes; and as
211 soon as the Park Advisory Commission proposes the location, the sooner the fundraising
212 can begin this summer for the Skate Park.

213
214 **B. Macomber** stated one of the reasons this issue was to go on the next meeting agenda
215 was to wait for more information regarding the water management plans. B. Macomber
216 asked if it would be possible to do a Resolution on this date recommending the location,
217 including language in the Resolution stating if information be made available regarding the
218 water management plans.

219
220 **Jeff Dehring** stated there are several more steps before the Skate Park is actually built;
221 design plans will have to be prepared, a consultant will be hired and other documents must
222 be prepared. The critical issue is the acceptance of the location to proceed.

223
224 The development of the site will comply with all the requirements we have of the site plan.

225
226 When a Park is developed, the incorporation of the storm water management component,
227 sufficient parking, lighting, benches and other elements are all taken into account.

228
229 The footprint for the design would need to be apparent for the storm water management;
230 until there is footprint of the design the calculations will be unknown.

231
232 **L. Berauer** asked if the Skate Park Committee will need the Park Advisory Commissions
233 support as soon as possible to show the community's support.

234
235 **Jeff Dehring** stated yes, this Commission support would be needed as it is not ready to go
236 to City Council at this time.

237
238 **L. Berauer** asked if a Resolution that had a very strong contingency regarding more
239 research data about the needs to exceed the minimum requirements for storm water
240 management would assist the Committee in moving forward with their plans regarding the
241 Skate Park.

242
243 **Trevor Staples** stated yes and felt that any Resolution that would assist this project would
244 be appreciated.

245
246 **T. Berla** stated the Park Advisory Commission can state they support the Skate Park and
247 the Skate Park Committee would have to come back to the Park Advisory Commission

248 many times. The Skate Park cannot be built until the design has been assembled, the
249 money and support are in place and City Council votes to approve the project.
250 T. Berla stated he felt the Commission should express their support of the idea of Skate
251 Park in Veterans Memorial Park. The questions and concerns regarding the Skate Park and
252 other issues would also have to be addressed and resolved before the Skate Park is built.

253
254 **D. Barrett** stated a Resolution from the Parks Advisory Commission would not either
255 approve or disapprove the idea of the Skate Park, but it would give this Committee the
256 opportunity to proceed.

257
258 **S. Rosencrans** stated this Commission could easily pass a Resolution approving the
259 proposed location.

260
261 **L. Berauer** stated the distinction would be adequately addressed and going above and
262 beyond the minimum requirement.

263
264 **Trevor Staples** asked if it is normal to pass a Resolution expecting a construction project to
265 go above and beyond the expectations of a minimum requirement.

266
267 **L. Berauer** stated the Commission had never been in a position to pass a Resolution about
268 an actual construction project.

269
270 **Jeff Dehring** stated the Skate Park committee is looking for a location and this is the key to
271 begin the project and move forward. Different locations for the Skate Park have been
272 considered and Veterans Memorial Park rose to the top.

273
274 **L. Berauer** stated she understood the benefits of this location and for all the social and
275 practical reasons the proposed location is ideal. Also stating she appreciated the discussion
276 of how skate boarding is being destigmatized, bringing the concept out into the community,
277 having it visible, having it located in a place where different demographics can interact. The
278 only concern is the storm water issue.

279
280 **Trevor Staples** stated this project is being done to better Ann Arbor and the goal is to make
281 the entire community better.

282
283 **S. Kunselman** expressed how great it was to see such a great turn out of support for the
284 Skate Park.

285
286 S. Kunselman also urged the Park Advisory Commission to pass a Resolution on this date
287 designating Veterans Memorial Park as the location for the Ann Arbor Skate Park; with the
288 hopes the environmental concerns becoming a burden. The primary impervious surface is
289 across the street and not at Veterans Memorial Park.

290
291 The parking lot is empty approximately 364 days per year. This is a new facility and will
292 bring forth an activity that has not been adequately provided for the community in a very
293 long time. It is good to see the community being committed to the youth of our City who do
294 not have a voice at the ballot box but have a voice due to being the next generation.

295
296 **B. Macomber** stated she is in agreement to this Commission passing a Resolution and read
297 a draft Resolution to the Commission:

298 **Resolution to Support the Site Selection of Veterans Memorial Park for a Skate Park**

- 299
- 300 1. Whereas there is a significant community interest to support the existence of a
- 301 Skate Park within the City’s Park system.
- 302
- 303 2. Whereas skateboarding is a popular sport that is not adequately provided for
- 304 by the private sector, and for which few affordable options are available
- 305 locally.
- 306
- 307 3. Whereas public input on the location at Veterans Memorial Park has been
- 308 overwhelmingly positive.
- 309
- 310 4. Whereas the Ann Arbor Skate Park Action Committee has demonstrated
- 311 ample membership support and extensive fundraising efforts.
- 312
- 313 5. Whereas the Ann Arbor Skate Park Action Committee has stated further
- 314 planning and fundraising would be greatly aided by the Park Advisory
- 315 Commission support for the Veterans Memorial Park location.
- 316
- 317 6. Whereas City staff and the Ann Arbor Skate Park Action Committee assure
- 318 the Parks Advisory Commission of the necessity that any final design must
- 319 meet storm water and other environmental requirements and both parties will
- 320 make all possible efforts to exceed those.
- 321
- 322 7. Resolved that the Park Advisory Commission endorses the proposed location
- 323 of the Skate Board Park at Veterans Memorial Park.
- 324
- 325 * “endorses” may need to be changed to “recommends for approval by City
- 326 Council.
- 327

328 **S. Rosencrans** added language to the Resolution (this language was added and is

329 included in the above Resolution in the second “Whereas”).

330

331 **D. Barrett** asked if the budget of the how the Skate Park would be built was being

332 discussed, or if the Resolution would be giving the Skate Park Committee the opportunity to

333 begin the fundraising for the project.

334

335 **Trevor Staples** stated a budget has been submitted in the strategic plan and it will be

336 flexible as the design and the size of the Skate Park is decided upon.

337

338 **B. Macomber** proposed both of the “whereas” that S. Rosencrans suggested will be placed

339 in front of the “Whereas” that she has written.

340

341 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission to vote by a show of hands.

342

343 The vote on the Skate Park Resolution was as follows:

344

345 **Ayes: (7) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, J. Lawter**

346 **D. Barrett, S. Rosencrans**

347

348 **Nays: (0) None.**

349
350 **Absent: (0) J. Grand, S. Offen**

351
352 *With a show of hands – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous*

353
354 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

355
356 **A-1 Commissioner Rosencrans** moved, supported by **Commissioner**
357 **Macomber** to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2008 meeting with the
358 noted corrections on pages: 1, 9, 12 and 13. The minutes of April 15, 2008
359 were approved unanimously.

360
361 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

362
363 **Recreation and Education – Structure and Activities**

364
365 ***There was an extensive Power Point Presentation presented to the Commission,***

366
367 ***Sara Aeschbach explained each slide to the Commission in detail.***

368
369 **Sara Aeschbach** explained the Power Point Presentation in depth to the Commission. Also
370 explaining and defining the activities and comprehensive enrichment classes associated
371 with the Recreation & Education Department.

372
373 S. Aeschbach explained last year there were 19,546 people who signed up to participate in
374 our league and team sports program and close to 50,000 total registrations. There is an
375 annual budget of approximately \$7,000,000.00 and are still reliant on both the City and the
376 schools.

377
378 There are approximately 40 administrative staff working in the office and approximately
379 1,000 hourly, contracted and volunteer staff members.

380
381 S. Aeschbach explained the history regarding Recreation & Education stating as early as
382 1916 the school district reached out to adults to assist with speaking English. In 1939 the
383 Recreation & Education Department spoke on the aims and objectives of the programs.

384
385 In 1957 the relationship between the two entities expanded and the Recreation Advisory
386 Commission was established to both advise City Council and the School Board the
387 resolution was modified again in 1978 and most recently 1998. All three Resolutions state
388 the same “whereas”.

389
390 Approximately a year ago the City and Schools signed an agreement with the purpose of
391 reducing the cost of the Ball Diamonds preparations that were handled by the City, as a
392 result of that specific agreement it is specified that Recreation & Education would be
393 responsible for scheduling the Ball Diamonds for any group.

394
395 There has been longstanding and a current understanding between the Parks Department
396 and Recreation & Education on the use of the neighborhood playing fields.

397 Recreation & Education has use of the fields for youth practices and at a much lesser extent
398 there are games. The City schedules the outside users in the neighborhood Parks around
399 the Parks and times requested by Recreation & Education.
400
401 S. Aeschbach stressed an important point that Recreation & Education has never scheduled
402 or charged an outside group for use of a City Park. Also stating that Recreation & Education
403 does not use Airport Field, this issue has been looked into and that facility is rented through
404 the City.
405
406 Participants involved with Recreation & Education are charged a users fee that reflects the
407 direct expenses of operating the programs, these fees do not include any facility charge.
408
409 **S. Rosencrans** asked what this Commission could do to facilitate the enhancement of
410 communication, cooperation, and interaction so it is as healthy as possible between the two
411 bodies.
412
413 **Sara Aeschbach** stated the first steps are happening now and another way to improve the
414 relationship would be to have joint meetings between the two bodies.
415
416 **S. Rosencrans** asked if it would help to pass Resolutions that affect facilities that we
417 cooperatively use or have in common with Recreation & Education.
418
419 **L. Berauer** stated anything that is acted upon by this Commission, T. Berla would mention
420 to the Recreation Advisory Commission.
421
422 **D. Barrett** expressed concern with the quality of the turf and the goal is to coordinate
423 scheduling with the activities that Recreation & Education has going on with the fields.
424
425 **Sara Aeschbach** stated the Recreation Advisory Commission does spend a lot of time
426 speaking about the conditions of the fields and have also purchased grass seed. Working
427 together is certainly the main goal.
428
429 **D. Barrett** asked if there were someone at Recreation & Education that literally walks
430 around the fields.
431
432 **S. Aeschbach** stated yes.
433
434 **T. Berla** thanked S. Aeschbach for attending the Park Advisory Commission meeting with
435 the Power Point Presentation. Also stating there should be a follow up meeting as well.
436
437 **L. Berauer** stated the presentation was a very good idea so that issues could be explained,
438 and important questions could be asked regarding the partnership with Recreation &
439 Education.
440
441 **T. Berla** stated important issues of change should be brought to the Park Advisory
442 Commission so everyone can comment and offer opinion.
443
444 **L. Berauer** asked if the 3 Resolutions mentioned in the presentation were City Council or
445 School Board Resolutions.
446

447 **Sara Aeschbach** stated they were both, City Council as well as School Board.

448

449 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission to address item B-2 first, and proceed to item B-1,
450 the Commission agreed.

451

452 **PUBLIC HEARINGS – (This item was moved up on the agenda)**

453

454 Proposed Skate Park Site in Northwest portion of Veterans Memorial Park

455

456 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

457

458 **B-2** Resolution regarding improvements to Athletic Fields

459

460 **D. Barrett** read the original Resolution to the Commission.

461

462 **L. Berauer** moved to consider Resolution, T. Berla supported, the Commission agreed.

463

464 **D. Barrett** stated he felt the Commission was in agreement that there is a lot of work
465 to be done regarding the fields and the intent of the Resolution is clear.

466

467 **S. Rosencrans** suggested the wording should be more specific and say there is a
468 difference between Parks staff and City staff and that this should be stated and made
469 clear.

470

471 **S. Rosencrans** suggested in the first “whereas”, the wording should state within the
472 Parks system due the uses possibly changing over time.

473

474 **L. Berauer** suggested adding the wording, the athletic fields within the Parks system,
475 particularly soccer, ultimate frisbee and field hockey; with this wording nothing would be
476 excluded.

477

478 **S. Rosencrans** stated this Resolution will speak for the document at hand.

479

480 **G. Nystuen** asked why the ball diamonds were being excluded.

481

482 **T. Berla** explained the ball diamonds are a completely different surface and need
483 different maintenance.

484

485 **G. Nystuen** asked if the schools maintain the ball diamonds.

486

487 **T. Berla** explained the maintenance for the ball diamonds are done in a complicated
488 way, the mowing is done by the City and the schools deal with the bases and the turf.

489

490 **L. Berauer** stated there are 2 friendly amendments regarding the Resolution, one to
491 specify Parks and Recreation staff and the other pertaining to the title of the Resolution
492 and the second friendly amendment, in the first “whereas” of the Resolution.

493

494 **Damon Thompson** clarified the Resolution is actually a full staff recommendation
495 between the entire Parks system because this is going to be a collaborative project

496 between Parks and Recreation, Field Operations, Fleet and Facilities. It will include
497 everyone in the Parks System.

498
499 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission to vote on the Resolution by a show of hands.

500
501 **D. Barrett** stated he will pay very close attention to this project and will be reporting the
502 Commission on the progress.

503
504 **L. Berauer** pointed out there is money for this project. There was General Fund money
505 that was not given to Parks and the Commission thought it should be. City Council split
506 the difference and gave Parks part of the money and two thirds of the money has been
507 earmarked specifically for athletic field improvement.

508
509 **D. Barrett** stated he has continued his conversation with Jayne Miller regarding the
510 improvements of the fields and to make sure the contractors are hired that specifically
511 trained for this type of project.

512
513 **Damon Thompson** stated there is an estimated \$1.5 million available for the athletic
514 fields over the next 3 years.

515
516 **B. Macomber** asked if the estimated 1.5 million dollars is from the millage monies.

517
518 **Damon Thompson** stated the monies are from a mixture from Fund 06 millage, Fund
519 71 and the General Fund.

520
521 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission to vote on the resolution with the one friendly
522 amendment by a showing of hands.

523
524 **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ATHLETIC FIELD**
525 **IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR FULLER AND OLSON PARKS, AIRPORT FIELDS,**
526 **AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**
527

528 Whereas, The Parks Advisory Commission has expressed concerns related to the
529 conditions of the athletic fields within the park system, especially those for soccer, ultimate
530 Frisbee and field hockey;

531
532 Whereas, The Parks Advisory Commission created the Athletic Field Task Force to work
533 with City staff to evaluate the current athletic field reservation practices, policies and field
534 conditions and to provide recommendations for improvements;

535
536 Whereas, The Athletic Field Task Force and staff have put in countless hours to assess
537 current practices, policies, and field conditions;

538
539 Whereas, As a result of this evaluation process, the Task Force and staff have
540 recommended a number of significant recommendations;

541
542 Whereas, The Athletic Field Task Force and staff presented their findings to the Parks
543 Advisory Commission on April 15, 2008;

545 RESOLVED, That the Parks Advisory Commission supports the recommendations of the
546 Athletic Field Task Force and staff which includes the following work to be accomplished
547 during the 2008 and 2009 athletic field season:
548

- 549 ➤ Bid out and implement capital improvements at Fuller and Olson Fields beginning in
550 late summer 2008 and continuing through the 2009 season
551
- 552 ➤ In late spring 2008, establish a core staff team to
553
 - 554 ○ Manage and operate athletic fields at Fuller, Olson and neighborhood parks
555 and the Airport
 - 556
 - 557 ○ Revise and implement updated athletic field policies
558
 - 559 ○ Evaluate and update reservation practices and fee structure for athletic fields
560
 - 561
 - 562 ○ Revise maintenance practices to improve athletic fields at Fuller, Olson and
563 neighborhood parks and the Airport
564
- 565 ➤ Provide for information dissemination, such as a kiosk, at Fuller Park
566
- 567 ➤ Evaluate and update field use arrangements between the City and Ann Arbor Public
568 Schools Community Education and Recreation during the 2008 season
569
- 570 ➤ Provide ongoing updates to the Parks Advisory Commission during 2008 and 2009;
571 and
572

573 RESOLVED, That the Athletic Field Task Force continue to work with staff to implement the
574 above identified recommendations.
575

576 Date: May 20, 2008
577

578 **Ayes: (7) L. Berauer, B. Macomber, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, J. Lawter**
579 **D. Barrett, S. Rosencrans**
580

581 **Nays: (0) None.**
582

583 **Absent: (0) J. Grand, S. Offen**
584

585 *With a show of hands – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous*
586

587 **B-1** Approved Budget Update
588

589 **L. Berauer** stated at the last Work Session a Resolution was passed strongly urging
590 City Council not to accept the staff recommendation to use millage money for the Golf
591 Course improvements.
592

593 The Park Advisory Commission's recommendation was not accepted by City Council
594 but if failed by a narrow margin of 6 to 5.

595 L. Berauer explained the Mayor suggested the Park Advisory Commission revisit their
596 recommendations, the original recommendations in terms of the actual dollar amounts
597 were based on staff recommendations. Having heard from experts on the Golf Task
598 Force; some of the recommendations are not necessary to give Huron Hills Golf Course
599 in particular a fair chance.

600
601 The suggestion is to look at the budget in the original recommendation to see if there is
602 anything that can be cut and send the Resolution to City Council stating this is now the
603 dollar amount recommended to be invested. If this is to be done the Resolution should
604 be passed at the June meeting so that it can then go to City Council the next day so it
605 can be voted upon.

606
607 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission if they want to proceed in this direction.

608
609 **G. Nystuen** stated she felt this issue should be looked upon in this way and the
610 Commission took the point of view of giving the best input whether it was agreed upon
611 or not. The impact should be reviewed on what has been suggested on all of our Capital
612 Improvements.

613
614 The debt was erased on what we owed with the Golf Courses, which was a very
615 significant dollar amount at approximately 1.6 million dollars. For that not to be on the
616 enterprise fund is very helpful and was also a big contribution, additional funds were not
617 provided for support of what was recognized to be an expensive proposition to give
618 support to the Golf Courses.

619
620 The study for assessing how Huron Hills Golf Course was operating was deleted from
621 the budget. There was a suggestion something could be done internally and that there
622 would not be enough information to gather until after at least one season was
623 completed. The budget should be looked at as well as reviewing the Capital
624 Improvements that are forthcoming and what new innovative things are going on.

625
626 **B. Macomber** clarified that there were several Council members that stated, the Golf
627 Courses are Parks why shouldn't the Golf Courses receive millage funds and why is the
628 Park Advisory Commission saying the Golf Courses should not receive millage funds.

629
630 The consensus is not of the opinion that the Golf Courses are not Parks, and should not
631 receive millage funds, and should not receive the support of the Park Advisory
632 Commission. Being that this is such a large amount of money being proposed, which
633 was approved at the City Council meeting to go to the Golf Courses, which seemed like
634 a compulsive decision and change; this was the concern of the Park Advisory
635 Commission.

636
637 Until fairly recently it was not known that such a large amount of millage money
638 (approximately \$778,000.00) was newly transferred to the Golf Courses, the public was
639 unaware that such a large portion of the millage money was being transferred to the
640 Golf Courses.

641
642 **L. Berauer** suggested a public hearing specifically on this topic, to hear how the
643 residents would want the millage money spent.

645 **S. Rosencrans** stated possibly revising the original recommendations on areas where
646 cost savings can take place. S. Rosencrans also stated the Commission should not
647 change their position.

648
649 **T. Berla** stated the Commission should discuss what the impact would be if the plan
650 that City Council passed is implemented.
651 The question remains regarding which projects will be on hold as well as being able to
652 help with the building of the Skate Park if a large sum of money will go to the Golf
653 Courses.

654
655 **T. Berla** asked if City Council stated where the monies would come from at the end of
656 the sixth year.

657
658 **B. Macomber** stated that council person Stephen Rapundalo commented on the
659 changes that may occur at the Golf Courses and the amount that will be given to the
660 Golf Courses may not be all that will be needed. It would possibly be \$3,000,000.00 to
661 \$5,000,000.00 dollars that may need to go to the Golf Courses. The suggestion was not
662 made as to where the monies would actually come from.

663
664 **L. Berauer** stated in light of this information it is very important to plan a public hearing
665 by the end of the summer.

666
667 **B. Macomber** stated one of the next items on the agenda will be the Capital Projects
668 list, one of the questions will be how will the monies going to the Golf Courses effect
669 what was in the roster for Capital Projects.

670
671 B. Macomber stated she felt The Park Advisory Commission has not worked intimately
672 with the Capital Project plan and feels the Commission has not been well informed on
673 how the projects get on the list. The assumption is the projects get on the list due to
674 public meetings regarding particular facilities and the Pros Plan objectives being
675 reviewed.

676
677 **L. Berauer** stated the Commission seems to agree that a new Resolution will be
678 prepared proposing different recommendations.

679
680 L. Berauer reminded the Commission of the scheduled Work Session on May 31, 2008,
681 there is an agenda developed and it will be sent out to the Commission. The Work
682 Session will be approximately 4 hours.

683
684 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

685
686 **C-1 Capital Projects List**

687
688 **Damon Thompson** explained the Capital Projects list is an extensive document and
689 thanked everyone for their efforts. In the future the document will serve as a starting
690 point for the Capital Working group which will include representation from the Park
691 Advisory Commission and will further go along to coordinate activities across all areas
692 of the Parks System. This multi page worksheet was also passed to the Commission
693 for them to read along as Damon Thompson explained in depth.

695 **G. Nystuen** asked for an explanation regarding the active projects.
696

697 **Damon Thompson** stated there are projects that are currently on going, whether it be
698 in the design phase, the construction phase, upcoming project that have not begun,
699 but will start in the future. Damon Thompson directed the Commission to the note
700 section located on the documents that will give the status of the project.

701 **B. Macomber** stated her understanding regarding the Capital is the monies are
702 allocated in a budget year for a project but it does not mean the project is completed
703 that particular year.
704

705 **Damon Thompson** stated the Capital Projects are allocated in a year but are multi
706 year budgets and stay open until the accounts are closed.
707

708 **B. Macomber** stated the money has been allocated but not necessarily used.
709

710 **J. Lawter** asked the difference between encumbered and remaining funding.
711

712 **Damon Thompson** explained encumbered funding is anything that has a current
713 purchase order that has gone to City Council and they have awarded the bid on a
714 contract.
715

716 Funds that are remaining for the project are projects that are budgeted and there is
717 not a purchase order obtained.
718

719 **L. Berauer** asked if there were available funds that could be available in Fund 018 for
720 other projects.
721

722 **B. Macomber** asked if the \$232,000.00 balance among the Fund 018 monies are
723 allocated to the Golf Courses.
724

725 **Damon Thompson** stated no, this is money that is strictly designated in the balance
726 of Fund 018, if we were to end the year we would have a budget of approximately \$7.3
727 million dollars. If we spent \$3.5 million, planning to spend another \$3.7 million, which
728 would leave approximately \$232,000.00 that would still be available.
729

730 **Damon Thompson** explained Fund 071 in depth to the Commission as the
731 Commission read along.
732

733 **L. Berauer** asked if there is extra money in the operational budget, why couldn't this
734 money be transferred back to the Capital budget.
735

736 **Damon Thompson** asked if the Commission would like to see the \$200,000.00 that
737 Field Operations is absorbing to be placed back into the Capital side of the budget.
738

739 **G. Nystuen** stated she would like to recognize the money spent on millage on Capital
740 Improvements remain on the Capital Improvements side of the budget.
741

742 **L. Berauer** stated this would be the most logical and easily understood.
743

744 **B. Macomber** stated it would benefit the City to redefine it as Capital; reason being
745 the millage was written with a sliding feature where it could go from 20/80 to 40/60,
746 unfortunately when the language was written it did not dictate an average, the
747 Commission wanted to give the flexibility from year to year but there are concerns in
748 the public's mind that this past year it was 80/20 but the future of it holding at 80/20 is
749 uncertain. The redefinition could help.

750
751 **L. Berauer** agreed that there is a concern.

752
753 **Damon Thompson** stated as the budget is reviewed the amount will constantly shift.

754
755 **S. Rosencrans** asked why not include the information regarding Fund 071 in the
756 spreadsheet.

757
758 **Damon Thompson** stated initially it was going to be included in the spreadsheet but it
759 was not Capital so it was decided to separate it to show where it was actually coming
760 from.

761
762 **L. Berauer** stated originally the Park Security money was supposedly to come from
763 the Operational portion of Fund 071.

764
765 **B. Macomber** stated she noticed of the \$760,000.00, \$250,000.00 of that money is
766 recorded as 2009 Security.

767
768 **Damon Thompson** stated actually, only \$180,000.00. There was \$250,000.00
769 unallocated but there was \$70,000.00 that would actually be used for Park Security
770 and \$180,000.00 will be used for the Golf Courses.

771
772 **B. Macomber** stated she remembered in previous meetings the Commission was told
773 there was not any millage money allocated for Park Security in the 2008 – 2009
774 budget, and wants to know how this amount has appeared.

775
776 **L. Berauer** stated to her remembrance it was available money that was no longer
777 allocated for The Police Department so it was unclaimed money but it was available;
778 but since that time it has been allocated for the Golf Courses.

779
780 **Damon Thompson** stated that is correct.

781
782 **B. Macomber** stated to her understanding this was true for the 2007 – 2008 budget
783 year, but is sure for the 2008 -2009 there was not any money allocated for Park
784 Security.

785
786 **Damon Thompson** explained Fund 018 in depth to Commission which included the
787 completed projects.

788
789 **B. Macomber** thanked Damon Thompson for his hard work and wonderful
790 spreadsheets that were presented to the Commission.

791
792 **S. Rosencrans** asked when Damon would be leaving for a new position.
793

794 **Damon Thompson** stated July 7, 2008.

795
796 **G. Nystuen** asked if she misread the information regarding trails and if they are
797 considered being eliminated. G. Nystuen stated she is concerned and this is a serious
798 item to be eliminated.

799
800 **Damon Thompson** stated right now the trails are on hold and will possibly be
801 eliminated, more discussion will be held regarding this topic.

802
803 **L. Berauer** asked what determines how some projects get on the projects under
804 consideration for funding list versus the eliminated project list.

805
806 **Damon Thompson** stated that staff throughout the Parks system agreed at this point
807 and time there were some projects that could be eliminated and some projects based
808 upon priority settings that should be left for consideration of funding.

809
810 **J. Lawter** asked if there were 3 priorities, active, under consideration and eliminated.

811
812 **Damon Thompson** stated yes.

813
814 **G. Nystuen** stated maybe priorities should be placed in order.

815
816 **B. Macomber** stated it would be good to hear from staff how current priorities are
817 being established.

818
819 **S. Rosencrans** asked if a date that the report was prepared can be placed on the
820 document that was passed to the Commission.

821
822 **Damon Thompson** stated yes.

823
824 **L. Berauer** asked for an explanation regarding how the projects shown for elimination
825 were chosen to be eliminated.

826
827 **Damon Thompson** explained there were more projects than there was money to
828 complete the proposed projects.

829
830 **G. Nystuen** asked if there is a contingency for unexpected situations.

831
832 **Damon Thompson** stated yes.

833
834 **T. Berla** moved, supported by S. Rosencrans to go into closed session.

835
836 *On a roll call vote to ensure a quorum L. Berauer stated the Commission would*
837 *go into closed session.*

838
839 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

840
841 **E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER**

842
843 **F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS**

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- 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
 - K-1 City Council Items Update
 - K-2 Park Project Update
 - K-3 PAC Work Session Summary
 - K-4 Parks and Recreation Events for January – February 2008
 - K-5 Parks Advisory Commission 2008 Meeting Schedule

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Berauer** moved that the meeting be adjourned. The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.