



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 26, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, February 26, 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 4:13 p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (9) L. Berauer, B. Macomber D. Barrett, J. Grand, J. Lawter, G. Nystuen, S. Rosencrans, T. Berla, S. Offen (arrived at 4:17p.m.)

Ex-Officio Members Present: (2) S. Kunselman (arrived at 4:18 p.m.), M. Anglin

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None.

Members Absent: (0) None

Staff Present: (9) J. Miller, Colin Smith, D. Simon, Jason Nealis, D. Thompson, Tim Nagae, J. Dehring, Jason Frenzel (NAP), L. Bowen

Guests: (1) Deputy Chief Bazick

**L. Berauer** stated before the meeting that Christen Smith is no longer with the City of Ann Arbor and introduced Colin Smith to the Commission as Interim Parks Services Manager, and later in the meeting under the Report from Parks and Recreation Manager he will give an update on the staffing for Parks, how the search is going to fill open positions.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – L. Berauer** asked the Commission if there was anything that needed to be discussed or if there were any additions or requests. There were none.

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

**Tim Nagae** stated he was a producer at CTN Network and has come to the Parks Advisory Commission meeting to promote a television show called “Eco Sense,” which CTN have been producing for the last 6 months.

“Eco Sense” has a talk show format with various short documentary/news segments focusing on energy and environmental issues. Stating they just finished the first three shows, which are about energy. The show features Dave Konkle, the City’s Energy Coordinator, who is the main panelist for these energy shows. Also, it has Robert Black of the Energy Commission, Mayor Hieftje, and Sean Reed of the Clean Energy Coalition as another panelist for each show.

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The first “Eco Sense” show discusses problems caused by human energy consumption, such as global climate changes, Peak Oil, or energy shortage issues. Mayor Hieftje appears in the second show talking about the City’s energy use, future plans like the LED light program, solar panels and windmills. And the third show includes alternative fuel vehicles and energy conservation issues.

“Eco Sense” was made for the general audience. Mr. Nagae stated he understood all the PAC commissioners are familiar with these issues, so the contents of the show may not be anything new to them. Mr. Nagae stated he was confident that the show is visually interesting enough to draw more people’s attention to energy and environmental issues. He would like PAC to watch the program, so he brought the DVD copies of the three “Eco Sense” shows recorded on one disk for all the PAC commissioners today. Mr. Nagae asked the Commission to please share this video with anybody who is interested in viewing the show. He also states if there are any questions about the “Eco Sense show”, to please call him at CTN at 769-7422.

“Eco Sense I, II & III”  
(30 minute-talk/documentary TV Program about energy and environment)

“Eco Sense – Energy Challenge I”  
(Problems caused by human energy consumption)

Tuesday, 2/26 at 3:30pm  
Thursday, 2/28 at 9pm  
Sunday, 3/2 at 9am  
Friday, 3/7 at 8pm

“Eco Sense – Energy Challenge II”  
(Alternative energy sources)

Tuesday, 2/27 at 4pm  
Thursday, 2/28 at 9:30pm  
Sunday, 3/2 at 9:30am  
Friday, 3/7 at 8:30pm

“Eco Sense – Energy Challenge III”  
(Alternative fuel vehicles and energy conservation)

Premiere: Sunday, 2/24, in the 8 pm – 8:30pm time period.

Replays: Tuesday, 2/26 at 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, 2/26 at 9:00 p.m.  
Thursday, 2/28 at 2:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 3/1 at 9:30 p.m.  
Sunday, 3/2 at 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday, 3/2 at 10:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, 3/4 at 9:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, 3/5 at 3:30 pm  
Friday, 3/7 at 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 3/8 at 10:00 p.m.

103 On Comcast Channel 19

104  
105 **L. Berauer** stated when Mr. Nagae wrote her she felt what is being done in terms of the  
106 Environmental series is just absolutely wonderful, it's a great thing you are doing for the  
107 whole community getting the word out of what can be done.

108  
109 **T. Berla** asked if any of the programming will ever come on non-Comcast television  
110 outlets.

111  
112 **Tim Nagae** stated not at this time, only on Comcast. He also stated that he was hoping  
113 the Michigan Television Network would take it but they didn't.

114  
115 **T. Berla** stated now that there are other television providers in the city it is an interesting  
116 situation because he can't watch the meetings on his television provider because it is not  
117 Comcast,.

118  
119 **Tim Nagae** stated this is why he brought the DVD to the meeting, so that the  
120 Commissioners can watch it.

121  
122 **J. Miller** stated the reason it is only on Comcast is because CTN receives revenues from  
123 Comcast, which is why 'Eco-Sense' is broadcast through Comcast and not any other  
124 provider. Comcast is actually a funding source for CTN and it is through the cable  
125 franchise agreement with Comcast why the City channels are only broadcast on  
126 Comcast.

127  
128 **T. Berla** stated he was confused about that and maybe there is an answer to this, at  
129 some point he thought he saw a reference to similar revenues from AT&T and other  
130 providers in the same stream. First of all he thinks because this is a public service we  
131 want to be broadly available in the community if it's only going to be on Comcast because  
132 of the reason J. Miller stated, which is a good reason, then we need to re-think what we  
133 are doing and see if that is really smart, which can't be done in this meeting. If there is  
134 money going from AT&T then obviously the AT&T customers should get to see it.

135  
136 **J. Miller** stated as TV or viewing has become so much broader and there are other  
137 providers that's very much an issue the City is trying to address.

138  
139 **L. Berauer** stated she would like to add if there is any way, not knowing how expensive  
140 this is, but thinks it's be pretty simple, to get these programs on to the Web.

141  
142 **T. Nagae** stated they are thinking of this, but this is a 30 minute show, maybe it can be  
143 put on YouTube because it would not be good quality otherwise.

144  
145 **L. Berauer** stated she was not thinking of YouTube, she was thinking more of streaming  
146 video and there are high quality ways of doing it and then people could view it on  
147 demand.

148  
149 **Tim Nagae** stated they are in the process of doing things like this and stated he could not  
150 answer when this would become available.

151  
152 **L. Berauer** thanked Mr. Nagae for coming to the meeting, stating it is interesting because  
153 later in the agenda the Commission wanted to discuss the issue of the policy for lighting

154 our Athletic Fields and are interested in saving energy, stating this discussion fits in the  
155 agenda of today's meeting.

156  
157 **S. Rosencrans** stated he has seen the first couple of episodes of the show and thinks it  
158 is very good, he truly enjoyed them and is nicely done. The other thing is just feedback  
159 since Mr. Nagae is here and since we are in a public meeting, just feedback to CTN if it  
160 can be communicated, that when he watches the meetings on television he gets a loud  
161 buzzing in the audio for the public meetings and not on other channels. If this is a  
162 technical problem it should be passed on to CTN.

163  
164 **Tim Nagae** stated they have been having problems with this pertaining to bad  
165 connections and will take this information back to CTN.

166  
167 **S. Rosencrans** stated 'Eco Sense' is a great show.

168  
169 **Tim Nagae** passed out the DVD's of the "Eco Sense" program to the Commissioners.

170  
171 **Rosemarie Pitsch** spoke on behalf of the Ann Arbor Soccer Association and asked that  
172 her memo be included in the minutes:

173  
174 February 26, 2008

175  
176 Dear Members of the Parks Advisory Commission:

177  
178 This letter serves both to introduce PAC to our organization, and to support efforts to  
179 improve the soccer fields at Fuller Park, our home for the past several decades.

180  
181 The Ann Arbor Soccer Association is a volunteer-run non-profit organization that has  
182 served the Ann Arbor community for more than 30 years. Our mission is to promote and  
183 maintain the availability of adult recreational outdoor soccer. We provide a fun and safe  
184 atmosphere to all individuals, from the ages of 15 to senior citizens, regardless of playing  
185 experience or skill level. We are particularly unique because unlike leagues where  
186 players must wait for a spot on a team to become available and possibly have to try-out,  
187 we are truly open to anyone wanting to play soccer. Our format promotes skills  
188 development by blending less experienced players with more experienced players in a  
189 non-competitive environment. To our knowledge, there are no other organizations that  
190 offer the experience we do within 45 minutes of Ann Arbor. Further, as a not-for profit  
191 entity, we strive to keep our registration fees as low as possible so that we can provide an  
192 affordable fitness activity to as many people as possible. This activity promotes a  
193 healthier lifestyle than many other recreational activities because of the constant  
194 movement.

195  
196 The fields at Fuller Park have fallen into a state of disrepair over the past few years. The  
197 irrigation system has not functioned properly in approximately 4 years, and as a result,  
198 there is very little grass and the ground is very hard and uneven. We have observed an  
199 increase in both the frequency and severity of injuries as a result. I attended the January  
200 PAC meeting, and was very surprised at Councilman Kunselman's hesitation regarding  
201 planned, long overdue improvements at Fuller. We wish to respond to some of the  
202 concerns he raised, as well as clarify a few facts so that PAC is fully informed before  
203 making recommendations to City Council.

204

205 Mr. Kunselman raised the question of how much it costs to maintain a soccer field. When  
206 considering the answer, PAC should be aware that AASA owns and maintains all of the  
207 goals and nets at Fuller Park, not the city of Ann Arbor. We also pay for the lining of the  
208 fields. We make use of these for 90 minutes, Monday through Friday, and they are  
209 available for public use and enjoyment the rest of the time. I have heard some of the  
210 Parks Department's plans to build fences around Fuller and only allow renters access to  
211 the fields. While we appreciate the desire to protect the fields, we want to promote  
212 accessibility over exclusion. This does come with the need to commit to field stewardship.  
213 We have committed to maintaining equipment and lining at Fuller, and have done so for  
214 many years. While we may experience frustration that our equipment is subjected to wear  
215 and tear by a broader constituency than our membership, we also recognize that part of  
216 our stewardship benefits the community as a whole. We are not in favor of making the  
217 fields into professional quality fields that restricts use to only groups with reservations,  
218 and leaves city residents who want to kick around a soccer ball with a few friends with  
219 nowhere to play.

220  
221 Our organization probably spends more time at this park than any other group, and we  
222 are not asking for World Cup quality playing fields. It is probably unrealistic to expect that  
223 at Fuller, but it is reasonable to expect a functional irrigation system and more grass than  
224 rocks and dirt. The first step should be to bring the irrigation system back to working  
225 order. Fields should be rolled in the spring while the ground is soft, and should be seeded  
226 and aerated as appropriate after that. Fuller Park is the only park in Ann Arbor with  
227 enough fields to support a league. In fact, there are only 11 soccer fields in Ann Arbor  
228 (many of which actually do not have any soccer goals on them, making Fuller one of the  
229 only places in Ann Arbor where park goers can play soccer). As the PROS plan indicated,  
230 the tremendous growth of soccer and other growing sports has placed severe demands  
231 on the existing facilities...and the current number of fields...does not come close to  
232 meeting the demand."

233  
234 Mr. Kunselman seemed to imply that there is little interest in soccer in Ann Arbor,  
235 because "the same 400 people" sign up to play every season in our league. From our  
236 perspective, repeat business is an indication that we are doing a good job! It is neither fair  
237 nor appropriate to draw conclusions about the level of interest in the sport from the casual  
238 observation of one former player, however. The fact of the matter is that our growth is  
239 limited by the number of fields we are able to rent every year, either due to "resting" of  
240 fields or reservations from other groups. Our league has been running at capacity with  
241 approximately 1000 individual registrations over 3 seasons (and had waitlists for  
242 registrations) for the past few years. We have made virtually no effort to advertise our  
243 league beyond our website because the number of available fields limits our potential  
244 growth. Despite this, we do have a substantial number of new players every year, and we  
245 welcome them as much as we do our returning players.

246  
247 Another area of concern was that Fuller Park is not used during the winter months. Very  
248 few of the city's many parks are used during these months, but if this was mentioned as  
249 an indication of a lack of revenue for the city, this is not entirely accurate. The city rents  
250 the parking lot at Fuller Park to the University of Michigan from Labor day-Memorial day.  
251 Knowing what I pay for my blue pass, I would certainly hope this is a lucrative source of  
252 income for the city.

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255 Our organization has a vested interest in Fuller Park, both as soccer players and as  
256 residents of Ann Arbor. We wish to offer any assistance we can to improve the condition  
257 of the fields, and hope that we can work together with PAC to achieve this goal. Please  
258 do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

259  
260 Sincerely,

261  
262 Rosemarie Pitsch  
263 Ann Arbor Soccer Association

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265  
266 **L. Berauer** asked Ms. Pitsch to send her comments electronically so that they could be  
267 included in the minutes and also asked if Ms. Pitsch had been in contact with our Athletic  
268 Field committee and hopes she will be meeting with them because they will be presenting  
269 their final report at the next meeting on March 18, 2008.

270  
271 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

272  
273 **A-1 J. Lawter** moved, supported by **S. Offen** to approve the minutes of January  
274 15, 2008 with additions. The minutes of January 15, 2008 were approved  
275 unanimously with stated corrections to be added.

276  
277 **S. Offen** had a comment on page 9 regarding the Golf Course Resolution,  
278 and stated it would have been helpful if at the very end the entire amended  
279 Resolution would have been printed.

280  
281 **L. Berauer** stated she noticed the Resolution was in the packet, but would  
282 agree that they should be re-inserted in the minutes in the appropriate  
283 place. Stating that the first amended Resolution should be inserted at line  
284 458 and the Resolution regarding the Liquor License should be inserted at  
285 line 510.

286  
287 **L. Berauer** commented that the minutes are amazing and that the January  
288 15, 2008 meeting was a very intense meeting and the way the discussion  
289 was captured was absolutely a model, actually above and beyond and more  
290 than a model. Also stating Karen Sydney was a speaker at the January  
291 meeting and would send Lynn Bowen the actual document to also be added  
292 to these minutes.

293  
294 **L. Berauer** asked for a vote approving the Minutes with the additions that  
295 she and **S. Offen** suggested. The Minutes were approved with the  
296 additions.

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298 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

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300 **Buhr Park and Veteran's Park Staff presentation on Ice Arena**

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302 **Jason Nealis**, supervisor at Veteran's Park who has historically worked as a  
303 seasonal employee at Buhr for four years, spoke on the amenities at Buhr Park  
304 stating it is an outdoor skating facility with a pavilion style roof with open walls that  
305 gives the experience of skating outside. Also stating that It's kind of a throw-back that

306 a lot of communities don't have these days and has been mentioned nationally in  
307 Newsweek several years ago along with 3 other ice skating rinks, Rockefeller Center,  
308 the Frog Pond in Boston, and Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park. The story can  
309 still be found on-line. It was mentioned as one of the places to enjoy outdoor skating.  
310

311 Roughly 95% of the user's are Ann Arbor City residents, and scholarships  
312 opportunities are available at Buhr Park and also at Veteran's Park.  
313

314 Buhr Park offers public skating on a daily basis to enjoy and/or hockey events,  
315 whether it's drop-in for special interest groups for children, women or men, there are  
316 also opportunities for children to practice their hockey skills with sticks and pucks.  
317

318 There have also been special event skating and weekend events at Buhr and  
319 Veteran's in an effort to boost public skating attendance The 'Buhr Blast' was  
320 featured in the Ann Arbor News this past Sunday . This was one of a number of big  
321 events held throughout the winter.  
322

323 **Dennis Simon** stated Veteran's is the indoor rink and is open from mid-September  
324 through mid-May every year. The only two days during that time that Veteran's is  
325 closed are Christmas Day and New Year's Day, other than those two days it is open  
326 from 6:00 a.m. to at least 12:00 a.m. 7 days a week. People are generally on the ice  
327 by 7:00 a.m. most days of the week and on the weekends go as late as 2:00  
328 a.m., Vet's is a busy rink.  
329

330 There is an instructional skating program for children aging from 3 1/2 years of age to  
331 adults offered at Vet's. For the last 10 years the City's instructional program has  
332 placed in the top ten in the country with the United States Figure Skating  
333 Association's Basic Skills Program. Last year Vet's dropped down to 6th in the top 10,  
334 this year they are on pace to hit that number or increase that number back up to the  
335 top 4 or 5. There is an adult hockey program at Veteran's Park, currently the Adult  
336 Hockey program has 746 participants ranging from novice in the Never Ever league  
337 for the adult that has never skated or played hockey, it is a good way for them to get  
338 involved in the game, to the "A" division where there are former NHL players. There is  
339 also the 55 and older group that plays every Monday morning and Thursday  
340 afternoon, with some players being close to 80 years of age still playing twice a week.  
341

342 A scholarship program is offered but currently the scholarship program numbers are  
343 low, so far 27 people have signed up, taking advantage of the scholarship program for  
344 instructional skating classes where otherwise they wouldn't have a chance to  
345 participate in that. We have approximately 895 scholarship rink/pool passes. The  
346 majority of the people use that pass in the summer but are able to use it in the winter  
347 as well for public skating.  
348

349 Public skating is offered daily with adult skates in the morning on Monday,  
350 Wednesday and Friday from 11:00 to 1:00, and children's skating on weekends and  
351 during the week as well. Any time Ann Arbor Schools are closed, all adult skates are  
352 open to children, and it seems to be going very well. New this year there has been  
353 skating offered on Thursday's for pre-schooler's and home schooler's. On the first  
354 Saturday of every month there have been special events offered, ie Super Bowl, DJ  
355 Skate.  
356

357 Also new this year, the Adult mid-western sectional competition for the Ann Arbor  
358 Figure Skating Club is being hosted at Veteran's on March 8 and 9. It's the first time  
359 in approximately 6 years that the Figure Skating Club has been back at Vet's. When  
360 the Cube was built, they moved all of their programming there. It will be great to have  
361 them back! Another special event this year was Team Harbin from China playing  
362 against our adult hockey league as an All-Star game. Other groups using Vet's are  
363 the Amateur Hockey Association for the youth hockey and Pioneer Girls Hockey team  
364 for the past 4 years. There is also a private group that rents ice every Friday night for  
365 a women's hockey league called Mackrel, they accept everyone of every skill level.  
366

367 **G. Nystuen** complimented staff on the spread featured in the Ann Arbor News,  
368 stating it was good to see and is important to our Parks. Also stating it seems that the  
369 programs out at Veteran's Park seem to be full, and asked D. Simon what his feeling  
370 was on how things are going and if he was satisfied.  
371

372 **D. Simon** stated he is not satisfied. He believes they could be getting more but with  
373 the economy being as it isa few people were lost. In years past in the instructional  
374 skating program families would sign up for all four sessions right away, but since the  
375 economy has been poor they are signing up one session at a time now. He would like  
376 to see the program grow. The instructional skating has been restructured, weekends  
377 had not been offered but that has been changed around this year for the first time in  
378 approximately 20 years, and numbers are starting to come back. Public skating is  
379 also starting to increase. Cheryl Saam came up with good ideas for special events  
380 and there have been very positive responses and an increase of participants,  
381 including new people, especially in the morning skates where it's typically been the  
382 same people for the last 20 years.  
383

384 **J. Nealis** stated public skating numbers are going up due to the supervisors at Buhr  
385 Park being very instrumental with new ideas for the public skating. Buhr doesn't  
386 have much programming during the ice season, it's mostly public skating and private  
387 rentals.  
388

389 **S. Offen** stated he looked at cost center reports and noticed the budget for  
390 administration for Veteran's Park was over \$100,000.00 more this year than last year  
391 in expenditures and for Buhr administration was approximately \$30,000.00 more than  
392 last year and asked for the increases to be explained.  
393

394 **D. Simon** stated since 2002 he had been the only full time supervisor at the Vet's,  
395 this year Jason is also a full-time supervisors at Veteran's Park and Cheryl Saam has  
396 come over from the canoe liveries during the winter months. Also the utilities have  
397 increased a little.  
398

399 **C. Smith** stated there has been a staff increase added to the expenses since it is not  
400 feasible to have only one supervisor at the facility since the hours of operation at  
401 Veteran's Park are so extensive . It is important to have both supervisors there.  
402

403 There is also another new charge in the administration budgets for Vet's and Buhr  
404 which is the IT charge that in the past was paid out of the central administration  
405 budget in the General Fund where all facility IT charges were lumped in together. In  
406 the current budget IT charges have been allocated to each facility depending on what  
407 programs are used and the amount of computers you have. This is a substantial cost



408 and is approximately \$23,000 for Buhr, and for Veteran's it could be approximately  
409 this cost and possibly higher.

410  
411 **S. Offen** asked if D. Simon and J. Nealis were the only two staff members at  
412 Veteran's Park.

413  
414 **J. Nealis** stated there are also seasonal workers there, also explaining the other staff  
415 that are at this facility – skating instructors, Zamboni operator, concessions  
416 operations.

417  
418 **S. Offen** asked if all those funds came from the administration budget.

419  
420 **D. Simon** explained depending on what activities, there are different areas that it  
421 would be charged to such as general skating, adult hockey etc. Some seasonal staff  
422 are charged to administration.

423  
424 **S. Kunselman** expressed his thanks to the staff and the efforts to bring more skaters  
425 to the ice rinks, he attended the Buhr Park Buhr Blast and it was very well attended  
426 with lots and lots of children which is what he likes to see. He believes that another  
427 program is half the cost on Tuesday nights and is very commendable. The costs are  
428 still being paid regardless if anyone is on the ice or not, the more people that are on  
429 this ice, we are definitely getting the monies worth of what we are spending to keep  
430 these facilities open. He also suggested not using metal handle brooms for the  
431 broom ball because he broke one twice, they don't last well, and we should stay with  
432 the wooden handle brooms. Also asking a question regarding the Women's Hockey  
433 league on Friday nights at Vet's and asked what happened to general public skating  
434 on Friday nights at Vet's? Expressing that general public skating on Friday nights was  
435 one of the most well attended general public skating time that he could remember  
436 growing up in Ann Arbor and brought in a lot of teenagers, where do they go now if  
437 they aren't going to Vet's?

438  
439 **D. Simon** stated that in 1996-1997 public skating on Friday's nights was discontinued  
440 because we were competing with the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, it was a new facility and  
441 everyone was going there. There weren't any adult Women's Leagues in Ann Arbor  
442 and there was a request for this. We had some users at Vet's that put together the  
443 league and they've rented it ever since then, it's worked out very well.

444  
445 **S. Kunselman** commented that if you could not go head to head with the Cube,  
446 maybe it's because of the fees, it is a dollar more for general public skate at  
447 Veteran's.

448  
449 **D. Simon** explained the difference in the ages (at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube you are  
450 considered an adult at the age of 12 years old, at the City of Ann Arbor you are an  
451 adult at the age of 18) as far as the consideration of being an adult which makes a  
452 difference in the price of admission. Cost wise we are comparable and pretty equal  
453 with the Ann Arbor Ice Cube, there are certain things that we don't charge for that the  
454 Cube does. The Cube charges \$2 for the skating tutors but we provide them for free.

455  
456 **C. Smith** explained the price is a little cheaper for the price of admission at the Ann  
457 Arbor Ice Cube but it is important to notice the difference in the ages, and what is  
458 even more important to know is if you want to go to a public skate at the Ann Arbor

459 Ice Cube during the week, the options on the weekdays are 6:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. or  
460 10:30 to 11:50 a.m. The reason is primarily a rink wants to be able to rent their prime  
461 time ice in the evenings to teams, to leagues that will play and that will come week-in  
462 and week-out. This way revenue is guaranteed. At Buhr public skating is available  
463 every evening of the week other than Monday between 7:15 and 8:45, which is a  
464 team that could easily be rented to a hockey team. We choose not to do that  
465 because we think it's important that the public has an opportunity to get out and skate,  
466 the kids obviously can't skate at 6:00 am at the Ice Cube. We're also at the whim of  
467 the weather, if it's a day where it's cold, some people might not come out to the public  
468 skating but if it's a team that had rented the ice, they will show up.

469  
470 **S. Kunselman** expressed he was glad to see a lot of thought went into this. He still  
471 thought that if the leagues have the ability to rent, and do have the Ice Cube to rent,  
472 some of the emphasis should be on the general public skate for our community. From  
473 what he sees at Buhr at general public skate, we're also getting a lot of people from  
474 Saline, Ypsilanti and outside of the community. They're not going to the Ann Arbor  
475 Ice Cube, they're coming to our facility because it's a little cheaper and may be a little  
476 more accessible to them, and possibly because of the hours, which is very good. He  
477 wondered why Ann Arbor citizens would drive a little future to go to the Ann Arbor Ice  
478 Cube on a Friday night. Friday night was the most well attended time slot for many,  
479 many years. It's hard to believe that the Ice Cube siphoned off that number of people  
480 since they're out in the township. This is a topic he would like to see re-visited at  
481 some point. We're here to provide recreation not just for leagues and people who can  
482 join a team, but for the basic citizen and their families. He believes that's where the  
483 focus should be for the primary emphasis for Parks & Recreation.

484  
485 **T. Berla** asked when Buhr has general skating and if it was a technical decision that  
486 one of the two parks would be open for general skate but not both on the Friday night.  
487 He also asked the approximate cost for someone to use the rink, whether it is  
488 subsidized, and if so, the approximate subsidy. If it's rented to teams, the breakeven  
489 point is achieved but if there's a public skate, 30-35 people are needed to break even,  
490 sometimes you get enough to make money and sometimes not? On average, does it  
491 break even or not?

492  
493 **D. Simon** stated public skating is available every night at Buhr and that it was a  
494 technical decision that one of the two parks would be open for general skate but not  
495 both on Friday nights. For a public skate, approximately \$170.00 per hour needs to  
496 be generated. If only 10 people show up for a public skate, the \$170 is not met, while  
497 a rental guarantees that number, so the subsidy is not there.  
498 Depending on the time of the season, if there is light weather the attendance may  
499 be down – people aren't thinking skating. During the colder weather, mid-November  
500 through April, the public skate can consistently do quite well, hitting the max capacity  
501 300 especially on the holiday skating. It's been a lot of years since we've seen those  
502 number but it's come back. On Sunday afternoons right now, that would be the  
503 busiest skate where there are over 100 participants typically.

504  
505 **S. Offen** asked if there was competition from Yost, they have public skates now and  
506 then.  
507

508 **D. Simon** stated there is not competition from Yost because the UM hockey team is  
509 in charge of that rink so if they need it for any reason, they can call off any scheduled  
510 event, they have precedence on that surface.  
511

512 **L. Berauer** asked if users dropped off because of the opening of Ann Arbor Ice Cube.  
513 She also said that it was mentioned that the scholarship numbers were a little  
514 disappointing and wondered how to get word out to the community that these are  
515 available.  
516

517 **C. Smith** stated the handout given to the Commission explains the numbers for the  
518 total visitors have actually stabilized or have actually gone up slightly over the last 3  
519 seasons..  
520

521 **D. Simon** wasn't sure what needs to be done differently to let the public know. Once  
522 the summer rolls around, the use of the pool/rink pass is incredible. The rink has not  
523 seen a lot of scholarship use, and only a fraction of memberships are being used.  
524

525 **J. Nealis** stated when a scholarship is awarded, they are made aware that the pass is  
526 good for both the pool in the summer and the rinks in the winter. Ice skating is not as  
527 popular as going to a swimming pool.  
528

529 **L. Berauer** asked if the thought was that the dual scholarship is probably capturing  
530 most of the people who want to skate. She stated that the information was very  
531 enlightening.  
532

533 **J. Nealis** indicated she was correct about the dual scholarships.  
534  
535

536 **C. Smith** stated compressors were purchased last year for both Veteran's and Buhr  
537 Park, which was a large capital purchase. The compressors that were replaced were  
538 approximately 25 years old. A resolution to purchase new Zamboni's for both  
539 facilities was recently approved by Council, replacing a 1984 model at Buhr and a  
540 1986 model at Vets, which have been challenging to keep running. The rinks are  
541 excited to have this new equipment.  
542

### 543 **Adopt-A-Park Program Presentation**

544  
545 **L. Berauer** introduced Jason Frenzel from NAP who also runs the Adopt-A-Park  
546 program.  
547

548 **Jason Frenzel** spoke of the upcoming special events for the volunteer program. He  
549 was very happy with the winter planning session. There are a lot of events for the  
550 upcoming spring volunteer program. The first-ever mud puppy survey just wrapped  
551 up. Mud puppies are an all-aquatic salamander that look a lot like mud. The frog and  
552 toad and salamander kick off is coming up as well as the prescribed burn program  
553 training for volunteer crews, and the breeding bird survey kick off. –There a ton of  
554 word days coming up, this year more than any other year. With the public events  
555 there is also a lot of work coming up with private groups, the Kiwanis, the Law School,  
556 the Business School, new incoming students come and work as a team building  
557 exercise, Fuller Field got adopted in the Adopt-A-Park program by the Ann Arbor  
558 Ultimate League to try to do some cleanup and planting. It's hard to find the private

559 groups and get to know them, it's very much word of mouth, but every year they all  
560 come back and we pick up a couple more. Last year there were 45 different groups,  
561 which was a distinct increase from the previous year. It's very exciting to have more  
562 and more partnerships with the community organizations who are out there. The  
563 Parks Steward program is also continuing to grow.  
564

565 NAP budget and staffing has slightly increased over the last number of years, his  
566 positions is now permanent and he has some paid staff assistants in the volunteer  
567 program which has freed him up to do some wonderful background projects he's  
568 wanted to do for several years, including developing a much more broad training  
569 spectrum for the Parks Stewards and implementing projects. The Adopt-A-Park  
570 program is going very well, mostly word of mouth including a little PR work and help  
571 from CTN to help develop a communication plan and promote the Adopt-A-Park  
572 program and big spring kick off, which is done on an annual basis. This year it's  
573 intentionally on the same date as the downtown cleanup so they will be partnering for  
574 raising awareness. It will be interesting to see how many people come out and hear  
575 about the programs as a result of the paid PR and see what that does differently since  
576 that's never been done at NAP before.  
577

578 The Parks Advisory Commission is invited to all of the events, they are all family  
579 friendly, there's something for everyone to do at all of the events, and feedback is  
580 welcomed regarding programs from your perspective.  
581

582 **S. Rosencrans** asked for a brief explanation of the difference between what the  
583 people in the Parks Stewardship Program do versus the people in the Adopt-A-Park.  
584

585 **J. Frenzel** explained that the Park Stewardship program is a long term program for  
586 people who are committed to certain parcels of land, with long term learning, and a  
587 thorough, understanding relationship with the NAP office and staff, they are offered  
588 explanations of how eco-system dynamics and restoration works, offer them an  
589 opportunity to be out in the parks as much as they can, work on projects in the natural  
590 area that they're stewarding, marrying their passion in the project with NAP's priorities  
591 and understanding the importance of that part. . Coming together in what could be  
592 done, not asking them to do projects they're not interested in, helping them to  
593 understand if they're considering doing something that's not appropriate in some way.  
594 The Steward program is a long term relationship between the volunteer, the parcel  
595 and NAP staff.  
596

597 The Adopt-A-Park program is modeled somewhat after the Steward program and is  
598 an individual or group relationship with the park., it's a long term relationship. The  
599 learning curve is very accelerated or shortened because the things this group does is  
600 what we all do in our yards and gardens at home or we did as children, like planting  
601 trees and flowers, woodchipping, picking up trash and general beautification, and this  
602 group can literally go out the next day to start working, checking in with NAP staff and  
603 other Parks staff about what we're going to have them do because the expertise  
604 doesn't lie within NAP, it lies with the Park Planners' and field workers' hands. They  
605 can get out and start working right away and come back year after year. One of the  
606 reasons we have a kick off is not only to get PR value by having a big event but also  
607 to get the volunteers reinvigorated after the winter and get them out into the parks.  
608

609 **L. Berauer** asked if the Park Stewards do trash pickup or plant trees.

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**J. Frenzel** explained the funding for the Adopt-A-Park is within the mowed, playground and open Parks, like Veteran's, Fuller Park or the neighborhood Park where there may be a playground. Both come from the Parks Millage but they are through different lines, NAP differentiates them through both funding and type of park. He tries to blur the line because at least half of the parks have both and the individual volunteer may or may not want to concentrate on any portions of those parks. He tries not to make it an issue in their eyes but internally there is a difference.

**L. Berauer** summarized that the stewards work mostly in natural areas and the adopt-a-park people work in more neighborhood parks or active recreational parks.

**T. Berla** asked is there a way the Frisbee group could be a part of Adopt-A-Park and a way to put this information on their web site.

**J. Frenzel** stated that with the staff increases we have had for the past year, been able to update the NAP and Adopt-A-Park web page to have really useful interactive information. There is a purposeful decision to have a delay on it, the volunteers want the shiny bauble at the start so there is a 12-24 month window on the relationship to make sure it will stand for a while.

**L. Berauer** asked how the connection was made with University of Michigan and if NAP was approached by them or not.

**J. Frenzel** stated every entity within the University in essence is its own separate volunteering organization. There are a very small handful of over arching volunteering organizations within the University, and they do participate also where all of the undergrads can come out if they choose on a given volunteer day. The vast majority of where we get out volunteers or why we have University volunteers is because a huge portion of University groups have volunteering and community building as a charge in their missions, ie the fraternities and sororities whose literal mandate is to give to the community, the honor students come out every year, it's a great activity, that is their mission. We put out the PR to those places within the University and in all of the different buildings where we feel there is a moderate or mild overlap of the mentality.

**L. Berauer** thinks it's great they're making those connections, she likes to see more student and University involvement in the community and this is a great way to do it. She asked if the Storm Water credit which is \$80,000 is going back to NAP and if it was NAP's staff who is going to implement most of it, certainly the educational activities.

**J. Frenzel** stated he was not part of the decision making process regarding the Stormwater Credit, but understood that it was to be credited back to Parks in general.

**J. Miller** stated it is a lump sum within the Parks & Recreation budget as well as credits for all of the other things we do, NAP does a lot of them and so does Leslie Science Center, and the Canoe Liveries, they're actually across the board, and they are identified by each park.

**L. Berauer** stated the program is very impressive and are doing a great job.

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## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **B-1 Park Security Report**

**Deputy Chief Bazick** stated that Deputy Chief O'Dell, Christen Smith and Karla Henderson had been regularly meeting about the information, also stated he did not have a lot of statistics and asked what information the Commission needs.

**G. Nystuen** stated the Commission had figures for 3 years of all of the police calls within the parks.

**Deputy Chief Bazick** asked if this was the report given to the Commission at the beginning of the pilot.

**G. Nystuen** stated now we have the calls that you have reported but it is not clear if they are all of the calls in the parks, or only those associated with this special program. They had 3 years of all of the calls in the Parks, which was approximately 600 calls each year, by month.

We don't know if these are all of the calls made to the parks 24-7 for an entire year, which we now have an entire year behind us - 2007. To see if there is any difference in the years we would need to get that for this last year, the equivalent of what we had for the previous year. She stated she had made a separate chart for the more serious incidents which really do concentrate in a few places, there were many parks where we never had a call. The ones where there are serious incidents, it would be good if a time could be put on it to get a sense of what was going on.

**Deputy Chief Bazick** stated if we were able to take a look at the calls by hour of the day and/or the day of the week, that would be a different picture from what was originally put together from what he recalled.

**G. Nystuen** stated it was simply every call that the police made, it gave the Park and what kind of call it was. It was approximately 50 different categories of calls, the information was by the category, by the Park and by the month. She didn't think the information was given by the time and didn't think the time would be important except for the more serious calls. Approximately 10 were picked out that were the most criminal activities and would be good to get a better idea. It was clear that there was a concentration in certain Parks, which is expected.

**L. Berauer** asked if data requested is what we originally asked for when the pilot started so the total can be compared with before and after.

**G. Nystuen** stated yes, to see if there has been a significant difference of calls and activities after we emphasized this. It has been a great advantage from doing this pilot is that we are trying to coordinate information from people in Parks with Police about where problems were and if they could do a better job using Police resources than Parks, getting better coordination is a great advantage, whether there's been a

711 real significant difference in the amount of things going on is a little hard to tell until  
712 the four years are compared..

713  
714 **Deputy Chief Bazick** asked if there were particular kinds of calls for service based  
715 on what PAC can remember from the initial graph that would be considered to be  
716 serious, because another way to handle this to try to simplify the information would  
717 be to categorize serious offenses versus moderate offenses.

718  
719 **G. Nystuen** expressed when she did a sub-chart of what had happened, she found  
720 the concentration in certain Parks, there were only certain parks with issues that  
721 seemed more serious, many calls were simply noise or other calls that were not  
722 considered serious.

723  
724 **S. Offen** stated that in addition to getting all of the incident information, he felt it  
725 would be very helpful to get an evaluation of how many and what hours officer's were  
726 actually on duty since this was on an as-needed basis and changed on a weekly or  
727 bi-weekly basis depending on need, now that we have had almost a year of  
728 experience it would be helpful to see what the trends are, how many hours per week  
729 were officers actually deployed between, the Police Officers and the Community  
730 Standards Officer's. He would also like information on what kind of decision making  
731 and what kind of logic went into how to deploy them and where to send them. I know  
732 this was supposed to be changing on an as-needed basis, based on the meeting of  
733 the staff and wondered how this process worked, and even if there is some anecdotal  
734 data which says that it was found there was a lot of activity in Leslie Park and  
735 therefore we had an officer go there on a regular basis over the next month and  
736 because of that we were able to curtail some incidents going on, some data to show  
737 how the system is working or not working.

738  
739 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated strategic resource allocation. A broader basis is done  
740 for the City with crime trends in general, we have a crime meeting twice a month and  
741 staff from shifts, the Detective Division, people from Probation Parole and the  
742 University of Michigan meet and take a look at crime trends, and we take a strategic  
743 approach to deploying resources for the coming weeks based on the location, time of  
744 day, day of week.

745  
746 **S. Offen** asked if these meetings took place and were they effective.

747  
748 **L. Berauer** asked S. Offen if what he's looking for is a more detailed breakdown than  
749 by month.

750  
751 **S. Offen** stated that he thought a month was too big a period of time.

752  
753 **T. Berla** stated what he thinks it would be very helpful to wait until summer when  
754 more hours are put in and see if one week in June, for example, to see a log of  
755 everything that occurred on a particular day at a particular park, ie on this day this  
756 officer went to Gallup Park , walked around for half an hour, including if this was for a  
757 call, something that was scheduled at a meeting, or something that was just done on  
758 the spur of the moment, what was the reason, what happened etc. These entries  
759 would give a feel of how much presence is actually in the Parks. One week with data  
760 would be helpful to visualize.

761

762 **Deputy Chief Bazick** passed communication to the Commission regarding patrol  
763 logs compiled since July., He explained that what Deputy Chief O'Dell had been  
764 doing was compiling the statistics from the Patrol Activity log. Each time an officer is  
765 the parks on patrol, not including calls for service where they are dispatched, the  
766 times are put in sequentially, the record will reflect exactly what the officer did and  
767 also could reference the violation if needed. The next graph provided will not look  
768 exactly like the last one because of transitions in the dispatch system this past year.  
769 This log would be the basis for compiling the type of report PAC is asking for.

770  
771 **T. Berla** stated the log is basically stating what was done on the entire shift, to see  
772 this would be helpful for a week.

773  
774 **L. Berauer** stated that overall what they are looking for in addition to more specificity,  
775 is the overall data so it can be compared to what went on before the pilot.

776  
777 **D. Barrett** stated when Christen Smith spoke of this and mentioned a violent crime at  
778 Bandemer had taken place and that having this service in place was very important  
779 in stopping this violent crime. He also asked if the logs given to the Commission  
780 would show notations that would distinguish a runaway dog versus a serious crime.

781  
782 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated these logs are a step back in time. They've been trying  
783 to converted these kinds of logs into electronic records, but for various reasons it  
784 hasn't completely worked out. This is the way that officers used to capture  
785 everything they did, a crime would have been noted if a report was taken and if an  
786 arrest had taken place. It might be on the log but it would certainly be on the  
787 computer-aided dispatch system. It will just be necessary to figure out how to  
788 combine the two.

789  
790 **D. Barrett** stated a serious crime such as an assault versus a runaway dog is totally  
791 different and somehow this should be reflected in the information given to the  
792 Commission so it's possible to evaluate the importance of the program, it's not just  
793 raw data but also the contours of what is happening.

794  
795 **Deputy Chief Bazick** asked the Commission what kind of feedback the Park  
796 Advisory Commission has received from the community since this pilot started,  
797 favorable, concerns from the public?

798  
799 **L. Berauer** asked the Commission if anyone had heard anything from the public  
800 since the Pilot started. The response from the Commission was nothing negative has  
801 been mentioned regarding the pilot.

802  
803 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated if the Commission hears any feedback regarding the  
804 pilot program, let him know.

805  
806 **L. Berauer** stated a table was in the report comparing the pros and cons of the  
807 Police versus the Park Rangers. She questioned whether the Community Standards  
808 Officers had gone into the parks before, and she believed that whatever ticketing had  
809 occurred was done by the Park Ranger. It would be helpful to have the hours worked  
810 by Community Standards Officers broken down by week rather than by month  
811 compared with the hours spent in Parks prior. She would like to get a sense from the  
812 department on whether Park Rangers at this point could be added with good effect in



813 terms of saving the Police Department time and labor, cost efficiencies and being  
814 able to do things that the Police cannot do, such as educational activities.

815  
816 **B. Macomber** asked to have her memory refreshed on the timeline of the pilot  
817 program, and thought it was decided to be for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

818  
819 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated that originally it was supposed to be for 90 days.

820  
821 **L. Berauer** stated a major change took place for the funding. Originally a proposal  
822 was to be funded through the Park Millage money and ultimately the decision was  
823 made that the Park Millage money would not be used, and understood from  
824 Councilmember Kunselman it is being funded through Safety Services.

825  
826 **Deputy Chief Bazick** confirmed that they were not receiving any funding as a  
827 subsidy. It's been factored in as part of the general fund budget to manage  
828 throughout the year.

829  
830 **L. Berauer** stated she would like an opinion from the Police on if there has been a  
831 detrimental effect on other areas of security in the City as a result of focusing more time  
832 in the Parks. Since July they have been putting in extra hours compared to what they  
833 used to do, spending more hours in the parks.

834 **S. Kunselman** stated it should be not be called extra hours, because the Police  
835 Department is here to provide general public safety, it's an additional task.

836  
837 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated it is directed patrol, we are not putting in more hours,  
838 there is not more than an 8 hour day required, but certainly focusing more of the 40  
839 hour work week on time in the Parks.

840  
841  
842 **B. Macomber** stated this pilot project that ended up getting extended from the 90  
843 days to the 07-08 fiscal year, we now have the 08-09 year to figure a plan for Park  
844 Security, and it will take the form of a recommendation to City Council. She  
845 wondered about the timeframe for the recommendation.

846  
847 **J. Miller** stated we have a 2 year budget cycle, as part of that 2 year budget cycle,  
848 the first year of the 2 year cycle the budget plan is approved but they only have the  
849 authority to approve an annual budget. They approve the 2 year plan and as part of  
850 that they adopt the first year of the budget. This year they will approving the 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
851 of that plan. They already had the detailed information for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, we're making  
852 adjustments to it as different cost factors change.

853  
854 They will be formally receiving the budget for 08-09 in April, they are required to take  
855 action and approve that by the second meeting in May, if they do not take action by  
856 their second meeting in May, the City Administrator's recommended budget goes in  
857 place. The Park Advisory Commission should make their recommendations by the  
858 first meeting in May so that Council has time to consider your recommendations  
859 before they have to take final action on it.

860  
861 **B. Macomber** asked what was in the second year of the budget to cover Parks  
862 Security at this point.

863

864 **J. Miller** stated her understanding is there are no additional resources in the budget,  
865 that if it is to continue, it will continue in the same framework that is currently being  
866 provided.

867  
868 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated this is also his understanding.

869  
870 **T. Berla** asked if the Commission needs to make their recommendation at the PAC  
871 April meeting so that Council can have it for their first meeting in May.

872  
873 **J. Miller** stated yes, getting the recommendation in early rather than later would be a  
874 good idea. Because it's the second year of the budget, there's a chance that Council  
875 may actually take action on the budget the first meeting in May, but they are required  
876 to do it no later than the second meeting in May.

877  
878 **L. Berauer** stated the Commission would need to see the budget for the next fiscal  
879 year at the March meeting, and put time on the April agenda to make the  
880 recommendations needed.

881  
882 **J. Miller** stated the budget may not be available for the March meeting, but can have  
883 it available for the April meeting. In terms of seeing the budget, the Commission saw  
884 it as part of the budget process last year. She stated the Commission may need to  
885 schedule a work session to discuss the budget. She agreed with T. Berla that the  
886 recommendation can be whatever PAC wants it to be and stated that she has heard  
887 nothing from Council about not continuing the program due to funding.

888  
889 **L. Berauer** asked for the extra data from Deputy Chief Bazick for the March meeting  
890 so PAC will have the extra information as they try to make their recommendation for  
891 the security budget.

892  
893 **B. Macomber** asked for clarification of the 08-09 budget and if it has a continuation  
894 of the current plan for the park security.

895  
896 **J. Miller** stated there is no money allocated from the Park's budget to cover Parks  
897 Security. Programmatically she didn't know if Council took any formal action about  
898 how it will be handled in 08-09. There is no money specifically allocated from the  
899 Parks budget and there's been no formal action by Council to say how they want  
900 parks security handled in 08-09.

901  
902 **S. Kunselman** asked the Commission if there will be a recommendation from PAC to  
903 say we would like to either a) get the Park Ranger back, b) continue with the pilot  
904 program as is, c) provide more funding to the Police Department so they will not work  
905 extra hours, but have more staff. If PAC wants that, there need to be some pretty  
906 clear ideas on what their thoughts are, ultimately he's not supporting taking any  
907 money from Park money and giving it to the Police. That's what the big fight was  
908 over the budget last year. He doubts that the administration would go for that again  
909 since it didn't work out last time, that's not to say that they don't want to see  
910 additional funding for the Police, because they want to see general security  
911 throughout the City, not just parks. Is there any concern in terms of parks security  
912 other than citizen perception, is there a need for greater Police funding for general  
913 security both in the parks and throughout the City? They need to know not just from  
914 the data and numbers, but also what the people in the parks are thinking and feeling.

915 PAC is the group that has the sense and pulse of what the community's desires are.  
916 He would like to know their opinions not just the numbers.

917  
918 **L. Berauer** stated that none of them have gotten emails or phone calls from  
919 community members complaining one way or another or saying it's great, they don't  
920 really know. She believes the data the Commission has asked for is really going to  
921 help them answer that question. It will also help them determine if perhaps they think  
922 a ranger could help with getting some of the things done and whether they want to  
923 recommend a resuscitation of the ranger program. She understands that PAC needs  
924 to give Council some solid recommendations. Deputy Chief Bazick to provide will  
925 help to make the decision regarding the recommendation.

926  
927 **S. Rosencrans** asked if there was a recommendation made to keep things as they  
928 are to Council.

929  
930 **L. Berauer** stated for this fiscal year.

931  
932 **S. Offen** stated the opening of the Dog Parks should be evaluated in the next year or  
933 so as well. Has opening of the dog parks been successful in getting dogs off-leashes  
934 not being problems any more, or these people going to the dog parks and leaving the  
935 other parks, and if the Police Officer's have noticed any difference with dog's off  
936 leash.

937  
938 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated that maybe anecdotally but not necessarily with  
939 anything objective, for the dogs off-leash. He would like PAC to consider for  
940 whatever it does in the future about security, that what has been done for  
941 approximately 8 months is directing patrol time more specifically in the parks and as  
942 Councilmember Kunselman said, their responsibility is to the community at large and  
943 what may happen as time goes on, just a guess at best, there could be something  
944 else that occurs in the community that requires those resources to be redirected for a  
945 period of time which means that there would be a conflict with having them in the  
946 parks. The best examples he could think of would be how they contract with AATA.  
947 The officers have specific hours of the days and days of the week that they have to  
948 have an officer on the buses and if that officer calls in sick or takes a personal day,  
949 they have to pull someone out of patrol to get them on the buses, otherwise, they're  
950 not living up to the terms of the agreement/contract. That's a example of how the  
951 dedicated patrol and the expectation that they're there during certain periods of time  
952 is covered in an agreement. He would hate for PAC, to see over time because of  
953 something else going on in the community, the police cannot spend as much time in  
954 the Parks, as we look at the statistics we start to see things drop off as far as our  
955 time in the parks and maybe there's a correlation between a change and things going  
956 on in the parks and you haven't talked contemplated how to fill the gap, just throwing  
957 that out for consideration because that's the way that policing works. They are very  
958 reactive by nature in many cases in spite of their best efforts of trying to be proactive  
959 in catching trends before they become problems. Maybe in the long run the Park  
960 Ranger program enhances it in a way the Police can't meet, whether it's for the  
961 educational program or if nothing else visibility and presence, oftentimes presence is  
962 a big enough deterrent to make problems go away too.

963  
964 **G. Nystuen** stated the park ranger had the authority to give parking tickets, now  
965 there is no one in the Park system that can do this and is done by Community

966 Standards, so it is really transferring duties, when we talk about security, issuing  
967 parking tickets is a total separate area and doesn't know if they have really tried to  
968 evaluate if there has been much change in that or not. There were 422 issued by the  
969 ranger in the year before and one of the criticisms of him was that the only thing he  
970 did in the way of issuing tickets, was parking, which has completely transferred over  
971 to Community Standards.  
972

973 **S. Kunselman** stated the one thing about the Park Ranger is that it could *only* write  
974 parking tickets because they couldn't write tickets for any other activities such as  
975 dogs off-leash, open intoxicants, trespass etc. The Commission needs to think about  
976 that in terms of bringing a Park Ranger back because his perception is that he was  
977 not serving the function to deter crime in the Parks and believes Police have shown  
978 very good resolve in dealing with any perceptions of crime in the parks. The fact that  
979 no one has heard of anything makes it seem to him that things are going well. You  
980 only hear the complaints, not the positive. That's the kind of anecdotal information  
981 needed to get a feedback on. His perception is that it's going well and we need to  
982 continue it. Police Officers give a calming effect to families in the parks, knowing that  
983 they are there and that they can issue tickets and arrest people and deter crime. The  
984 Park Ranger could not do all that. The Park Ranger had a obviously had a lot of  
985 other benefits when it came to environmental education but we just had a  
986 presentation from Jason on Adopt-A-Park and Park Stewards and if there's going to  
987 be that kind of component, he believes it should go over there and not piecemeal this  
988 kind of effort with the Park Ranger, maybe Park Stewards could have that kind of  
989 component that a Park Ranger had. If anything it would be to put money back into  
990 the Police if in fact there was an issue of too many responsibilities. We're not going  
991 to contracts for the Parks with Police.  
992

993 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated in the end this would have to be evaluated and different  
994 options explored, it doesn't have to be all or nothing, because you do not want your  
995 Police Officers to take on the roll of Rangers, Nature education specialist, in the end  
996 that is not beneficial either because that is not the roll we are here for in the  
997 community.  
998

999 **L. Berauer** asked what exactly can Community Standards actually do, they can't  
1000 force people to show an id, they can issue parking tickets, what else can they do.  
1001

1002 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated he would go back to look at the provisions in the City  
1003 code to see who else can take enforcement action. A lot is already defined in the  
1004 City Code and we may find that there is something that has been collectively  
1005 overlooked.  
1006

1007 **L. Berauer** asked if this information could be given in addition to the other  
1008 information the Commission has asked for.  
1009

1010 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated yes and if any questions could be coordinated through  
1011 L. Berauer it would be very helpful. He can send a draft and she can tell him what  
1012 needs to be tweaked.  
1013

1014 **B-2** Emerald Ash Borer report  
1015

1016 **L. Berauer** stated Karla Henderson was not able to attend today's meeting and they  
1017 may be at the March meeting. Anyone that has any questions can send them to L.  
1018 Berauer so she can include the answers in her report for next month.  
1019

1020 **S. Kunselman** asked at what point would no longer be called Emerald Ash Borer but  
1021 then General Forestry and Parks.  
1022

1023 **L. Berauer** stated the interest is specifically the Emerald Ash Borer issue due to the  
1024 several pots of money that was dedicated for this and that clarification needs to be  
1025 given on what pots of money were used and how much was accomplished.  
1026

1027 **S. Kunselman** asked is there an ending date to the Emerald Ash Borer issue, and  
1028 there are a lot forestry needs in the parks.  
1029

1030 **L. Berauer** stated it was assumed this was complete. She saw in the development  
1031 activities report that at Bandemer a bid was being sent out for removing emerald ash  
1032 borers, which was surprising because the impression was an extra bid did not need  
1033 to go out. Maybe Amy can explain this at the next meeting.  
1034

1035 **T. Berla** stated there was an area where there was an abandoned piece of  
1036 woods where there are a lot of people, and the policy was to let trees fall down in the  
1037 natural areas.  
1038

1039 **S. Kunselman** stated that again, it's not just ash trees that are an issue of these  
1040 areas, there are also elm and we're not getting Dutch Elm disease reports.  
1041

1042 **L. Berauer** stated this was a huge millage issue that was asked for and lost and  
1043 there was a lot of discussion of where the money was going to come from since the  
1044 Millage was defeated. A big chunk of it was taken from the risk fund and one of the  
1045 questions that she's waiting to hear is whether the risk fund needs to be reimbursed  
1046 and the answer was "yes". Her next question was who was going to reimburse it.  
1047

1048 **S. Kunselman** stated that one of his questions was when this would end.  
1049

### 1050 **B-3** FY 08 – 6 Month Financial Report 1051

1052 **Damon Thompson** spoke and explained the financial report to the Commission that was  
1053 included in the packet.  
1054

1055 **L. Berauer** asked if there were specific questions from the Commission.  
1056

1057 **B. Macomber** asked if the Commission could have a brief narrative of the budget  
1058 explaining where they did well, here are where the concerns are, here's a variance  
1059 etc.  
1060

1061 **D. Thompson** started with page one (page 6 of the report) and stated that expenses  
1062 compared to budget are lower than last year, currently \$1.6 million which equates to  
1063 45% of the budget, revenue is doing well in comparison to last year. Revenue is up  
1064 almost \$170,000.00 which equates to approximately 50% of the budget when  
1065 compared to last year. One issue that has been mentioned in the administration  
1066 expenditures are down slightly when you factor in all of administration. When you

1067 look at just general administration, expenditures are down. As Dennis Simon  
1068 discussed earlier, IT charges play a big role with what you see in the reduction. In  
1069 terms of last year IT charges were paid primary all through central administration and  
1070 now those charges have been allocated to all of the facilities and this is why you see  
1071 the large expenditure drop in central administration.  
1072

1073 On the revenue side as you can see the Park use fee, after talking to Jessica she  
1074 feels the target will be met of the \$202,000.00. We've also received the operating  
1075 transfer from storm water of \$85,000.00 for revenue for the general fund. When the  
1076 budget was initially set up approximately 10 months ago the net for the Leslie  
1077 Science Center from the general fund is set for approximately \$35,000.00. It's our  
1078 goal that we're still going to reach \$35,000 between expenditures and revenue.  
1079

1080 Another area to discuss is Cobblestone Farm, as you can see if you compare the  
1081 expenditure budget you will there is a \$22,000.00 difference, a bulk of that is related  
1082 to personnel charges, as you know when we initially set up the budget we proposed  
1083 staff restructuring, then the cost for the person that was moved was actually  
1084 absorbed in the general fund because they weren't actually to begin to work on  
1085 capital projects until later in the year, one other charge that equates to the additional  
1086 \$22,000.00 is in regards to a contractual services contract that we used coming in  
1087 slightly higher than what was budgeted.  
1088

1089 In terms of revenue, revenue for Cobblestone Farm, particularly the rental revenue,  
1090 is actually absorbed in general administration, the park use fee. What I've proposed  
1091 to do is working with Jessica to combine the facility rental budget, expenditure and  
1092 revenue, and Cobblestone budget, expenditure and revenue, with some budget  
1093 changes that we have to tweak so that when the budget is finalized for 08-09 you will  
1094 just see the one category. The majority of the activity at Cobblestone Farm is related  
1095 to facility rental so right now we have two separate categories, some activities for  
1096 Cobblestone and some revenue, and then we have facility rental expenditures and  
1097 park use fee. We need to combine all of that.  
1098

1099 **S. Offen** asked if all the rental money was moved into the Park use fee. That was a  
1100 considerable amount of revenue and in 2008 there is no revenue.  
1101

1102 **D. Thompson** stated the majority of revenue moved into the Park use fee. The  
1103 majority of revenue for facility rentals and the park use fee is in central  
1104 administration.  
1105

1106 **C. Smith** stated we did actually move all of the rental revenue from Cobblestone  
1107 Farm into the facility rentals cost center. It was a way of restructuring all the rentals  
1108 in the Park system, but that revenue from Cobblestone rentals is still in the general  
1109 fund. It's located on page 7 of B-3, object 6100, included in the \$202,000 for the  
1110 revenue budget.  
1111

1112 **S. Offen** stated that it seemed odd that the revenue is being taken away from the  
1113 parks and on the other hand the expenditures like the IT costs are being given to the  
1114 parks.  
1115

1116 **J. Miller** explained the restructuring of the staff in Parks & Recreation Services  
1117 particularly around Facility and Park rentals. From a customer perspective, facility

1118 rentals, rentals of Parks and holding special events in Parks were disbursed in  
1119 different places throughout the organization, and we felt we were not doing a very  
1120 good job due to it being so spread out. At the beginning of this fiscal year, we took all  
1121 of our facility rentals, all of our Park rentals and all our special events in Parks and  
1122 have consolidated them into one operation from a customer service perspective. As  
1123 part of the budget process we folded them into administration and one of the things  
1124 we wanted to do early was to create a cost center around facility and parks rentals  
1125 and special events. We weren't able to do that because Damon was doing other  
1126 duties so effective July 1 of this fiscal year it was reflected. The problem is the way  
1127 it's reporting out to you, it looks like it's all over the place because we haven't been  
1128 able to re-funnel the money, the expenses and revenues, so it shows up like a cost  
1129 center just like Cobblestone Farm or Buhr Park. That's what Damon is referring to,  
1130 we haven't been able to do that so you can clearly see these are the expenses  
1131 associated with these activities and these are the revenues. The reason why a big  
1132 portion of Cobblestone's revenue is no longer showing up in Cobblestone is because  
1133 it is facility rental revenue and it goes in the new cost center that we haven't created  
1134 yet.

1135  
1136 **S. Offen** asked if expenses are going to be taken from the individual facilities and put  
1137 those over to the facility rental. He stated it seems like there would be much more to  
1138 a facility rental than just the initial expense. Cobblestone Farm is going to incur a lot  
1139 of other expense just by being there and the revenue is going to offset some of those  
1140 expenses. I think all of the maintenance to maintain the facility, people are going to  
1141 rent it because it's a very attractive facility, so how do you determine the cost of  
1142 maintaining this attractive facility so that people want to rent it to the value you're  
1143 going to get from the revenue you received from Cobblestone Farm.

1144  
1145 **J. Miller** stated that all of the facility expenses associated with the facility rental, all of  
1146 the expenses associated with park rentals and special events, will be housed in one  
1147 place. Part of what we factor in is we figure out what our fees for rentals are is what  
1148 it costs to do some maintenance, granted we're probably not going to cover  
1149 everything, but also you have to remember that certain expenses associated with the  
1150 facility such as capital improvements, money we get from the old two millages and  
1151 the new current one, do not show up in our operational expenses for the facility  
1152 budgets, even if we're missing some of them for facility rental, we're also missing all  
1153 of those expenses that are currently charged to millages that will continue to be  
1154 charged to millages for all of our operations

1155  
1156 **B. Macomber** asked when this will be fully updated for 08-09.

1157  
1158 **D. Thompson** stated he wanted to point out on page 13 that revenue is up  
1159 approximately \$90,000.00 at Veteran's Ice Arena and that is a tremendous  
1160 accomplishment, compared with 2007 revenue, and also complimented the  
1161 increased efforts of Cheryl and Dennis for the marketing efforts, particularly around  
1162 the hockey league and overall rink revenue .

1163  
1164 **L. Berauer** stated it is nice to see positive news.

1165  
1166 **D. Thompson** commended the various facility managers for doing a great job as far  
1167 as sticking to their budgets, all of the managers have really tried to reduce their  
1168 expenditures. So far there are no major concerns at the mid-year point, there have

1169 been very few issues and the issues with Senior Center should be cleared up in the  
1170 next several weeks that revolve around temporary pay and personnel time.

1171  
1172 **S. Offen** stated concerns regarding the City not doing a year-to-date budget. There  
1173 is an annual budget and then you track expenses on a monthly basis and then you  
1174 compare this year to last year, but there's no way to compare this year's expenses to  
1175 where the budget would be as of December. There's no way to tell what the budget  
1176 by the end of December should be for any of the categories. There's no report, he  
1177 can't go to a computer.

1178  
1179 **D. Thompson** stated he could present a rough forecast.

1180  
1181 **S. Offen** stated this causes him to have difficulty interpreting the numbers. One  
1182 example that happened early on is on the administration page (page 7) and in  
1183 looking at the revenue on UM parking, this is revenue received from the University  
1184 for parking at Fuller. Last year we received \$57,000, this year we only budgeted  
1185 \$28,000, but we've already received \$28,000 so the question is "Is that all of the  
1186 money we're going to get for this year or is that approximately equal to what we got  
1187 last year?" He can't tell that from those numbers.

1188  
1189 **D. Thompson** answered that \$28,000 is all that will be received this year.

1190  
1191 **J. Miller** explained the report provides what S. Offen is looking for. In the 2008  
1192 expenditure budget and the 2008 revenue budget is what has been budgeted.

1193  
1194 S. Offen stated that actuals don't always track budget so he doesn't know for sure  
1195 that the \$28,000 received so far year-to-date is all of the money that will be received  
1196 from the University or is it that we're lucky we're getting twice as much.

1197  
1198 **J. Miller** stated that part of the complication is that there are anomalies with every  
1199 budget for example the reason we received \$57,000.00 last year was because we  
1200 received a payment that should have been received in 2006 in 2007, both payments  
1201 were received in 2007.

1202  
1203 **S. Offen** stated that there are other examples but the point is that it's a much better  
1204 evaluation tool to know where I am compared to where I thought I would be now than  
1205 comparing where I am now with where I was last year at this time. The budget for  
1206 this year may not be the same as the budget was for last year.

1207  
1208 **J. Miller** agreed and said that one of the challenges for Parks & Recreation, that is  
1209 not true for Planning & Development or Community Development which are other  
1210 portions of Community Services, is that by the very nature of the services we  
1211 provide, every month there is not a consistent, we charge 1/12 over our budget every  
1212 month, it doesn't happen that way and it makes it very difficult.

1213  
1214 **S. Offen** said that's exactly why there should be a monthly budget because there is  
1215 the seasonality, because the costs are going to be less in winter in the summer-type  
1216 parks, and they're going to be higher at the ice rinks and you have the seasonality  
1217 and by budgeting on a monthly basis you can view that seasonality numerically and  
1218 you can see how well you are doing compared to what I thought I would be doing,  
1219 are my revenues tracking on a monthly basis to where I thought they would be



1220 tracking. You can't do it by just comparing where you were last year. With golf for  
1221 instance, if we tracked to where we were last year at Huron Hills, we may be doing  
1222 better than we were last year, but we don't know how much we're hoping to do this  
1223 year with all of the new programs, and hopefully that's built into the budget.  
1224

1225 **L. Berauer** asked if that was one of the things the sub-committee requested in the  
1226 new format and if that was doable.  
1227

1228 **J. Miller** replied that she thought it would be very difficult to do.  
1229

1230 **B. Macomber** stated she cannot understand why the City cannot enter the budget  
1231 on a monthly basis. Also asked if not being able to complete this task is due to a  
1232 restriction in the City's software and if there's a plan to address that.  
1233

1234 **D. Thompson** stated one of his goals for fiscal year 2009 would be to create a  
1235 forecasting model for Parks, Planning and Community Development so you not only  
1236 have the historical piece but you have some sort of forecast that tells you month by  
1237 month where you should be by May in comparison to your forecast.  
1238

1239 **T. Berla** asked if certain things can be factored in as far as if there are any expense  
1240 for cutting the grass in December, factoring in any differences over the season.  
1241

1242 **D. Thompson** stated this is the goal, remembering that Parks is not as simple and  
1243 cut and dry as Community Development but starting with the forecasting model we  
1244 can use this and make any variations to it, to get to exactly what the Commission is  
1245 looking for.  
1246

1247 **L. Berauer** asked when the forecasting model may be available.  
1248

1249 **D. Thompson** stated his goal was to have it prior to the end of the fiscal year.  
1250

1251 **B. Macomber** asked if this is something that will have to be exported to create, it's  
1252 not something can be entered into the current accounting software.  
1253

1254 **D. Thompson** stated this will have to be created. He will be working with the  
1255 Finance team to create some sort of model.  
1256

1257 **B. Macomber** stated it would be a huge help because the only thing over the past 4-  
1258 5 years is that moving things from one category or program to another makes these  
1259 year-to-date comparisons from the previous year almost meaningless.  
1260

1261 **C. Smith** stated in terms of the expenses on the monthly side, although it's not  
1262 reflected, when the facility managers develop their budgets, they figure out how  
1263 many hours they will need for their seasonal employees and that is how these  
1264 numbers are determined. It's something that they're aware of and they work with.  
1265

1266 **L. Berauer** asked the budget committee if there are any other format requests to get  
1267 these numbers available.  
1268

1269 **B. Macomber** stated the request was a part of the 2 year budget process, they were  
1270 given a spreadsheet with the budget boiled down to a legal size page and they had

1271 requested that it be compiled in a report form and ideally given on a quarterly basis  
1272 so they could see what they basically have now on 12 pages boiled down to 1 page  
1273 to make it easier for them to just see a snapshot of what's going on.

1274  
1275 **D. Thompson** asks if the request was for a quarterly report of the entire Parks  
1276 system or just Parks & Recreation.

1277  
1278 **B. Macomber** stated it would be better for S. Offen, G. Nystuen and herself who is  
1279 on the finance task force to meet with Tom Crawford, Damon Thompson and Jayne  
1280 Miller to discuss this further.

1281  
1282 **S. Offen** asked what this budget would be called, if it would be all of Parks or just  
1283 Parks & Recreation.

1284  
1285 **D. Thompson** stated this is Parks & Recreation, general fund, non-general fund,  
1286 fund 18 and fund 71.

1287  
1288 **L. Berauer** stated the Commission would like to see the same for Park Operations  
1289 as well.

1290  
1291 **S. Kunselman** stated that at the beginning it was mentioned that revenue was up  
1292 from last year, admin expenses were down a bit and asked for an explanation of the  
1293 IT charges.

1294  
1295 **D. Thompson** explained the IT charges showed a slight increase due to the method  
1296 it was allocated, you will see a decrease in central administration because of  
1297 removing IT charges, and then general increases and spikes at the facilities due to  
1298 re-allocating the IT charges from central administration to all of the facilities.

1299  
1300 **S. Kunselman** stated that each facility gets an IT charge and out of that IT charge  
1301 they are supposed to be getting services from the IT department, but they don't  
1302 necessarily use all of those services from the IT department. He used the Golf  
1303 Course as an example because that was one of the discussions he had with Mr.  
1304 Rainey is that Leslie Golf Course gets an IT charge but yet they have created their  
1305 own system for reservations that has nothing to do with the IT charge.

1306  
1307 **J. Miller** stated this was not true.

1308  
1309 **S. Kunselman** asked J. Miller to explain this.

1310  
1311 **Jayne Miller** explained the IT charge is a very detailed spreadsheet down to every  
1312 piece of software, every piece of hardware that you have, one of the things within  
1313 Parks & Recreation, particularly the facilities that makes the IT charges much higher  
1314 than they are for probably the average user in the system, is that every facility is its  
1315 own business, so they must have access to the City's entire financial, the AMS  
1316 system, they have to have access to the HR system (Ulti-Pro), for hiring, firing ,  
1317 everything that has to do with personnel. They also have to have access to the  
1318 budgetary system, which is BRASS, because they have to create and manage their  
1319 budgets.

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1321 This is very unusual in the organization, compared to Planning & Development, only  
1322 one person has all of those programs on their PC which is the manager because  
1323 they manage the entire budget, all of the hiring, all of the personnel and all of the  
1324 financial items. Whereas in the Parks & Recreational facility side of things, every  
1325 facility supervisor is responsible for managing their own budget and personnel.  
1326 Automatically they have 3 software systems on their PC that they must have to  
1327 manage their operation whereas most other people in the organization don't have to  
1328 do that. . The cost for IT is much higher in Parks than a traditional City employee,  
1329 that's how those costs are factored in and figured out for every employee or PC. The  
1330 Golf Courses pay these costs because they have to access to it, the golf course staff  
1331 created their own web site which is in addition to the City's Web Site, this was done  
1332 above and beyond what they already have access and use of. This is being merged  
1333 with IT and the City's home page so that they can be linked to each other for the  
1334 public to see. That's the only thing the golf course did that was separate from the  
1335 services they get from IT.

1336  
1337 **S. Kunselman** asked if IT deals with Parks Department differently because of their  
1338 structure as opposed to other departments.

1339  
1340 **J. Miller** explained IT does not deal with them differently, it means the Parks facilities  
1341 require more types of software because of the businesses they operate, what most  
1342 employees have to have on their PCs. The services we get are the same as anybody  
1343 else gets based on the technology they need to do their business.

1344  
1345 **S. Kunselman** asked if overall Parks pays a greater percentage of IT charges out of  
1346 each facility as opposed to a larger unit like Planning & Development.

1347  
1348 **J. Miller** answered yes from the standpoint that, Parks & Recreation overall does  
1349 not, but the recreation facilities, for example Parks Maintenance doesn't have the  
1350 kind of use to disburse the City's financial system or HR system, but they have things  
1351 like Citiworks (our maintenance/assessment management software system) that  
1352 probably is disbursed a little more. Because there are so many assets in Parks &  
1353 Recreation, they operation very differently that most other operations. There are  
1354 certain kinds of software and hardware needed to do our business in Parks &  
1355 Recreation when you think about that land is owned and managed, Planning &  
1356 Development does not, they simply provide the service. It's really about how we  
1357 have to conduct the business rather than looking at Parks & Recreation compared to  
1358 other things, it's the way we do our business and the technology needed to do it.

1359  
1360 **D. Barrett** restated Jayne's comment that the customized nature of the Golf Courses  
1361 etc is different from other more boilerplate departments in the City so consequently  
1362 they need more customized IT.

1363  
1364 **J. Miller** disagreed that they need more customized IT, but they do need more tools  
1365 to do their jobs, for example the financial system is a City-wide financial system but  
1366 not as many people in Planning & Development need it as people within recreation  
1367 facilities. The system by which it's utilized is an enterprise-wide system, it's just who  
1368 needs to use it to do their job and provide the functions and services we need to  
1369 provide. They are not more customized permutations, there are different  
1370 applications that are needed to have on an average. Probably the typical employee  
1371 in the organization needs the Microsoft Office suite, Excel, Word, which is standard

1372 on everyone's PC. In addition to that they need to have access to the financial  
1373 system, the HR system the budget system, and Citiworks because of the number of  
1374 things they have to provide.

1375  
1376 **L. Berauer** asked if the information on page 21, the Park & Recreation open space  
1377 and parkland preservation millage is the Greenbelt millage.

1378  
1379 **D. Thompson** stated yes.

1380  
1381 **L. Berauer** asked if administration included salaries. For 07 the amount was \$2,536  
1382 and for 08 \$12,616 doesn't look right.

1383  
1384 **J. Miller** explained that the \$12,000 is what has been budgeted but it should be  
1385 remembered that if you go to page 23, fund 29, also says land acquisition, fund 24 is  
1386 the fund where the tax levy amount comes in. The amount that the taxpayers pay  
1387 and what we collect from the Millage, but remember that every land acquisition that  
1388 we do, because we have bonded that money, we use the bond proceeds to pay  
1389 those expenses associated with any land transactions we do, which is what fund 29  
1390 is. Based on if they're doing a land transaction or if it's an old land transaction that  
1391 the Conservation Fund is working to clean up, that wouldn't get charged to the bond  
1392 proceeds but would get charged to fund 24. You're not going to see the total salary  
1393 costs for the Conservation Fund ...we have a contract with them. For example the  
1394 GIS work that our GIS staff does to do the analysis, that's a direct charge and that's  
1395 going to show up in administration. It doesn't include the consultant, often the  
1396 consultant's cost is under contracted services, not necessarily under Administration.  
1397 They won't show up on this report because it doesn't have this level of detail. What  
1398 you're seeing fund 24 under Administration is our internal cost for staff like our GIS  
1399 staff who do work or if money is spent for marketing, those kinds of things that are  
1400 actually City staff costs.

1401  
1402 **D. Thompson** explained the consultant salary is listed under capital outlay, function  
1403 9000, which includes the contractual cost and includes the land acquisition costs.

1404  
1405 **L. Berauer** had some detailed questions about some of the specific park  
1406 expenditures but she will email them to D. Thompson. The expectation was that we  
1407 would receive the new formatted material in March, but now she understands the  
1408 monthly forecasting won't be possible.

1409  
1410 **D. Thompson** hopes to have a different format for the cost center report prepared  
1411 for the March meeting, basically a one page summary of all the facilities while still  
1412 keeping a detailed attachment.

1413  
1414 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

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1416 **C-1** Athletic Field Lighting Policy Discussion

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1418 **C-2** Citizen's Involvement in Golf Courses

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1420 **J. Grand** spoke on this issue stating there was a great deal of citizen input into what  
1421 turned out to be the Park Advisory Commission's recommendations about the Golf  
1422 Courses, and was very impressed with the expertise of the community. Our goal is to

1423 include those people and to continue to receive their input because we do not want to  
1424 lose that insight and that expertise.

1425  
1426 At the same time, as a member of PAC and of the Golf Committee we don't want to  
1427 abdicate our responsibility entirely to Council because we have asked Council to  
1428 make a very significant financial investment in the Golf Courses at least for the time  
1429 being to keep them both operating as Golf Courses. Due in part to that citizen input  
1430 we want to try to see if we can make it a go. Since this Resolution was written there  
1431 has been some activity from Council regarding having a separate Committee that  
1432 does not have a lot of interaction with the Park Advisory Commission but instead  
1433 reports directly to Council. We proposed this as an Adopt-A-Park program and I  
1434 understand that might not be the best fit but I think it was in the spirit of wanting to  
1435 have a citizen group but also making sure that the Park Advisory Commission stays  
1436 involved and that we do not have this group that's outside acting independently and  
1437 reporting to Council because there has been a great deal of time and energy invested  
1438 and it is the responsibility of the Commission to continue to monitor what those  
1439 recommendations are.

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1441 **L. Berauer** stated as PAC heard from some of the emails they really want to stay  
1442 involved and they have a right to stay involved. We are looking for a structure that  
1443 makes the most sense. The understanding is Council did direct staff to work with this  
1444 citizen's group but left it open-ended as to what the structure would be, and if a  
1445 deadline was set. She was worried that staff was directed to work with the citizens  
1446 group but left it completely open-ended and vague. She stated the Park Advisory  
1447 Commission could facilitate and make it happen and if they are going to report directly  
1448 to Council, which is great, then maybe we would want one Park Advisory Commission  
1449 member in that group as well.

1450  
1451 **S. Kunselman** explained there are a lot of people and a lot of effort trying to make  
1452 sure the golf courses are operational and on a financial stable footing. Council has  
1453 not made a formal action on creating a Golf Course Advisory Committee as was  
1454 talked about, nor have they heard from PAC on what a Friends of Huron Hills is. He  
1455 did provide to councilmembers during their caucus the draft Resolution that J. Grand  
1456 put together regarding Friends of Huron Hills. At that same meeting folks from the  
1457 new Ann Arbor Golf Course Association made a presentation for the creation of a Golf  
1458 Course Advisory Committee. They are balancing two entities, PAC and the citizens,  
1459 all of whom have the same goals and the same objectives in terms of the operations  
1460 of the golf courses. How is that balanced, created, addressed, is where it's at. Staff is  
1461 being asked to come up with recommendations, ideally work with both. Speaking for  
1462 himself, a Golf Course Advisory Committee with PAC members on it reporting to  
1463 Council directly would be the best way to go. This is a much more specialized  
1464 committee that they would like to tap into the wealth of expertise.

1465  
1466 **L. Berauer** stated that she believed that's what motivated J. Grand's resolution, is  
1467 that there is so much professional expertise in this group of citizens that why not take  
1468 advantage of it since they are so eager to help. She asked J. Miller if there was a  
1469 timeline.

1470  
1471 **J. Miller** stated it wasn't a formal recommendation, it was that staff go start working  
1472 with this group and bring something back. It was a little confusing, she got PAC's  
1473 resolution and was aware that this group kind of morphed into a broader, not just

1474 focusing on Huron Hills. She also spoke with Paul Bancel who is in this group and  
1475 asked if this was a different group now saying they want to be involved in both golf  
1476 courses or the group that was solely focused on Huron. He responded that they don't  
1477 want to just focus on Huron, they want to be involved in both golf courses. It's the  
1478 same group of people that want to focus on both Golf courses. He sent the group list  
1479 and PAC got an email from Jane Lumm that was the same list. There will be a  
1480 meeting scheduled with this group probably early to mid-March at the latest to start  
1481 working through some of the issues and how they say them working together.  
1482

1483 **S. Kunselman** stated the expertise of this group and that they have different  
1484 perspectives on how the Golf Courses should be operated that differ from what the  
1485 Golf Consultant said, they are looking at it with some ideas that we don't have to  
1486 spend as much money in terms of capital improvements and things of that nature and  
1487 they do have a resolve to get the best bang for buck for the golf courses. He feels  
1488 that is very admirable because they do have the expertise. Hopefully the structure of  
1489 that Committee would include a Park Advisory Commission members, would include  
1490 people outside of their association because they're obviously going to have their  
1491 association and function within themselves, and he doesn't think the Golf Course  
1492 Advisory Committee in draft form should be just that association as a committee  
1493 reporting to Council. He thinks that it should include other recreational folks that have  
1494 an idea of how we can bring in the marketing standpoint, if we do a better job of  
1495 marketing, what's the best way of getting that out there and things of that nature. It's  
1496 very exciting and it may be difficult to include everybody that wants to get so involved.  
1497 He's hoping that for those who don't get on the Golf Course Advisory Committee, you  
1498 can certainly put your energy to getting the skate park built.  
1499

1500 **J. Grand** stated one of the concerns with having this group operating especially  
1501 outside of PAC is that there is a fine line between an advocacy group and an advisory  
1502 group. If only certain citizens are involved, heir biases are going to come into the  
1503 recommendations and it may not be what's ultimately best for Parks & Recreation,  
1504 what's ultimately best for the golf course, it's just what is best for this more narrow  
1505 group's particular interest, which is why she feels a lot of PAC members have an  
1506 important role to play as well and if it's all given up, then it may become something  
1507 that's driven by this interest group.  
1508

1509 **S. Kunselman** stated the importance of this Committee having a structure that is  
1510 beyond just their association and does include PAC. There have been suggestions to  
1511 include someone from the High Schools and someone from the private sector that  
1512 actually runs a Golf Course. Also, any recommendations coming to PAC before it  
1513 comes to Council is a good idea. It's not about stepping on PAC's toes because it is  
1514 a fairly specialized operation. This proposal is based on the Kalamazoo model and  
1515 certainly won't take the Kalamazoo model verbatim because they golf course advisory  
1516 committee makes budget recommendations strictly for their operations, which isn't  
1517 going to happen here. It does show that when you have a specialized committee  
1518 working just for that operation, it might help relieve some of the pressure off of PAC to  
1519 allow them to focus on other activities, not just golf.  
1520

1521 **B. Macomber** stated one of the other reasons we were looking at the Friends of the  
1522 Parks model was to get this going as soon as possible and asked if this issue could  
1523 ideally come to the next meeting.  
1524

1525 **J. Miller** suggested that anyone from the Golf Committee from PAC that was working  
1526 on the Golf issue should be included in the meeting that is set up with this group. It's  
1527 going to happen before the March meeting and that way PAC is sitting at the table  
1528 and there is a fine balance and does fall in the purview of PAC and many of PAC's  
1529 comments are appropriate and by having someone sitting from PAC you bring the  
1530 other perspective to the table, you also make sure that PAC's interests are being  
1531 taken into consideration as the conversations go on so that as this group figures out  
1532 what it's going to do and what the relationships are, that PAC is sitting at the table  
1533 and involved in that and can also make a recommendation to Council.  
1534

1535 **J. Grand** stated that she thought they were also trying to address Parks staff  
1536 concerns, there is a lot of concern that this is setting a precedent for hockey, soccer  
1537 and other committees and could morph into something. It is understood that there is  
1538 a unique position with golf because of all of the activity around golf but having a group  
1539 that is not so dictatorial is important for staff as well.  
1540

1541 **J. Miller** didn't disagree and thought that there are lots of examples where the  
1542 intensity of a situation requires creation of a special group for a specified time period  
1543 and goes away. A recent example that took an enormous amount of time was the  
1544 Millage. A separate group met for over a year just focusing on the Millage, but it went  
1545 away. This is the same thing where there is a concentrated effort for a period of time  
1546 but doesn't become a standing kind of committee.  
1547

1548 **S. Offen** stated he is uncomfortable with the idea of this golf committee reporting  
1549 directly to Council because it's clearly within the purview of PAC to oversee the golf  
1550 courses and to take bits and pieces and have those report directly to Council does  
1551 take some away from PAC's responsibility and breadth of interest. He doesn't think it  
1552 is unreasonable to ask the committee to funnel things through PAC to City Council,  
1553 and the committee will have one master and that master will be Council and if PAC  
1554 disagrees with what the committee is recommending, Council will be listening to the  
1555 committee and not necessarily to PAC.  
1556

1557 **L. Berauer** asked what the Golf Committee members think as far as the committee  
1558 reporting line.  
1559

1560 **J. Grand** stated she felt this committee should come to the regular PAC meetings and  
1561 then take their input report back to PAC and Council.  
1562

1563 **S. Rosencrans** was going to make the same point but wondered if it was now a moot  
1564 point now that a dictate has come from Council.  
1565

1566 **J. Miller** felt that Council said that because time is of the essence, staff start working  
1567 with this group, it didn't say how to do it, there was one Council member that said they  
1568 wanted to report to Council but she didn't believe that was the consensus of all of  
1569 Council. There was no formal resolution passed. She believes that they can start  
1570 working with the group and part of the conversation can be how should the committee  
1571 be formed, under what parameters does the group operate and that a  
1572 recommendation come forward so that PAC can weigh in on it and ultimately the  
1573 decision is probably going to be up to Council but she believes that PAC needs to be  
1574 engaged in those conversations so that the framework is a recommendation from  
1575 PAC and comes to Council.

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**D. Barrett** stated he shared J. Grand's concern and with all the comments he never heard anyone express PAC's concerns of the budget, the hemorrhaging of the money, which is part of what the conversation needs to be and would like, as a PAC member, to see that being part of the conversation because often it was we like it, we want to keep it, let's just keep doing it, we hired this consultant but he's wrong, so let's just keep playing golf, and his concern is that the voice of financial concern within PAC be part of that conversation, not dictated and maybe they do have a better way, but we paid someone who seemed to do a reasonable job, there seems to be a runaway committee that's between PAC and Council.

**L. Berauer** believed there's a pretty good basis for a framework and asked if J. Grand would like to be on the committee.

**J. Grand** stated yes.

**J. Miller** will try to get started scheduling the meeting and will include S. Rosencrans, J. Lawter and J. Grand with everyone else and staff and try to get it scheduled so they can weigh in whether they can attend, and hopefully 2-3 can attend.

**L. Berauer** asked G. Nystuen if she was part of the committee or would like to be part of the committee.

**G. Nystuen** stated it is important to involve the people who were responsible and concerned about expenses and thinks it's very vital to go ahead, and agreed to be on the committee as well.

**S. Kunselman** expressed his concern that the Commission may feel precedence may be set, he stated there is no precedence when you are dealing with issues in local government. He wants PAC to be open to sharing the responsibility with others who really want to be involved, not feel that there is a turf struggle.

**L. Berauer** stated the Park Maintenance Issues will be a standing item on the agenda to bring to our attention. That will be an opportunity for any commissioner who has received any feedback from a constituent or who has walked through a park and noticed something amiss, to bring it to PAC's attention.

**D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

**D-1** Park Maintenance Issues

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

**C. Smith** stated in terms of the staffing for the Parks Manager and also the Operations Manager's position that a private recruiting firm called ARCUS has been hired to do a nationwide search to find candidates for these positions. ARCUS will be meeting with all of the different stakeholder's, staff and citizens, PAC, to see what the needs and skillsets are that the candidates should possess. The goal is to have a person in place by the end of the summer.



1627 **J. Miller** explained she had just had a conference call with the firm and dates have  
1628 been set for this process. She was very impressed with the work they did in filling  
1629 the Community Development Manager's position was before they start recruiting.  
1630 they meet with stakeholders over a series of two days, they meet with the staff they  
1631 would supervise, organization peers, Administrator and some Council members and  
1632 the Park Advisory Commission. The main idea is to get the full spectrum of who the  
1633 candidate will work with, understanding of what every segment views is needed in  
1634 the job, what are some of the dynamics and issues.

1636 This will begin March 12, 2008 and March 13, 2008. They will be here and will meet  
1637 with PAC. From there we will work with them to create a recruitment brochure for the  
1638 recruiting, we will be scheduling interviews for May 2008, hopefully by June 2008  
1639 someone will be on board.

1641 **S. Offen** asked for an explanation of the responsibilities regarding the two positions  
1642 that are to be filled.

1644 **J. Miller** explained the Parks & Recreation Manager was the position Christen Smith  
1645 held. The Operation Manager position is the position that has been vacant for two  
1646 years and has not been filled. Given the complexities of issues that come up within  
1647 Parks & Recreation the two positions work very closely together. The Operations  
1648 Manager will handle day-to-day duties that come up with staff allowing the Parks  
1649 Manager to deal with PAC, or for example, the current Golf Course issue, the  
1650 Millage or a major issue that comes up often with Parks, the Manager can focus on  
1651 those broader policy issues, allowing the Operations Manager to take care of the  
1652 day-to-day issues which PAC doesn't often see a lot of, but there are constantly  
1653 things that come up and fires that have to be dealt with. It's very difficult for the  
1654 Manager to take care of all of the broader issues and the day-to-day issues that  
1655 invariably come up.

1657 **L. Berauer** asked if the Operations Manager would report to the Parks & Recreation  
1658 Manager if anyone had ever been in this position.

1660 **J. Miller** explained in 2000 – 2003 there was a structure called Unit Supervisors with  
1661 3 Unit Supervisors who basically did this job. As we've downsized we've basically  
1662 consolidated those 3 positions into this 1 Operations Manager position. Karla,  
1663 Nancy Burghardt and Matt Warba were all Unit Supervisors

1665 **S. Offen** asked if this position is budgeted.

1667 **J. Miller** stated yes, it has been budgeted for two years, and what has been done is  
1668 Colin Smith and Matt Warba have been doing their regular duties as Facility  
1669 Managers and also have taken on additional duties to fill in some of the gaps with  
1670 the Operation Manager's position being vacant.

1672 **F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS**

1674 **T. Berla** stated we were going to talk about the lighting in the fields, but Karla  
1675 Henderson was not in attendance at this month's meeting and it will be discussed at  
1676 next month's meeting.

1677

1678 **L. Berauer** stated Karla Henderson will be in attendance at the March meeting. Also  
1679 asked T. Berla to send any questions he has via email. She would like Karla to have  
1680 all of everyone's questions in advance so she can be prepared at the meeting. She  
1681 also suggested the Commission think about having a group email that the public can  
1682 use that will go to everyone. It can be discussed at the next meeting.  
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1684 **G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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1686 **H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK**  
1687 **FORCES**

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1689 **I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL** (3 Minutes per Speaker)

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1691 **J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES** (If Applicable)

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1693 **K - TRANSMITTALS**

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1695 **K-1** City Council Items Update

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1697 **K-2** Park Project Update

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1699 **K-3** PAC Work Session Summary

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1702 **K-4** Parks and Recreation Events for January – February 2008

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1704 **K-5** Parks Advisory Commission 2008 Meeting Schedule

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1707 There being no further business to come before the Commission, **S. Rosencrans**  
1708 moved supported by **L. Berauer** that the meeting be adjourned. The regular meeting  
1709 was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.  
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