



City of Ann Arbor

Formal Minutes

Park Advisory Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

4:00 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Second
Floor, City Council chambers

A CALL TO ORDER

B ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - David Santacroce, Paige Morrison, Julie Grand, Praveena Ramaswami, Lauren London, Ruth L. Kraut, Rachel Skyllis, and Jeff Hayner

Absent: 3 - Robert Galardi, Stephen Borgsdorf, and Mike Appel

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Addition of item G-1 to the agenda: Discussion of Resolution to Add “The Center of the City” to the list of Available Public Park Rental Facilities. Approved Unanimously

D APPROVAL OF MINUTES

D-1 [18-2112](#) Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2018

Attachments: 10-16-2018 PAC Minutes .pdf

Moved by Morrison, seconded by Ramaswami, approved as presented, and forwarded to the City Council.

E PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Tim Burla explained that he is at the meeting on behalf of pickleball, explaining that some of the tennis courts at Leslie Park have been converted to pickleball courts, and that it has been fantastically fun. He shared that a lot of people from the community are coming out to play. He thanked the Commission for implementing the courts and he thanked Hillary Hanzel for promptly correcting the lines of the courts. He suggested that in the next cycle of maintaining tennis courts, that pickleball courts be considered then as well. He also suggested options for spaces currently used as tennis courts to have dual markings, for

tennis and pickleball, and to have nets available at libraries.

Emmy Brawly, Associate Director for the Midwest Conservation Fund, discussed the Greenbelt Program, and introduced the new Land Acquisition Manager, Remy Long.

F SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

F-1 [18-2113](#) Argo/Gallup 2018 Recap

Cheryl Saam, Recreation Supervisor for Argo and Gallup Canoe Liveries, provided an overview of the 2018 season at the Argo and Gallup Canoe Liveries highlighting the following points:

- Over 90,000 people served*
- 56% of rentals were river trips*
- 42% of rentals were stillwater paddles*
- 2% tube rentals*
- at least 100 seasonal staff*
- Successful River Festivals and Programs*
- Components of managing the liveries*
 - staff*
 - equipment*
 - ADA improvements to Argo*
 - parking*
 - ques*
 - diverse crowds*
 - risk management*
 - water quality*
 - river flow and climate change*

Councilmember J. Hayner inquired about E. coli testing in the river.

C. Smith answered that the river is not regularly tested due to the areas discussed not being swimming beaches and exposure to the water is fairly limited.

Commissioner R. Kraut inquired about the general season as well as if there is information on total river use by those bringing their own kayaks or tubes as well as renters.

C. Saam answered that the season is generally mid April through the end of October, and that at this time residents who bring their own materials

are not counted.

Commissioner L. London inquired about the expansion of summer programs.

Saam answered that in 2019 there is some expansion, and that quality of the camp as well as logistics for managing an expanded program is a large part of the planning process.

Commissioner P. Ramaswami, inquired about river closure for low or high level days.

C. Saam answered that some activities are offered during high or low level days, depending on conditions. She discussed implementing signage.

R. Kraut explained that there is a polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) meeting at Washtenaw Community College on December 18, 2018.

C. Smith expressed appreciation for the work done by C. Saam at the liveries.

G NEW BUSINESS

G-1 Discussion of City Council Resolution to Add "The Center of the City" to the list of Available Public Park Rental Facilities

Chair Santacroce explained that there was a resolution on the City Council agenda regarding the parcel of land referred to as "The Center of the City" or the "Library Lot", and that the Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) is being consulted to discuss what to charge for the use of the space.

Councilmember Hayner discussed the possibility of the Parks and Recreation Department charging for the use of the land. He mentioned parking and Art Fair. He explained that the City Council resolution regarding this topic was added to the agenda too late to be voted on, so the topic has been brought to the PAC to get input.

Chair Santacroce inquired about who has been in control of the parcel previously.

C. Smith answered that there have been events on the parcel in the past

that have taken place through the Downtown Development Authority.

P. Ramaswami and R. Kraut inquired about impacts to the existing parking that takes place at the site.

P. Ramaswami discussed the large amount of coordination required for renting the "Library Lot" and that it may be outside of what the Parks and Recreation Department is able to do.

Chair Santacroce and P. Ramaswami discussed that more information is needed to make a decision.

C. Smith discussed other types of park rentals that are available. He explained that the most similar to the discussed parcel would be the Farmer's Market, and he explained that when the Farmer's Market is rented, the renter works with the DDA to take the parking spaces in that area out of circulation.

R. Kraut discussed that there needs to be more clarity on the jurisdiction of the "Library Lot".

Chair Santacroce and Councilmember Hayner discussed how the parcel has not been clearly designated.

C. Smith explained that he can provide information on how fees are structured for park rentals at the January PAC meeting. He added that he can try to provide information on what other communities do, and try to obtain clarification on what the role of the Parks Department is in this case.

Councilmember Grand discussed how there is a group on City Council who is focused on accessibility of the downtown for events to groups in the community. She added that there are more groups that need to weigh in on this issue.

L. London expressed that input from the DDA is needed.

Councilmember Hayner added that he would pitch the idea to other groups.

H COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

H-1 [18-2124](#) Approval of 2019 Calendar

Attachments: 2019 PAC Meeting Calendar .pdf

Moved by Kraut, seconded by London, to approve the Calendar as amended to change the December 20, 2018 date to December 17, 2018.

Approved Unanimously.

Yeas: 6 - Santacroce, Morrison, Ramaswami, London, RAC Rep. Kraut, and Skylis

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Galardi, Borgsdorf, and Appel

H-2 [18-2125](#) Identify 2019 Goals and Key Issues

Attachments: PolicyAgendaExamples.pdf, PROSGOALS AND OBJECTIVES.pdf

C. Smith explained that there is a City Council Policy Committee that appreciates hearing the priorities of boards and commissions for the upcoming year.

Chair Santacroce discussed the Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives as attached.

R. Kraut suggested highlighting only the goals and rationale, omitting the objectives information.

Moved by Kraut, seconded by London, to approve the resolution as follows:

Whereas the Park's Advisory Commission reviewed the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation goals outlined in the PROS Plan, Whereas the Parks Advisory Commission reaffirmed the goals outlined in the PROS Plan, summarized as follows:

GOAL 1: Provide Exceptional User Experience

Rationale: The core values developed by staff, the city's strategic plan, and the capital improvements plan criteria all contain as a goal to strive to provide the highest quality customer experience and exceed expectations for the greatest number of users.

GOAL 2: Ensure that the Park System is Comprehensive, Inclusive, and Engaging.

Rationale: Providing opportunities for all and engaging the full diversity of the community is a core value developed by staff, and a goal of the Sustainability Framework Plan and of the city's organizational strategic plan.

GOAL 3: Foster Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

Rationale: The Sustainability Framework Plan, the park staff core values, and the capital improvements plan all emphasize the importance of being environmental stewards and encouraging sustainable practices.

GOAL 4: Provide a Safe Park System

Rationale: Protecting the health and safety of park users is a capital improvements plan criteria and a goal of the city's strategic plan.

GOAL 5: Ensure Financial Health and Stability

Rationale: Assuring a firm financial basis for the park, recreation, and open space system is a goal of the city strategic plan and a criterion of the capital improvements plan.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

P. Morrison explained that the document is current and is a good reflection of PAC's goals.

On a roll call vote, the vote was as follows with the Chair declaring the resolution approved.

Yeas: 6 - Santacroce, Morrison, Ramaswami, London, RAC Rep. Kraut, and Skylis

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Galardi, Borgsdorf, and Appel

I REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith explained that the outdoor ice rinks will be ready as soon as it

becomes colder, he discussed the repairs for the boardwalk at Riverside Park, explaining that the contract has gone to City Council, he explained further that a grant with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission was applied for, that the funds were not awarded, however that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has pledged \$100,000 or half the cost of construction for this project, as well as half of the cost of repaving the path in Riverside Park. He explained that the improvements to the Bryant Community Center are complete. Smith also discussed the upcoming two year budget cycle.

J REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

No Report.

K REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASKFORCES

No Report.

L PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

M CLOSED SESSION

N TRANSMITTALS

N-1 [18-2121](#) Park Planning Capital Project Update

Attachments: 2018-12 PAC Update.pdf

Received and Filed

N-2 [18-2122](#) PAC Council Update

Attachments: PAC COUNCIL UPDATE 12_2018.pdf

Received and Filed

N-3 [18-2123](#) Parks Project Status Table

Attachments: Parks_Project_Status_Table-FY2018-19.pdf

Received and Filed

O ADJOURNMENT

Unanimously adjourned at 5:00 p.m.