



CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2010

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the CTN Studio 2805 S. Industrial

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair J. Grand.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (9) J. Grand, J. Lawter, S. Offen, (arrived at meeting at 4:26 p.m.) T. Berla (arrived at meeting at 4:27 p.m.), D. Barrett, G. Nystuen, D. Chapman, K. Levin (arrived at meeting at 4:25p.m.), T. Doyle

Ex-Officio Members Present: (2) M. Anglin, C. Taylor

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (0) None.

Members Absent: (0) None

Staff Present: (5) C. Smith, J. Straw, M. Notarianni, D. Borneman, L. Bowen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Grand asked for approval of the agenda.
J. Lawter moved, supported by **D. Chapman** to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Glenn Thompson spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station.

James D' Amour spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station.

Ethel Potts spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station.

John Satarino spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station.

Sue Perry spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station, also expressing displeasure regarding the care of specific parks.

Leslie Morris spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station.

Bill Cassebaum spoke on the Huron Hills Golf Course RFP.

Larry Argetsinge spoke on the Huron Hills Golf Course RFP.

J. Lumm on the performance of Huron Hills Golf Course.

53 **B. Mikas** spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station.

54
55 **R. Mitchell** spoke on revenue issues regarding the parks.

56
57 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

58
59 **Commissioner Grand** asked for a motion to approve the current minutes. T. Berla
60 moved, supported by K. Levin to approve the minutes of May 18, 2010 as written.
61

62 **SPECIALPRESENTATIONS**

63
64 **Farmers Market**

65
66 **M. Notarianni** gave an update and overview of the Farmer's Market including the number of
67 participating vendors, events and the increase of visitors; also informing the Commission of
68 the improvements and upgrades that have taken place at the site.

69
70 M. Notarianni shared information regarding the increased participation with the food
71 assistance program which allows those of all incomes to purchase fresh produce; tokens
72 can be purchased with an EBT Bridge card. This program has also increased revenue at the
73 market.

74
75 **P. Pollack** spoke on the care and growth of the Public Market; P. Pollack also explained the
76 mission of the Public Market Advisory Commission.

77
78 **S. Offen** asked for an explanation regarding the inspection process of the vendors.

79
80 **M. Notarianni** explained there is a contracted individual that is responsible for the
81 inspections.

82
83 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

84
85 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

86
87 **C-1** PAC – Resolution Regarding the Proposed Fuller Road Station

88
89
90 **J. Grand** explained the intent of the proposed Resolution that would be
91 presented to the Commission.

92
93 **C. Smith** explained the process regarding the Resolution that will be
94 presented by J. Grand, and discuss the alternative Resolution as an
95 amendment afterwards. C. Smith also explained the plans for this project
96 would go to the Planning Department for site review; afterwards to City
97 Council; in addition to the two previous steps, there will be a public hearing.

98
99 **C. Taylor** gave an in depth explanation to the Commission regarding the
100 process involving City Council and the Resolution pertaining to the proposed
101 project.

102 **S. Offen** expressed concern that the Commission has been excluded from
103 initial discussions regarding the proposed project.

104

105 **C. Taylor** stated he agreed that there are uncertainties regarding this process.

106
107 **J. Grand** expressed concern with the inconsistencies surrounding the
108 proposed project.

109
110 **M. Anglin** stated it would have been advantageous to have had clarification
111 pertaining to the timeline of the proposed project.

112
113 **D. Chapman** stated the presentations shown to the Commission seemed to
114 imply the proposed project was moving forward.

115
116 **J. Grand** welcomed the new Park Advisory Commission member, Tim Doyle,
117 and proceeded to read the proposed Resolution.

118
119 **Resolution on the Proposed Fuller Road Station**

120
121 Whereas, the Park Advisory Commission (PAC) has been briefed on numerous occasions
122 about plans for the Fuller Road Station (FRS) by project managers and City staff.

123
124 Whereas, in spite of such briefings, the overall scope of the proposed project, including the
125 timeline and decision-making process by City staff and their partners continues to change
126 and remains unclear.

127
128 Whereas, the opportunity for direct input from the public regarding the direction and overall
129 desirability of the FRS has not been commensurate with the scale of the proposed project.

130
131 Whereas, one of PAC's roles is to make recommendation concerning the use of parkland.

132
133 Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan have jointly proposed
134 building an approximately 1,020 car parking structure, which represents an increase of 770
135 parking spaces.

136
137 Whereas, building the proposed FRS will create a permanent structure on parkland.

138
139 Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Department currently receives \$31, 057 (FY 2010)
140 annually from the University of Michigan for 250 parking spots in the South Lot, and
141 according to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University is slated to
142 receive only \$24,846 with a 3% yearly increase for almost 800 spots following completion of
143 the proposed parking structure in 2012.

144
145 Whereas, it is unlikely that the University of Michigan will continue to lease the North Lots on
146 Fuller Road following the completion of the proposed parking garage, resulting in an
147 additional annual loss to the Parks budget of approximately \$38,495 (FY 2010).

148
149 Whereas, the potential loss of revenue (totaling \$44,706 in FY 2010 dollars) from the
150 University of Michigan will result in the Parks and Recreation Department having to make
151 additional cuts to an already stretched and shrinking budget.

152
153 Whereas, according to its terms, and pursuant to information presented to PAC, the
154 November 2009 MOU is not a final agreement with the University of Michigan, including its
155 terms with respect to compensation to the Parks and Recreation Department.

157 Resolved, that while PAC is generally in favor of the goals of an intermodal transit station,
158 concerns remain about the overall benefit to park users of the proposed Fuller Road Station
159 as a stand-alone Phase One project.

160
161 Resolved, that if such plans are approved, PAC urges Council to negotiate the final
162 agreement with the University of Michigan to include a significant increase in revenue to the
163 Parks and Recreation Department above and beyond that currently agreed upon in the
164 MOU. Further, PAC recommends that the final agreement should indemnify the Parks and
165 Recreation Department for any shortfall in revenue caused by the University's decision to
166 discontinue leasing the North lots on Fuller Road.

167
168 Resolved, PAC recommends that the final Parking Services Agreement will be published at
169 least two weeks prior to Council approval of the proposed FRS.

170
171 Resolved, PAC recommends that all revenue generated from lessees of the proposed
172 transit center should be dedicated exclusively to the Parks and Recreation Department.

173
174 Resolved, PAC requests that project staff will present PAC with a clear project schedule for
175 the proposed FRS, with future updates as necessary.

176
177 Resolved, that an effort be made by project staff to provide opportunities for PAC and the
178 public to give meaningful input into all future significant decisions regarding the proposed
179 FRS.

180
181 Prepared by: Julie Grand, Gwen Nystuen, and Sam Offen; Park Advisory Commission
182 Submitted by: Park Advisory Commission
183 Date: June 15, 2010

184
185 **S. Offen** moved, supported by **D. Chapman** to discuss the Resolution.

186
187 **J. Lawter** asked for permission to abstain from voting on this Resolution due
188 to affiliation with the University of Michigan.

189
190 **T. Berla** stated he had written an alternate Resolution to replace the original
191 proposed Resolution which he read to the Commission.

192
193 **T. Berla** moved, supported by **G. Nystuen** to discuss the alternative to the
194 original Resolution

195
196 **G. Nystuen** stated she agreed with both resolutions and T. Berla's Resolution
197 could be incorporated into the language of the original Resolution.

198
199 **S. Offen** stated he felt T. Berla's Resolution held a positive tone.

200
201 **T. Doyle** asked what timeline constraints the City and City Council are under
202 regarding seeking Federal funding.

203
204 **J. Grand** stated this timeline is ongoing and incomplete.

205
206 **C. Smith** stated making reference to the memo of understanding would be
207 helpful in understanding the timeline constraints. C. Smith read a portion of the
208 memo of understanding to the Commission.

261 Whereas, building the proposed FRS will create a permanent structure on parkland, and,

262
263 Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Department currently receives \$31, 057 (FY 2010)
264 annually from the University of Michigan for 250 parking spots in the South Lot, and
265 according to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University is slated to
266 receive only \$24,846 with a 3% yearly increase for almost 800 spots following completion of
267 the proposed parking structure in 2012, and,

268
269 Whereas, it is unlikely that the University of Michigan will continue to lease the North Lots on
270 Fuller Road following the completion of the proposed parking garage, resulting in an
271 additional annual loss to the Parks budget of approximately \$38,495 (FY 2010), and,

272
273 Whereas, the potential loss of revenue (totaling \$44,706 in FY 2010 dollars) from the
274 University of Michigan will result in the Parks and Recreation Department having to make
275 additional cuts to an already stretched and shrinking budget, and,

276
277 Whereas, according to its terms, and pursuant to information presented to PAC, the
278 November 2009 MOU is not a final agreement with the University of Michigan, including its
279 terms with respect to compensation to the Parks and Recreation Department, and,

280
281 Be it therefore resolved that PAC urges the city council and staff to promote maximum
282 transparency in the development of any such project. Specifically, PAC urges the staff and
283 council to make public a complete plan for the development of the project, including which
284 features will be part of the each phase and the details of any significant proposed
285 agreements such as the Parking Services Agreement. Further, PAC urges that such
286 publication include a full presentation at a regular televised PAC meeting, in such a way that
287 PAC commissioners have an opportunity to ask questions, and that this PAC meeting be a
288 least one month prior to any city council vote which could commit the city to building on park
289 land.

290
291 Be it further resolved that PAC urges the city council and staff to insure that any use of the
292 land in Fuller Park for non park uses such as a transit station or parking structure results in
293 a net increase in park system revenue.

294
295

296 **Ayes: (8) J. Grand, G. Nystuen, S. Offen, T. Berla**
297 **D. Barrett, D. Chapman, K. Levin T. Doyle**

298
299 **Nays: (0) None**

300
301 **Abstained (1) J. Lawter**

302
303 **Absent: (0) None**

304
305 *On a roll call vote – **Motion Passed** – to adopt the alternative Resolution on*
306 *the Proposed Fuller Road Station with amendments stated above and agreed*
307 *upon by the Park Advisory Commission*

308
309

310 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

311

312 **G. Nystuen** mentioned receiving communication regarding the bike trails and how the
313 recreational aspect may be impacted with the proposed Fuller Road Transit project.

314
315 **T. Berla** suggested the bicycling plan/trail be incorporated in a Resolution.

316
317 **C. Smith** stated staff will review the information in the Pros Plan and will update the
318 Commission.

319
320 **E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER**

321
322 **C. Smith** stated July 1, 2010 the fiscal year 2011 budget will go into effect and
323 trimming of the parks will resume.

324
325 **C. Smith** explained the RFP process regarding the Huron Hills Golf Course to the
326 Commission.

327
328 The Argo Canoe Livery RFP is expected to be issued by Aug 1, 2010 for the repair of
329 the toe drains and/or reconstruction of the mill race

330
331 The Volunteer Outreach Coordinator position that was mentioned at the previous
332 meeting is close to being posted.

333
334 **F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS**

335
336 **G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

337
338 **H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK**
339 **FORCES**

340
341 **I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)**

342
343 **L. A. Bullington** spoke on the proposed Fuller Road Station.

344
345 **G. Thompson** spoke on the use of park land.

346
347 **E. Potts** complimented the Commission on their diligence throughout the process surrounding the
348 proposed Fuller Road Station.

349
350 **J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH PRIVELEDGED CLIENT ATTORNEY INFORMATION**

351
352 **K - TRANSMITTALS**

353
354 **K-1** City Council Items Update

355
356 **K-2** Park Project Update

357
358 **K-3** City of Ann Arbor 2008 – 2013 Park Maintenance and Capital
359 Improvements Millage Status

360
361 There being no further business to come before the **Commissioner Berla** moved supported
362 by **Commissioner Chapman** that the open meeting be adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

