



City of Ann Arbor

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

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

4:00 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grand called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Colin Smith called the roll.

Staff Present:

C. Smith, J. Straw, A. Kuras, S. Benoit, C. Saam, J. Kidwell, A. Seagraves; 7

Present: 8 - David Barrett, Timothy Berla, Chair Julie Berson Grand, John McCoy Lawter, Samuel Offen, Mike Anglin, Christopher Taylor, and Karen Levin

Absent: 3 - Douglas Chapman, Tim Doyle, and Ingrid Ault

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Edward Weiss, Co President of the Earhart Village Homes Home Owners Association, thanked Colin Smith and Amy Kuras and all the staff of the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as Tony Derezinski and Jane Lumm, City Councilmembers for their prompt response on the tennis courts petition for Windemere Parks. He hoped that PAC would favorably pass the resolution for the Tennis Courts replacement so construction could begin shortly.

Chuck Blackburn, resident living to the east side of Windemere Park and Co President of the Earhart Knolls Village Homes Owners Association, spoke about the soil borings done at Windemere Park and requested that they be closely examined in relation to 'perched' water. He also asked that if the tennis courts be relocated, that consideration be given to the existing residential homes located within proximity to the park.

Jeff Alison, 3685 Charter Place, reiterated the need for tennis courts in this part of town, as well as suggesting that wind screens on the courts would be helpful, as would a practice backboard. He thanked the Commission and staff for their public service.

Scott Campbell, 1010 Fairmount, spoke about the repair job done on the Windemere Courts in 2009, commenting that he didn't feel it was the best quality. He also noted that relocating the courts to the east side of the park would ruin the best feature of the landscaped park and recommended the courts be kept to their present location.

Rod Sorgey, President of the Board of Directors for the Huron Village Homeowners Association spoke in support of the petition to replace/repair the Windemere Park tennis courts and hoped the Commission looks favorably at the project. He said he was very much impressed by C. Smith and his staff and Ms. Lumm for their efforts on behalf of their neighborhood's needs.

A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 [12-0684](#) Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2012

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[12-0696](#) Introduction - Market Manager

Jeff Straw introduced the new Market Manager, Sarah Benoit, who shared a little about herself.

[12-0685](#) Cobblestone Farm Association

J. Straw introduced George Taylor, President of the Cobblestone Farms Association.

G. Taylor handed out their Newsletter and gave the Annual Report of the Cobblestone Farm Association.

[12-0686](#) Ann Arbor Art Commission

Aaron Seagraves, Public Art Administrator, presented the Annual Art Commission's plan and their objectives.

[12-0687](#) 2012 Livery Operations and the Argo Cascades

C. Smith gave an update on the Argo Cascades.

Cheryl Saam,, Canoe Liveries Facility Supervisor, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2012 Livery Operations.

Lawter asked staff if wading or swimming would be added to the river activities.

C. Smith responded that swimming in the river, off of parkland is not permissible, per park rules, Chapter 39.

K. Levin asked if the presented information was available on the City's website.

C. Saam said, yes, there are several pages of accurate livery information.

Offen asked how deep the cascades are.

C. Saam said they were intended to only be 3 feet deep, but there are some pretty deep holes, especially around the mill race.

D. Barrett asked if stand-up paddle boards would be allowed down the cascades.

C. Saam said that she didn't think they would allow them in the cascades for safety reasons, but they are allowed in Argo Pond.

S. Offen asked how they handle personal kayaks and canoes.

C. Saam said they will transport their boats as well for a fee, and river usage is free of charge.

C. Taylor asked if TSP has indicated their estimate to the likelihood of success to mitigation the cascades.

C. Smith said after the feedback was provided to them, they said they would go back and do more modeling and their intent is to do the best they can within the existing site. He added that as soon as more information is provided, next week, he will send it on to PAC and Council

J. Lawter commented that he hopes they don't make the cascades too easy.

C. Smith said that they need to keep in mind what they shared with PAC and Council regarding the contract that was signed, specific in trying to make this particular location as novice able as possible, from an operational standpoint.

J. Lawter asked if there were any updates on the white water features.

C. Smith explained that the permit had been submitted to the State, with initial feedback which he believes will involve additional modification in order to accommodate the fish passage.

D. Barrett asked if there are any unique safety features that this amenity presents to staff.

C. Saam said the river briefings have increased in order to try to educate the public as much as possible on how to paddle through the cascades but they are not changing any safety features currently.

C. Smith added that canoe livery staff has their waiver form reviewed by the City attorney whenever changes happen.

General discussion pursued.

J. Grand thanked C. Saam for her continued efforts throughout the construction and trial phases of the project.

C. Smith thanked C. Saam for her efforts, adding that since C. Saam began working at the livery roughly 10 years ago that events associated with the river enjoyment have increased tremendously and she has really worked hard at making it all happen.

B UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B-1 [12-0688](#) Resolution to Recommend Adoption of Sustainability Goals as Part of City Master Plan

J. Kidwell, Sustainability Associate for the City of Ann Arbor, reviewed the

Sustainability Framework with the Commission.

J. Grand reviewed the resolution.

Resolution to Recommend Adoption of Sustainability Goals as Part of City Master Plan

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor aspires to be a sustainable community;

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor is committed to ensuring a high quality of life, while balancing economic development with the preservation and conservation of natural resources;

Whereas, City Council previously adopted 10 environmental goals in 2007 including Clean Air; Clean Water; Efficient Mobility; Health-Promoting Urban Environment; Local Food Sufficiency; Responsible Resource Use; Safe Community; Stable Climate; Sustainable Energy; and Viable Ecosystems;

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor accepted a grant from the Home Depot Foundation to develop a sustainability framework and sustainability action plan;

Whereas, the 16 sustainability goals have been developed from goals created in over 25 different planning efforts covering the three key aspects of sustainability – environment, economy, and equity;

Whereas, these sustainability goals build on goals already developed through a variety of public processes;

Whereas, a joint commission meeting with representatives from Energy, Environmental, Planning, Park Advisory Commission was held in September 2011 to discuss sustainability goals;

Whereas, a Sustainability Framework Committee was formed with representatives from Energy Commission, Environmental Commission, Housing Commission, Planning Commission, Park Advisory Commission, and the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board to help create these goals;

Whereas, the Sustainable Ann Arbor Forums addressed the areas of climate and energy, community, land use and access, and resource management;

Whereas, the sustainability goals were distributed to City Council, Energy Commission, Environmental Commission, Housing Commission, Planning Commission, Park Advisory Commission, and the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board in February 2012 for comments;

Whereas, the sustainability goals were shared with the public in February 2012;

Whereas, a public meeting was held on March 29, 2012 to solicit feedback on the sustainability goals;

Whereas, additional opportunities for public comment were available at various city commission meetings and will be available as part of the City Master Plan review process.

RESOLVED, the Park Advisory Commission recommends that City Council initiate the process to adopt the 16 sustainability goals as part of the City Master Plan.

RESOLVED, the Park Advisory Commission recommends that City Council direct city staff to apply the 16 sustainability goals in their work on the sustainability action plan while the City Master Plan review process is underway.

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

Yeas: 6 - Barrett, RAC Rep. Berla, Chair Berson Grand, Lawter, Offen, Councilmember Anglin, Councilmember Taylor, and Levin

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Chapman, Doyle, and Ault

J. Grand thanked Jamie for her efforts on the Sustainability Framework.

B-2 [12-0689](#)

Windemere Tennis Courts

A. Kuras reviewed the Windemere Park Tennis Courts project with the Commission.

Berla asked what the guarantee was that the more expensive solution to rebuild the tennis courts would last for 10 years.

She said her experience is that as long as the subsurface conditions don't change they could get 20-25 years out of the new courts by using the geo-grid.

Discussion pursued regarding soil borings and information provided from the engineers.

C. Smith added that staff would like to see the courts at Windemere replaced and the location will be discussed with the community and the neighborhood, but where the courts end up being located is important in order to make sure they last and it will be the best investment of the City's dollars.

A. Kuras said she would feel more comfortable with getting a third estimate and recommendation from professional engineers before deciding which option to proceed with.

J. Grand noted that the communication that the Commission has received from the neighbors in the area has been most helpful to the Commission and she thanked the neighbors for their time and efforts in providing so much informative data.

J. Grand read the resolution;

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE RECONSTRUCTION OF TENNIS COURTS IN WINDEMERE PARK

Whereas, the tennis courts in Windemere Park are in need of replacement;

Whereas, the tennis courts are a heavily utilized neighborhood asset;

Whereas, the tennis courts are in an underserved Northeast area of the City;

Whereas, saturated organic soils and a high water table have resulted in an unstable base and heaving of the existing net posts;

Whereas, a number of potential options exist for replacing the tennis courts;

Whereas, the Park Advisory Commission (PAC) values the input of the neighbors and community in making a decision regarding the tennis courts;

Whereas, reconstruction can be accomplished for 10-20% above regular court construction costs;

Resolved, that PAC supports the replacement of the tennis courts in Windemere Park;

Resolved, that input will be solicited from neighbors and the community through public meetings;

Resolved, that reconstruction will be accomplished for no more than 10-20% above normal reconstruction costs.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

D. Barrett asked about timing on the project.

A. Kuras said she hopes to have postcards mailed out within a few months and then public meetings held and construction being in the spring of 2013.

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

Yeas: 6 - Barrett, RAC Rep. Berla, Chair Berson Grand, Lawter, Offen, Councilmember Anglin, Councilmember Taylor, and Levin

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Chapman, Doyle, and Ault

C NEW BUSINESS

C-1 12-0690 Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Contract with Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. to Make Improvements to South University Park (\$39,575.00)

A. Kuras gave a Power Point presentation on the proposed improvements to South University Park, noting that the improvements will be made possible through the donation of funds from a generous donor.

J. Grand asked how any remaining funds from the donation will be used.

C. Smith responded that it will stay in Fund 34, which is specifically earmarked for future needs of this park location.

J. Grand read the resolution.

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH TERRA-FIRMA LANDSCAPE, INC. TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTH UNIVERSITY PARK (\$39,575.00)

Whereas, the South University Park is in need of improvements to address the deteriorated basketball court, invasive and overgrown landscape,

Whereas, Competitive bids were received by Purchasing on March 27, 2012 ;

Whereas, Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. submitted the lowest responsive bid;

Whereas, Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. received Human Rights approval on April 4, 2012; and

Whereas, Funding for the project was donated by Leslie and Michael Morris, former neighbors of the park, and is available in the approved FY2012 Parks Memorials and Contributions budget (Fund 0034)

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommends approval of a contract with Terra-Firma Landscape, Inc. to make improvements to South University Park and recommend authorization of a construction contingency of \$3,958.00 (10%) to cover potential contract change orders to be approved by the City Administrator;

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

Yeas: 6 - Barrett, RAC Rep. Berla, Chair Berson Grand, Lawter, Offen, Councilmember Anglin, Councilmember Taylor, and Levin

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Chapman, Doyle, and Ault

D COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

T. Berla asked if the Commission should consider following up on unleashed dogs in the parks. He also asked if the Commission had heard of any dangerous event that had occurred in the dog parks.

C. Smith said that there have been unfortunate incidents when aggressive dogs have attacked other dogs and should such events arise, the park is posted with specific signage to call the police at that time. He added that new park staff will be monitoring off-lease dogs and informing them of the laws involved.

T. Berla suggested that it would be great to have a volunteer effort monitoring and patrolling the dog park.

J. Lawter said he is advocating for off-lease hours in some of the parks and he believes there does need to be enforcement in the dog parks.

E REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith reported that the swimming pools will open May 26th, and the golf courses have been busy since March.

He reported that the Farmer's Market is open in the mornings and evening, and the Leslie Science Center is having their annual fund raiser on Saturday, May 19th.

C. Smith reviewed information from Matt Warba, regarding the mowing in the parks, noting that they are on a 14-day cycle.

C. Smith reported that Natural Area Preservation [NAP] is returning to Community Services Department.

F REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

G REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

T. Berla said they are looking for RAC Commissioners.

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

J. Grand thanked S. Offen for his dedication to PAC and for all his great work on the budget.

S. Offen said it has been a pleasure serving on PAC, and the parks are a magnificent asset to Ann Arbor and hopefully something that the people don't take for granted.

C. Smith said from a staff perspective, they have really appreciated his efforts and input on the budget and several other areas.

I PUBLIC COMMENTARY - GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)

None

J CLOSED SESSION

K TRANSMITTALS

K-1 [12-0691](#) City Council Items Update

Received and Filed

K-2 [12-0692](#) Park Projects Update

Received and Filed

K-3 [12-0693](#) City of Ann Arbor 2008-2013 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage Status

Received and Filed

L ADJOURNMENT

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

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- Cable: Watch CTN Channel 16 public meeting programming via Comcast Cable channel 16.

The complete record of this meeting is available in video format at www.a2gov.org/ctn, on "The Meeting Place" page (<http://www.a2gov.org/livemeetings>), or is available for a nominal fee by contacting CTN at (734) 794-6150.