



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 15, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, April 15, 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 4:10 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

Ex-Officio Members Present: (1) S. Kunselman

Ex- Officio Members Absent: (1) M. Anglin

Members Absent: (0) None

Staff Present: (14) Jayne Miller, Colin Smith, Greg Bazick, D. Thompson, M. Warba, J. Dehring, K.C. Bemish, J. Black, A. Kuras, J. Frenzel, L. Bowen

Guests: (8) Larry Deck, Rita Barvinok, Jennie Hale, Maureen Ybarra, Casey Battle, John Freshley, Kevin Devine, Glenn Thompson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berauer** asked the Commission if there was anything that needed to be discussed or if there were any additions or requests to be added to the agenda. There were none. The agenda was approved unanimously.

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

**Casey Battle** spoke on the conditions of the soccer fields at Fuller Field. He stated the fields are in poor shape, and he has played soccer in various places in the country and no longer plays at Fuller Field. Mr. Battle explained other clubs are renting other fields due to the safety concerns of playing on Fuller Fields.

Mr. Battle also stated the surrounding fields in the area are maintained better as well as being safer than Fuller Field.

**John Freshley** spoke on the conditions of the soccer fields at Fuller Field. Mr. Freshley stated he is a local entrepreneur in Ann Arbor and has been in Ann Arbor approximately nine years.

51 He has played soccer on Fuller Field but cannot any longer due to poor conditions as well  
52 as being unsafe for him physically.

53  
54 Soccer is not a special interest of a narrow group of people, and is one of the most  
55 democratic and most popular sports; primarily all you need is a little ball that can be made  
56 out of tape if you wish and bare feet to kick it.

57  
58 There is no equipment required; this is why it is the largest youth participation sport not only  
59 in the world, but also in this country. It is the largest youth participation sport in Ann Arbor,  
60 both at the recreation and education level. Most of the children want to continue to develop  
61 in the game and choose to do travel sports. Due to the conditions of the fields, travel sports  
62 have become very expensive. Unfortunately many of our residents have discovered when  
63 trying to privately fund field's through a single club it became unsustainable; that club is now  
64 folding. This was not the best approach to providing fields to our community.

65  
66 Pooling the efforts of all the clubs would be more efficient, and allow what is a very diverse  
67 sport to be played.

68  
69 **Maureen Ybarra** spoke on the conditions of the Soccer Fields, stating she has lived in Ann  
70 Arbor for the last 5 years, previously residing in California. Ms.Ybarra explained the different  
71 challenges faced with the fields due to the weather conditions here in Michigan. Also,  
72 explaining the possibility of using turf fields versus using grass fields.

73  
74 Ms. Ybarra stated the fields in the surrounding communities are well maintained. She stated  
75 she has coached here for the last 9 years at many different levels and have children who  
76 also play soccer. When playing on the fields in the surrounding communities that are well  
77 groomed, it is a pleasure. The games that are held at Fuller Field as well as other local  
78 fields have become difficult and several players wear ankle braces on occasion due to the  
79 conditions.

80  
81 Ms. Ybarra stated she is encouraged that the Park Advisory Commission is addressing this  
82 issue.

83  
84 **Jenny Hale** is a program officer and youth counselor advisor for the Ann Arbor Area  
85 Community Foundation and also a member of the Ann Arbor Skate Park Action Community.

86  
87 In 2007 the Youth Council conducted a needs assessment, 693 Ann Arbor teens were  
88 surveyed regarding issues, concerns and programs that should be funded. She also passed  
89 copies of the results of this survey to the Commission. The teens overwhelmingly responded  
90 that after school recreation and social activities were the number one answer; 81% of the  
91 teens responded.

92  
93 The question regarding what programs teens participate in was also asked, 61% responded  
94 again to the after school recreation and social activities. The Skate Park will be for  
95 everyone, but youth under 18 years of age will likely be the primary users of this Skate Park.

96  
97 Teens at this age cannot vote. They can tell the politicians and public officials that they care  
98 about something. The Skate Park that this group envisions is beautiful; the plan is to  
99 incorporate green spaces and landscaping in the design as well as public art. This is exactly  
100 the type of Skate Park Ann Arbor should have.

101

102 As a Vets Park neighbor, the corner will be even more attractive with what is proposed.

103

104 The examples of other Skate Parks can be works of art themselves.

105

106 The proposed location does not include cutting down trees in the area. The skaters want  
107 and desire shaded areas. The Community Foundation stands ready to consider serving as  
108 fiduciary and has done this for other groups in the community for special projects that serve  
109 a broad community. Recommending a location is the key to the Community Foundation's  
110 involvement.

111

112 There are corporate and individual donors that are ready to make a donation but the group  
113 needs a fiduciary and most organizations that could serve as one will require a location be  
114 recommended. There is adequate time to get the location in the next 2 months so the group  
115 can have a fiduciary in place by June 2008 and start accepting donations and applying for  
116 grants by the summer.

117

118 Ms. Hale stated she supports the location of the Skate Park being at Veteran's Memorial  
119 Park and urged The Park Advisory Commission to make an official recommendation to the  
120 City Council regarding the location as soon as possible.

121

122 **Rita Barvinok** spoke on the Skate Park and also stated Ann Arbor has many different kinds  
123 of recreational activities, stressing the need for a Skate Park in Ann Arbor. The Skate  
124 boarders want a safe location for skateboarding; there would no longer be an excuse for  
125 them to skate on the streets.

126

127 The Skate Park Action Committee has proposed Veteran's Memorial Park for the location of  
128 the Skate Park. This is a very good location for the skate park; the park is large, it will be  
129 away from homes and the residents will not be disturbed, the proposed location is visibly  
130 open from Maple St. and other places in the Park. There are trees near the proposed  
131 location which is a good place for skaters as well as their parents to rest.

132

133 The path that goes across the proposed location may be able to go around the Park or  
134 above the Park. The Skate Park may add amusement for those who walk along this path.  
135 There are always bystanders who take an interest and watch the skaters.

136

137 Ann Arbor skate boarders deserve to have a Skate Park and Veteran's Memorial Park is the  
138 right location.

139

140 **Kevin Devine** spoke in support of the skate park, also explaining he has a son who is  
141 involved in skate boarding and would be a supporter. The proposed location is a wonderful  
142 idea and would be a good service to our residents and our children to have this facility.

143

144 **Larry Deck** spoke and represents the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition and has  
145 been involved with non motorized transportation in the County and in the City.

146

147 There is a list of 16 priorities Countywide; two of those projects are in City Parks. One is  
148 finishing the trail between Broadway and The Argo Dam, the other project is the tunnel  
149 under the railroad between Barton Park and Bandemer Park on the north side.

150

151 The tunnel project is a safety issue at the crossing and is a key facility that links the northern  
152 City Parks to the central City Parks.

153 It is also part of the City's non motorized plan.

154

155 The tunnel project will be expensive to complete, but there should be funding available from  
156 a number of agencies. To obtain funding from these agencies we need to have control of  
157 land.

158

159 To control the land we need railroad approval of the tunnel. To have this we need an  
160 engineering design of the tunnel. To have this we need City Council's approval to proceed  
161 with the engineering design of the tunnel.

162

163 The request is to ask The Park Advisory Commission to recommend this issue be brought to  
164 City Council for action and discussion.

165

166 **L. Berauer** asked if Larry Deck could send the list of the projects to the Commissioners via  
167 email.

168

169 **Glenn Thompson** spoke on the Skate Park; stating only 2 locations were suggested by the  
170 Park Planning staff at the recent neighborhood meeting. Veteran's Memorial Park was  
171 preferred by the Skate Park Committee and feels this is a very undesirable location from an  
172 environmental stand point with the possibility of flooding at the Allen Creek.

173

174 The proposed Skate Park is estimated to be 30,000 square feet of impervious area, this is  
175 an area equal to the rooftops of 30 – 50 homes. We should not be adding this impervious  
176 area to one of the few green surfaces of the water shed, these areas should be used to  
177 retain water to reduce flood damage.

178

179 Mr. Dehring has stated this project will meet the storm water requirements, meeting the  
180 environmental standards of the Bush Administration is not the standard Ann Arbor should  
181 accept. For example, the City recently awarded a contract to demolish a home due to this  
182 risk of flood damage. It simply does not make sense that the City would demolish a home  
183 due to flood risk and then construct a project less than a mile from this home that  
184 exacerbates flood danger.

185

186 There are areas where a Skate Park could be constructed that would actually improve storm  
187 water management, meet the goals of the Skate Park Committee and that would be more  
188 likely to qualify for grant funding, for example, the non motorized transportation grants. It  
189 may be harder to implement and harder to design, but this idea should be taken into  
190 consideration rather than accepting the Veteran's Park location without considering the  
191 environmental problems.

192

## 193 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

194

195 **A-1 Commissioner Offen** moved, supported by **Commissioner Rosencrans** to  
196 approve the minutes of the March 18, 2008 meeting as written. The minutes of  
197 March 18, 2008 were approved unanimously as written.

198

199 **Commissioner Berauer** commented on the minutes from the March 18, 2008  
200 meeting were very extensive.

201

202

203

204 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

205  
206 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

207  
208 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

209  
210 **B-1 Park Security Discussion and Recommendations**

211  
212 **Deputy Chief Bazick** explained the increased Police patrols in the Parks. He stated he  
213 and Gwen Nystuen met regarding this issue and passed reports to the Commission.

214  
215 Deputy Chief Bazick stated this explanation is a follow up for the Commission and the  
216 extension of the first visual graph and also passed this graph to the Commission (call  
217 for service activity) that was shown to the Commission previously. There are 3 pages  
218 that show by fiscal year, by hour of the day and the call for service activity in the Parks.  
219 This report indicates all of the Parks but can be modified by each Park. Deputy Chief  
220 Bazick explained each sheet to the Commission, also stating there is more activity in  
221 the Parks in the summer months, with activity declining in the winter months.

222  
223 A database was created to take the officers day sheets and enter all of the information  
224 into the database regarding the self initiated activity for the Officer's in the Parks as a  
225 whole hour by hour based on what the Officer's logged in. This report can also be  
226 modified by categories upon the request of the Commission.

227  
228 **L. Berauer** stated this report is very helpful.

229  
230 **S. Offen** asked if it would be possible to annualize the 2007 data.

231  
232 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated the report is based upon fiscal year, and would be July  
233 2006 – July 2007.

234  
235 **S. Offen** asked if there is a way to approximate what the numbers were at the first of  
236 the year.

237  
238 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated yes.

239  
240 **S. Offen** asked if there was anecdotal explanation for why there are spikes in hours for  
241 2005, then were reduced for the remaining years.

242  
243 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated he would review the report in that time frame, and look at  
244 the service account worked. There is a possibility there was an increase in traffic stops  
245 in the area that was coded towards one of the Parks in the area.

246  
247 **G. Nystuen** stated a recommendation needs to be made to continue our current  
248 operation for this coming year. When the Commission has the full report by the end of  
249 July 2008, a permanent recommendation can be made in coordination.

250  
251 It would also be good to work with the Adopt-A-Park as well as the park stewards. One  
252 of the advantages this last year has been the coordination of bringing together  
253 information between the Parks and Police. So far there have not been any serious  
254 difficulties.

255 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated the Commission requested information regarding any  
256 detriment to other operations within in the City due to the patrolling of the Parks.  
257

258 Deputy Chief Bazick stated there has not been any documentation to indicate this is  
259 affecting other services.  
260

261 **L. Berauer** asked if accomplishing the Park patrol caused the Police Department to  
262 have any deficiencies in other areas.  
263

264 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated no, there were not any deficiencies in other areas. The  
265 free patrol time was redirected and nothing else was harmed with these efforts. This is  
266 patrol time that is not tied up for a response to a call for service or for a call that you  
267 schedule in advance.  
268

269 **L. Berauer** stated she was glad to hear this because there was a concern with that  
270 particular issue.  
271

272 **J. Lawter** asked Deputy Chief Bazick to explain the terminology “calls for service”.  
273

274 **Deputy Chief Bazick** explained a “call for service” would be is someone called “911” to  
275 report an incident and a unit and/or a Police Officer responded to the location.  
276

277 **J. Lawter** stated it appears calls have dropped in 2008.  
278

279 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated new data is being collected with the new system. Also  
280 stating data will be collected to determine if what is represented in the report is data  
281 from Police Officer’s being on duty or if it represented by Community Standards.  
282

283 **G. Nystuen** stated at the time of the previous report there were many Community  
284 Standards employees.  
285

286 **L. Berauer** stated emails have been received regarding dogs off leash, and wanted to  
287 ask if there were any comments on recent experiences with this issue.  
288

289 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated he has not focused on this issue to make an analysis on  
290 it.  
291

292 **L. Berauer** stated there was an email pertaining to Bird Hills regarding dogs being off  
293 leash.  
294

295 **Deputy Chief Bazick** asked if anything has been posted regarding options for the  
296 dogs.  
297

298 **Colin Smith** stated there is no signage at this time, but signs can be placed at the  
299 Kiosk at Bird Hills Park and other Parks as well.  
300

301 **Deputy Chief Bazick** stated if there was literature to hand out to the citizen’s that  
302 would be another way for staff to interact with the public in an informative manner.  
303  
304

305 **L. Berauer** stated NAP was in possession of literature regarding proper etiquette  
306 pertaining to dogs in the Parks, also suggesting employees in Community Standards  
307 and Police Officer's could pass out information containing the locations of the Dog  
308 Parks.

309  
310 **Colin Smith** stated he spoke with Deputy Chief Seto and he suggested not only a  
311 warning to the public regarding off leash dogs but having a brochure stating the options  
312 of the Dog Park.

313  
314 **T. Berla** expressed concern that citizen's may not realize they are actually breaking the  
315 rules.

316  
317 **S. Offen** stated yes, people do realize they are not following the rules and that he has  
318 mentioned to citizens, with responses being yes they are aware.

319  
320 **S. Offen** asked if the reports could be grouped into the types of Parks we are speaking  
321 of, as in neighborhood parks or community Parks.

322  
323 **B-2 Athletic Field Task Force Report and Recommendations**

324  
325 **L. Berauer** complimented the Task Force on the hard work with addressing the issues  
326 that the public as well as the Commission are concerned about regarding the fields.

327  
328 **D. Barrett** spoke on the field conditions explaining the progress to the Commission.

329  
330 Information was passed to the Commission. D. Barrett stated he walked around each  
331 field in Ann Arbor to better address the filed conditions. The soccer fields and active  
332 sports fields are not well maintained. There is a distinction among the soccer fields and  
333 how they are used. There are the primary fields which at this point would be Fuller Park  
334 (there are 8 fields there) and Olson Park. The secondary fields are Virginia Park and  
335 West Park, and other neighborhood Parks.

336  
337 Approximately two years ago an attempt to repair Olson Park was made, there were  
338 problems with the builder and this project was not completed.

339  
340 The irrigation system at Fuller Park was in need of repair, funds were not allocated for  
341 this repair. The field was over used and is now in the current state.

342  
343 Recreation & Education uses a combination of school fields and the secondary  
344 neighborhood fields. The house leagues have higher level skills, do not travel and  
345 basically play in Ann Arbor. The third level is the club and the travel teams. There are  
346 thousands of children participating in these levels. The travel teams and the club teams  
347 of which examples are the Arsenal, United, USA and Soccer Blast travel around the  
348 state with Ann Arbor being the home area. Most of the club teams have migrated out of  
349 the City to Concordia College or privately owned areas to practice where they rent time  
350 and space.

351  
352 The use of Fuller Park is down due to injuries to the children playing on the fields which  
353 are caused by the conditions of the fields.

355 There is major work to do on the fields, the positive news is the City has come to the  
356 same conclusion and there is a genuine understanding of the problem.

357  
358 There are 6 items for the Commission to be aware of and to remain focused on:

359  
360 The fields are not well maintained, the second issue is quality which is related to  
361 quantity because they are over used because there is not enough quantity. We need to  
362 make sure that we start with the idea of what quality would be.

363  
364 The City has a responsibility to provide recreational facilities when no other  
365 organization public or private will, there is a possibility that no other organization will  
366 meet the needs of a high quality fields.

367  
368 Fuller and Olson Fields are a very good place to start repairing, in addition the City has  
369 made a commitment to focus on the secondary field's that the Recreation and  
370 Education teams will be playing on, this will take time to fertilize and aerate.

371  
372 The Fields need to be renovated at a high level quality; a plan implemented to maintain  
373 this level of quality, the ongoing maintenance plan will evolve as we learn more  
374 especially since we have not maintained the fields at this level.

375  
376 The goal is to establish this amenity into the future, so we need to put in place ongoing  
377 systems. This will include ongoing regular maintenance, control of access, preventing  
378 over usage and allocating fields among competing organizations. When the fields are  
379 improved this will be a challenge.

380  
381 Establishing policies, reservation rates, weather cancellations, measurement of field  
382 quality on an ongoing basis, accounting for field cost and rental revenue. These are  
383 areas to work on.

384  
385 **S. Offen** stated the speakers attending the meeting mentioned the quality of fields in  
386 neighboring communities and that they were superior to the quality of the fields in Ann  
387 Arbor. S. Offen asked if those fields mentioned have been visited, how the qualities of  
388 those fields are maintained and if there are fields we could use as a model for our own  
389 fields.

390  
391 **D. Barrett** stated due to coaching on the travel teams, these fields have been visited.  
392 There are a number of business scenarios that make this possible some are privately  
393 owned others are City owned. They go into business with private organizations to  
394 maintain the fields.

395  
396 To hold soccer tournaments generates money, causing this to be in their best interest  
397 to maintain the fields so they can have tournaments. There has not been a tournament  
398 in Ann Arbor for many years for this reason.

399  
400 **L. Berauer** stated most of the public feels using the partnership with a private entity will  
401 work well.

402  
403 **J. Lawter** stated if the infrastructure is in place there is a possibility that uncontrolled  
404 play on the field will cause the field not to be able to rest and rotate. One muddy day  
405 could cause the field to be destroyed.



406 Although we want tournament level fields, that may not be possible on all fields. It  
407 would be nice to have some percentages that are of good quality and tournament level  
408 fields.

409  
410 To be able to accomplish this goal there will have to be fences placed at the fields and  
411 rules for the usage of the fields.

412  
413 **G. Nystuen** asked how the plans for the fields will fit with this year's budget, as well as  
414 the timeline to reach these goals.

415  
416 **D. Barrett** explained the budget aspect will be explained in Jayne Miller's presentation  
417 at today's meeting. The timeline would be approximately 2-3 years to get fields in order.

418  
419 **S. Rosencrans** asked if there is a specific list of criteria that is used pertaining to good  
420 or bad fields.

421  
422 **D. Barrett** stated yes and he would be happy to explain.

423  
424 **L. Berauer** asked if D. Barrett had an opinion regarding grass versus artificial turf on  
425 the fields.

426  
427 **D. Barrett** stated in a perfect world it would be better to play on turf.

428  
429 **T. Berla** suggested the possibility of someone from Park Operations being able to go to  
430 the fields and write down the field quality measurements. Also stating it would be a  
431 good idea to have artificial turf fields with lights.

432  
433 One artificial turf field can cost in excess of one million dollars.

434  
435 **Jayne Miller** presented a Power Point presentation to the Commission and explained  
436 that the presentation would include an overview of the sport's fields in the area, the  
437 field user groups in the area will be indentified, an overview of the current field  
438 reservation practices and revenues, current maintenance practices as well as provide  
439 recommendations for future maintenance practices, policy development and field  
440 reservations.

441  
442 ***There was an extensive Power Point Presentation presented to the Commission,***

443  
444 ***Jayne Miller explained each slide to the Commission in detail.***

445  
446 **S. Offen** asked J. Miller what year was the data from that was presented to the  
447 Commission.

448  
449 **Jayne Miller** stated the data is current and also stated the Commission has hard  
450 copies of the Power Point Presentation.

451  
452 **Jayne Miller** expressed the usage at the Fuller Field not being controlled; due to this  
453 the conditions of the fields have deteriorated and the summer camps no longer use the  
454 fields.

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**S. Offen** asked why there were fewer hours with the summer usage than in the spring.

**Jayne Miller** explained the clubs are going elsewhere due to the conditions of the fields, and we have fields that are rested more in the summer than in the spring.

**T. Berla** stated this could be due to summer being considered only 2 months and the spring is considered 3 months.

**S. Kunselman** stated the irrigation system at Fuller Field is a major issue compared to the fields in the surrounding communities.

**Matt Warba** explained a new irrigation system was put in Fuller Field last spring along with a new pump and lowered the level of the intake pipe within the stream. To move forward with the fields this is a key component.

**J. Lawter** asked which three fields have fees.

**Jayne Miller** stated fees are at Olson and Fuller Fields. Fees should be charged at all of the Fields but the question is what the tier and fee structures consist of. The Airport Field's are used and they are City Fields. We do not receive revenue from that Field and are not aware of where the revenue is actually going.

**D. Barrett** explained there are four Fields at the Airport they are not like neighborhood fields, they are closer in likeness to Fuller Field.

**S. Offen** asked who maintained the soccer fields.

**Jayne Miller** stated Parks Operations.

**L. Berauer** asked if the data regarding reservations has been difficult to obtain from Recreation and Education.

**Jayne Miller** stated this has been a difficult situation due to Recreation and Education wanting to abide by a 1976 agreement and is an issue that is being discussed.

**T. Berla** stated he has mentioned to Sara Acshbach and the Recreation Advisory Commission regarding a presentation to the Park Advisory Commission regarding the policy with the City.

**L. Berauer** stated this issue should be placed on the agenda to discuss and possibly have both the Park Advisory Commission and the Recreation Advisory Commission meet.

**D. Barrett** expressed thanks to staff regarding a job well done with this situation.

- B-3**      Golf Task Force Report
- PAC Recommendation

507 **Jayne Miller** explained and passed a packet to the Commission regarding the Golf  
508 Course Report. The packet included the Marketing Plan for the Golf Course, sample  
509 materials and the Golf Course Recommendations, the Park Advisory  
510 Recommendations from the January 15, 2008 meeting minutes.

511  
512 Also included in the packet:

513  
514 The City's cost per visitor per recreation facility, the millage funds that have been  
515 expended at each facility, the millage fact sheet along with questions and answers  
516 when we were promoting the existing millage.

517  
518 Jayne Miller walked the Commission through the immediate changes which included  
519 the fact that Matt Warba leaving the Golf Courses, with Matt Warba's move it presented  
520 challenges and opportunities that allowed staff changes. Cheryl Saam who was at the  
521 Canoe Liveries, prior to being there was at the Leslie Science Center will be moving to  
522 Leslie Park Golf Course and Jason Nealis will be moving to Huron Hills Golf Course.  
523 Those changes were specifically done to due to their experience. Cheryl Saam has  
524 totally revamped the Canoe Livery operations from business, customer service and  
525 financial aspects.

526  
527 The fee structure recommended that was approved by City Council was implemented.  
528 The staffing levels have been increased; the tee-time reservation systems (integrated  
529 and Point of Sale) have been implemented and will provide a great deal of information  
530 regarding our customers so that target marketing can be done.

531  
532 Between both Golf Courses approximately \$30,000.00 will be spent on marketing this  
533 season.

534  
535 The process has begun to obtain a liquor license from the State of Michigan. City  
536 Council awarded the license to Leslie Park in March. The state will inspect the property  
537 and this could take 4 – 6 months to complete this process. Until this process is  
538 complete, alcohol cannot be sold at the facility.

539  
540 There have been enhancements to improve the operations. A huge emphasis has been  
541 put towards customer service with our staff as well as hiring practices. Enhancements  
542 are also being made with the food and beverage operations at both Golf Courses. All of  
543 these changes are being made within the Fiscal Year budget.

544  
545 The Golf Courses are always budgeted with the intent of a good year. If it is not a good  
546 year due to weather or other circumstances the Managers are aware to operate on  
547 what is budgeted, meaning if the revenue is down to operate on this budget, and  
548 cutting expenses as needed.

549  
550 We have 4 different scenarios of recommendations regarding a 3 -5 year investment for  
551 the Golf Courses. Jayne Miller explained in detail the information included in the packet  
552 passed to the Commission.

553  
554 The big difference between the Park Advisory Commissions, two staff, and the Golf  
555 Task Force recommendations was the irrigation system at Huron Hills which was a  
556 \$425,000.00 cost and was not included in all the recommendations.

557

558 **D. Barrett** asked if the irrigation system would be replaced at a cost of \$425,000.00.

559  
560 **Jayne Miller** stated this is a recommendation to City Council and it is not included in  
561 the proposed budget. City Council has the information and this cost may be included in  
562 the budget.

563  
564 **S. Offen** asked how much the irrigation system cost and how long it would take to  
565 replace the system.

566  
567 **Jayne Miller** stated the materials would be ready for bid and would take 2 –3 months.

568  
569 **S. Offen** asked if we waited until spring what would be the earliest the system would be  
570 installed.

571  
572 **Jayne Miller** stated the recommendation would be to start the process of repairing the  
573 irrigation system in the fall and close the Golf Course early.

574  
575 **Colin Smith** stated the work could be completed in the fall of the 2010 golf season if  
576 approved.

577  
578 **T. Berla** stated the work would be completed in the 2011 season.

579  
580 **B. Macomber** asked if the replacement of the irrigation system is included in the  
581 \$778,000.00 that staff is proposing come out of the capital.

582  
583 **Jayne Miller** stated no, it is not.

584  
585 **B. Macomber** stated the City's capital plan already has the approximately \$250,000.00  
586 going to the golf courses from the capital millage and asked if this includes the  
587 \$778,000.00.

588  
589 **B. Macomber** stated this information can be seen on the Parks and Recreation portion  
590 of the City's Capital Plan located on the City's web site.

591  
592 **Colin Smith** stated he was not aware of this information being on the web site.

593  
594 **S. Offen** stated the information regarding \$250,000.00 that B. Macomber is referring to  
595 is in the Fiscal 2012 budget.

596  
597 **B. Macomber** stated the current maintenance capital millage is for the length of 6  
598 years, allocating 20% of that revenue each year for the 2007 – 2008 and the 2008 –  
599 2009 budgets, which is approximately \$1,000,000.00 per year. For the next six-year time  
600 span, if we continue using the 80/20 percent ratio there will only be \$6,000,000.00 to  
601 work with.

602  
603 Looking at the proposal for the golf courses, without the installation of the irrigation  
604 system there will be a large portion of money spent.

605  
606 **Jayne Miller** stated \$778,000.00 was identified out of the capital portion of the new  
607 millage to utilize for the Golf Courses. There are projects out of (Fund 18) the old capital  
608 millage and the new millage.

609 This current year and next year was discussed and this is a significant issue that this  
610 body should comment on and send to City Council before the budget is decided on.

611  
612 **L. Berauer** stated the Park Advisory Commission did not propose using any of the  
613 capital money.

614  
615 **Jayne Miller** explained projects that were cut and placed on hold are included in the  
616 packet passed to the Commission.

617  
618 **Jayne Miller** explained that the notes in the packet are referring to the \$250,000.00 that  
619 was proposed as part of Fiscal Year 2008 and 2009 budget for Park Security.

620  
621 One of the recommendations was to use \$230,000.00 of the \$250,000.00 for this Fiscal  
622 Year for Golf Course improvements.

623  
624 For Fiscal Year 2009 use \$180,000.00 of the \$250,000.00 for Golf Course  
625 improvements.

626  
627 On the second page, \$200,000.00 of the capital money has been identified as well as  
628 another \$150,000.00 from Capital projects relating to trail and pathway repairs.

629  
630 **B. Macomber** stated at the previous Park Advisory Commission it was stated that there  
631 was not any Park Security money coming out of the millage in the 2008 – 2009 budget.

632  
633 **Jayne Miller** stated there is not any money coming out, it is the money that was  
634 budgeted that City Council did not approve and is in a contingency fund.

635  
636 **B. Macomber** stated if the six year millage remains at the 80/20 ratio, we are looking at  
637 \$6,000,000.00 over the course of six years and the \$778,000.00 without the irrigation  
638 system it will take a large portion of the six year millage.

639  
640 The list states new soccer development is being cut, trail and greenway development is  
641 being cut which is behind particularly in the trails. If new land were found for the soccer  
642 fields there would be less money to develop them.

643  
644 **Jayne Miller** suggested the Park Advisory Commission provide information to Council  
645 regarding the recommendations and the source of funds.

646  
647 **L. Berauer** asked Jayne Miller was comfortable cutting the capital projects.

648  
649 **Jayne Miller** stated these are very difficult decisions City Council will make as to where  
650 approximately \$3,000,000.00 will come from. Whether or not the investments will be  
651 made to the Golf Courses immediately and what will be the long-term implications for  
652 City Council if the investment is made today for next Fiscal Year.

653  
654 Every year thereafter, after 5 years there will be an additional \$1,000,000.00 at a  
655 minimum that City Council must decide on.

656  
657 T. Berla stated the six year forecast seems to show a \$2,000,000.00 operating transfer  
658 from the General Fund.

659

660 Also, over the next six years we will subsidize the golf courses in the amount of  
661 \$3,000,000.00 and at the end of that period of time we will still have to subsidize  
662 approximately \$5.00 per round at Leslie Park, \$9.00 a round at Huron Hills assuming  
663 this scenario.

664  
665 **L. Berauer** suggested the Park Advisory Commission hold a special work session to  
666 discuss the materials passed to the Commission today to agree on a final  
667 recommendation to City Council regarding golf.

668  
669 **S. Rosencrans** stated a special meeting is a good idea and a special meeting is  
670 certainly is in order.

671  
672 **J. Grand** stated this issue would be brought up with the Golf Task Force prior to the  
673 next City Council meeting.

674  
675 **B-4** Staff Report on Skate Park Public Meeting

676  
677 **Jeff Dehring** stated the public meeting was held on April 2, 2008 with approximately 75  
678 people in attendance. The dialogue consisted of the community expressing their opinion  
679 on the location of the Skate Park being at Veteran's Memorial Park.

680  
681 There were concerns about trees being cut down, the trees will not be affected.

682  
683 Larry Dishman was in attendance. The parking issue was discussed. Larry Dishman  
684 stated with the decrease in programs the parking may not be an issue.

685  
686 There are concerns regarding the Allen Creek Watershed and water run off.

687  
688 The Skate Park Action Committee is well aware of this concern and knows this is an  
689 issue they will have to build into their design to mitigate.

690  
691 **L. Berauer** asked if there was a PAC representative at the public meeting.

692  
693 **S. Rosencrans** stated yes, he was in attendance at the meeting.

694  
695 **Jeff Dehring** suggested there be a public hearing on the May agenda for the community  
696 to speak on the Skate Park.

697  
698 **L. Berauer** asked if there were other locations throughout the City considered for the  
699 Skate Park.

700  
701 **Jeff Dehring** stated yes, Southeast Area Park and Buhr Park.

702  
703 **S. Rosencrans** stated he learned how safe skate boarding is compared to other sports.  
704 He also walked around the area that is being discussed and there is ample room at the  
705 proposed location.

706  
707 **L. Berauer** asked if a detailed report could be prepared for the May meeting and explain  
708 the mitigation regarding the storm water.

709  
710

711 **Jeff Dehring** stated the plans are not at this level of detail at this time.

712  
713 **Colin Smith** stated this would be a very hard question to answer with any certainty until  
714 a designer is hired.

715  
716 **S. Kunselman** asked if the Commission would be able to make a recommendation in  
717 May or June and if there is a time frame.

718  
719 **Jeff Dehring** would like to make a recommendation after the public meeting in May.

720  
721 **L. Berauer** stated the Commission is aware there cannot be any fundraising until there  
722 is a location decided upon.

723  
724 **S. Rosencrans** suggested the Commission walk through the proposed area and stated  
725 it would help to see the proposed location.

726  
727 **B-5** Dog Park Update

728  
729 **Jeff Dehring** stated the Dog Park is a huge success. The weather conditions and use  
730 have created mud conditions. The Park will be closed May 12 -21 to install gravel and to  
731 address the mud situation.

732  
733 There will be improvements to the parking lot and re-grade the driveway in order to  
734 facilitate that work the Park will close temporarily, a close for maintenance sign will be  
735 posted to give information to the users.

736  
737 This information will be also be posted by newspaper releases and there will be  
738 notifications on the web site. Olson Park will be the only option to take the dogs until the  
739 maintenance is completed.

740  
741 The County is facilitating and paying for this work.

742  
743 **Jeff Dehring** stated a temporary fence is being considered to segregate the area so the  
744 turf can establish.

745  
746 ***L. Berauer stated that due to time restraints, the last two items (B-6 and B-7) on***  
747 ***the agenda will be discussed at the special meeting that the public will be able to***  
748 ***attend.***

749  
750 **B-6** Review Budget Forecast Report and additional General Fund Allocations

751  
752 **B-7** 2008 – 09 Budget

753  
754  
755 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

756  
757  
758 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

762 E - REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

763

764

765 F - REPORT FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

766

767

768 G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

769

770

771 H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK  
772 FORCES

773

774

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

776

777 **Glenn Thompson** commented on the storm water situation and stated the  
778 development of the Skate Park would possibly double the problem.

779

780 **Trevor Staples** representing the Skate Park Action Committee stated the committee is  
781 looking at Federal Grants that give money to projects that deal with irrigation and water  
782 retention.

783

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

785

786

787 K - TRANSMITTALS

788

789 K-1 City Council Items Update

790

791 K-2 Park Project Update

792

793 K-3 PAC Work Session Summary

794

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

796

797 K-5 Parks Advisory Commission 2008 Meeting Schedule

798

799 There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner**  
800 **Berauer** moved that the meeting be adjourned. The regular meeting was adjourned at  
801 6:47 p.m.

802

803

804

805

806

807