



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR – PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 16, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, September 16, 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 4:11p.m. by Chair, L. Berauer.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: (7) L. Berauer, J. Lawter, G. Nystuen, S. Offen, S. Rosencrans, T. Berla, J. Grand (left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.)

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

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

Members Absent: (2) B. Macomber, D. Barrett

Staff Present: (7) C, Smith, J. Straw, J. Dehring, A. Kuras, M. Warba, D. Borneman, L. Bowen

Guests: (1) Melissa Kesterson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Commissioner Berauer** stated in reading the by-laws for the Commission, Robert Rules of Order specifies the elections (D-2) are to be held at the beginning of the meeting instead of the end of the meeting.

The second change would be the by-laws, which are to be reviewed every September.

After the elections are completed, the by-laws will be discussed.

The agenda was approved with the mentioned changes.

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

Being none the follow items were moved up on the agenda.

**D-2 Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair**

**L. Berauer** stated that every office is voted on separately and for every office all nominations are taken from the floor first before voting on the first nomination.

50 Nominations will be taken for the position of "Chair", the commission will vote.  
51 Afterwards, nominations will be taken for the "Vice-Chair", the Commission will vote.

52  
53 **L. Berauer** stated a "second" is not necessary when nominations are given.

54  
55 The election for the positions of Chair and Vice- Chair was as follows:

56  
57 **S. Offen** nominated Linda Berauer for the position of Chair.

58  
59 **L. Berauer** called for a vote from the Commission for the nomination of Chair.

60  
61 **T. Berla** asked if other nominations can be taken and if the Commission is allowed  
62 discussion.

63  
64 **L. Berauer** stated yes and asked for other nominations.

65  
66 **S. Rosencrans** nominated Brigit Macomber for the position of Chair.

67  
68 **T. Berla** asked when the terms expire for the Commissioners, and stated if L. Berauer  
69 and B. Macomber's terms expired in early 2009 he would not want to have two new  
70 positions to fill due to their terms expiring.

71  
72 **L. Berauer** stated one new person would be in the position of Vice-Chair; if the  
73 Commission agreed the more experienced person would hold the position of Chair for  
74 the Commission.

75  
76 **T. Berla** asked to be reminded of the status of the terms for both Linda Berauer and  
77 Brigit Macomber.

78  
79 **L. Berauer** stated both her and B. Macomber's terms expires in July and August 2009.

80  
81 **T. Berla** asked if there would be other Commissioners with terms that are soon  
82 expiring.

83  
84 **L. Berauer** stated there will be some continuity after her and B. Macomber's terms  
85 expire.

86  
87 **G. Nystuen** stated S. Offen's term will be the most senior term after L. Berauer and B.  
88 Macomber leave and S. Offen will serve another year on the Commission.

89  
90 **T. Berla** asked if S. Offen would be leaving in approximately two years.

91  
92 **S. Offen** stated he should be appointed for another term.

93  
94 **S. Rosencrans** asked if both nominees are interested in being Chair for the  
95 Commission.

99 **L. Berauer** stated she and B. Macomber have discussed the issue; both of them  
100 agreed they would accept the nomination of both positions. B. Macomber preferred not  
101 to accept the nomination of Chair due to her leadership role on the budget process,  
102 which will be very intense.

103  
104 The fall of the year is very busy for her at her place of employment, but if L. Berauer did  
105 not want to accept the nomination of the position of Chair she would graciously accept.

106  
107 **G. Nystuen** expressed appreciation and commented on the very nice job L. Berauer  
108 has done as Chair for the Park Advisory Commission

109  
110 **L. Berauer** called for the vote for the position of Chair:

111  
112 The vote for L. Berauer to serve in the position as the position of the Chair for the Parks  
113 Advisory Commission was as follows:

114  
115 **Ayes: (7) L. Berauer, G. Nystuen, T. Berla, J. Grand**  
116 **J. Lawter, S. Rosencrans, S. Offen**

117  
118 **Nays: (0) None.**

119  
120 **Absent: (2) B. Macomber, D. Barrett**

121  
122 *On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous*

123  
124 ***Linda Berauer will remain as Chair for the Parks Advisory Commission.***

125  
126 **L. Berauer** called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for the Park Advisory  
127 Commission.

128  
129 **G. Nystuen** nominated John Lawter for the position of Vice-Chair stating he would be  
130 willing to accept the nomination for this and has experience on the Parks Advisory  
131 Commission.

132  
133 **T. Berla** nominated Scott Rosencrans for the position of Vice-Chair

134  
135 **L. Berauer** asked John Lawter and Scott Rosencrans if they would accept the  
136 nominations for the position of Vice-Chair, they responded yes.

137  
138 The vote was in the order of nominations received.

139  
140 **J. Grand** asked if the Commission could hear comments from both nominees.

141  
142 **J. Lawter** thanked everyone for the kind comments and stated he would be happy to  
143 serve as Vice-Chair for this Commission. J. Lawter explained his role has been  
144 versatile on a number of different committees, which is what a vice-president's role  
145 would be as far as standing in for the Chair if needed.

147 J. Lawter also stated he felt he had a rounded back round regarding the financial  
148 aspect of the Parks Department. Also stating he would not want to hold the position of  
149 Chair due to the time restraints.

150  
151 **S. Offen** asked J. Lawter if after a year if he would be willing to accept the nomination  
152 of Chair for the Commission.

153  
154 **J. Lawter** stated he would consider it.

155  
156 **S. Rosencrans** stated he is very interested in the Vice-Chair position and believes it  
157 ties in with the duties he is performing on the Task Force and primarily being liaison to  
158 City Council.

159  
160 S. Rosencrans explained he also has worked with staff regarding the Parks Planning  
161 process and the infrastructure issues with other Commissions that tie into the work that  
162 the Parks Advisory Commission is doing.

163  
164 **L. Berauer** stated the Commission would vote for the nominees for Vice-Chair in order,  
165 first being J. Lawter, second being S. Rosencrans.

166  
167 The vote for J. Lawter to serve in the position as Vice-Chair for the Parks Advisory  
168 Commission was as follows:

169  
170 **Ayes: (5) L. Berauer, G. Nystuen, J. Grand**  
171 **J. Lawter, S. Offen**

172  
173 **Nays: (2) S. Rosencrans, T. Berla**

174  
175 **Absent: (2) B. Macomber, D. Barrett**

176  
177 *On a voice vote – **Motion Passed** – Unanimous*

178  
179 ***John Lawter will hold the position of Vice-Chair for the Parks Advisory***  
180 ***Commission.***

181  
182 **G. Nystuen** stated she felt the Commission was very fortunate to have both nominees  
183 for the position of Vice-Chair; stating S. Rosencrans has taken the job of coordinating  
184 issues regarding the Parks Planning process and B. Macomber will continue to chair  
185 the work on the budget process.

186  
187 **L. Berauer** asked if there could be a brief discussion regarding the by-laws.

188  
189 **G. Nystuen** asked if there had been any difficulties encountered where the by-laws  
190 may be a problem.

191  
192 **L. Berauer** stated she has not had any problems with the by-laws except for when the  
193 Park Advisory Commission wanted to form a committee and invite outside members to  
194 the committee.

196 It is clearly stated in the by-laws that the Commission has the authority to do this, but  
197 there was resistance in some quarters and this effort was stalled to the point the idea  
198 was not feasible. If the need arises the Commission has the authority to set a  
199 committee on a particular subject and invite outside experts to sit on a committee.  
200

201 **S. Offen** stated there were City official jobs that were inaccurately stated in the  
202 by-laws. It would be appreciated if C. Smith reviewed the current positions and  
203 identified the current changes.  
204

205 **S. Offen** stated on the page 3, article 5, section 6 of the by-laws; the statement  
206 referring to The Leslie Science Center is no longer valid since they have their own  
207 Board and is now a separate non-profit. A representative being on their Board is a  
208 request of The Leslie Science Center and the Parks Advisory Commission does not  
209 have this as a rule.  
210

211 **L. Berauer** confirmed that a representative from the Parks Advisory Commission being  
212 on The Leslie Science Center's Board is a rule of this Commission.  
213

214 **S. Offen** suggested the wording be changed in the by-laws to reflect the current status  
215 of The Leslie Science Center.  
216

217 **J. Grand** stated this is a larger responsibility to sit on the Board of the Leslie Science  
218 Center.  
219

220 **S. Offen** stated he is a voting member on this particular Board.  
221

222 **L. Berauer** stated that S. Offen is the liaison.  
223

224 **S. Offen** stated yes that he has been the liaison since the summer of 2007.  
225

226 **L. Berauer** asked if changes to the by-laws should be presented in writing at the next  
227 meeting, waiting a month before the changes are voted on.  
228

229 **T. Berla** stated in recent years a representative of the Leslie Science Center that was  
230 not a member of the Park Advisory Commission came to the meeting, but S. Offen's  
231 position on the Board at the Leslie Science Center is different and seems to work better  
232 as is.  
233

234 T. Berla suggested the present wording be taken out of the by-laws all together due to  
235 not knowing what the formal arrangement will be in the future and there may not be a  
236 reason to keep them in the Commissions by-laws.  
237

238 **S. Offen** stated Leslie Science Center has the request of a representative from the  
239 Park Advisory Commission on their Board in their by-laws. And after his term has  
240 expired, the Leslie Science Center will request for another member of this Commission  
241 to be on their Board.  
242

243 **L. Berauer** asked if the decision of which Commissioner will be on their Board is to  
244 come from the Leslie Science Center.  
245

246 **G. Nystuen** stated the City would maintain the property and a close connection should  
247 be kept.

248  
249 A chart of our current organization positions is quite different and is not clear to many  
250 people.

251  
252 **C. Smith** stated there have been many changes and an organizational chart would be  
253 provided to explain the different facilities, the staff members and other areas that have  
254 new relationships such as the Leslie Science Center and the Community Centers.

255  
256 **G. Nystuen** stated the golf course has a separate committee and is temporary.

257  
258 **L. Berauer** stated the separate committee for the golf course being temporary is  
259 correct and asked if the issue regarding a Board member at the Leslie Science Center  
260 needed to be included in the by-laws.

261  
262 **S. Offen** stated he didn't think a reference was needed in the by-laws regarding a  
263 Board member at Leslie Science Center.

264  
265 **S. Offen** stated on page 5, Section 9 of the by-laws references the Leslie Science  
266 Center Advisory Committee as a standed committee of the Parks Advisory Commission  
267 and this is inaccurate.

268  
269 **L. Berauer** stated the revision of the by-laws should be brought to the next meeting.

270  
271 **C. Smith** stated he would review the changes in staff positions.

272  
273 **L. Berauer** stated she would like the Commission to consider the creation of a third  
274 office on the Commission.

275  
276 This office would fulfill the function that B. Macomber has done in terms of the  
277 leadership role regarding the budget process; she has the background and experience  
278 to accomplish this task and has done so along with the position of Vice-Chair.

279  
280 L. Berauer stated she did not think this should be a requirement of the Vice-Chair and  
281 should not be added to the duties of the Chair because it would be burdensome for one  
282 person.

283  
284 The budget committee can be made a standing committee and always have that  
285 committee elect its Chair to fulfill that function.

286  
287 If the third position is made into an actual office for the Park Advisory Commission, it  
288 would carry more weight with staff due to that individual working closely with the  
289 financial staff and Parks Manager. This position would carry a higher level of  
290 responsibility if this person were elected for this role by the entire body of the Parks  
291 Advisory Commission rather than a committee.

292  
293 **S. Rosencrans** stated depending on who is nominated by City Council to serve on this  
294 Commission that individual may not have the financial background needed for this new  
295 position.

296 If there is an official office to fulfill this responsibility, would the Commission have to ask  
297 City Council to place someone that has the financial background required to serve on  
298 the Parks Advisory Commission.  
299

300 **L. Berauer** stated she does not mean someone that is trained as a CPA, when she  
301 refers to someone having a back round in finance; she is referring to someone who is  
302 knowledgeable of how budgets and the accounting process works through the course  
303 of their jobs which is the case with B. Macomber.  
304

305 It is also the case of two other members of this Commission, S. Offen and J. Lawter.  
306

307 L. Berauer continued to explain the person functioning as chair of the budget  
308 committee would be doing the same thing. The by-laws would state whomever is  
309 elected to this position would share the budget and finance committee.  
310

311 **S. Offen** stated this new position would be valuable and would be part of the executive  
312 committee, which would include to the Chair and Vice-Chair. This is a subject that has  
313 been discussed often. The finances of this department are critical and this person  
314 would need to understand the financial reports.  
315

316 **S. Offen** asked what this new position would be called.  
317

318 **L. Berauer** suggested the position be called "Chair of the budget/finance committee"  
319 but could be a Park Advisory Commission office elected rather than a committee office.  
320

321 Very few of the Commissions within the City work with the departments with such a  
322 huge budget and have so much critical input into budget and millage issues. That in  
323 itself makes it a large responsibility of the Park Advisory Commission.  
324

325 Giving it it's own position is very important, being on this Commission five years we  
326 have always struggled with budget issues, there is never enough time to fully  
327 understand. It is very important for our representation of the public interest in terms of  
328 the millage funds that we provide responsible oversight.  
329

330 **S. Offen** stated this new position would take the burden from the Chair and Vice-Chair  
331 from having to spend a lot of time tracking down budget issues.  
332

333 **J. Lawter** agreed that it is very important to have representation from the Park Advisory  
334 Commission that has an understanding of budgets. Having this office would help  
335 ensure the need for a finance person on the Commission.  
336

337 **T. Berla** explained this function was not done by the Park Advisory Commission and  
338 believes it is an on going problem with the public due to the budget being so confusing.  
339

340 It is important the emphasis remain on the budget/finance issues, but stated his  
341 preference would be not to place this issue in the by-laws.  
342

343 **L. Berauer** stated she would respond to the statements made regarding the Parks  
344 Advisory Commission not having the responsibility or charge regarding a position for  
345 someone to represent the Commission and oversee the budget/finance issue.

346 This point is mentioned in three different items in the list of the Park Advisory  
347 Commissions responsibilities in the by-laws.

348  
349 The responsibilities include, providing recommendations to the Parks Manager, City  
350 Administrator and City Council regarding annual operating budget, annual capital  
351 improvement budget, capital improvement and acquisition funding including millages,  
352 bond issues, park foundation or related programs.

353  
354 Per the by-laws the Commission has a responsibility to the public to oversee these  
355 issues.

356  
357 **T. Berla** explained his perception of the overseeing of the budget was at a different  
358 level and has increased over the years.

359  
360 **L. Berauer** explained the problem in the past was not working with staff closely on  
361 major projects. The Commission as well as the public can receive the information and it  
362 be easily reviewed. When this process is achieved it will not be as labor intensive.

363  
364 **J. Grand** asked who takes the lead as we move into the budget process.

365  
366 **L. Berauer** stated staff will take the lead.

367  
368 **J. Grand** asked if there was a member of the Parks Advisory Commission that is the  
369 point person during this process.

370  
371 **L. Berauer** stated staff works on the budget and there is no member of the Parks  
372 Advisory Commission involved, when staff is comfortable with the budget it is brought  
373 back to the Commission; it is a very labor intensive process. The Commission does not  
374 receive the budget very far in advance to when City Council receives it and needs to be  
375 approved.

376  
377 **S. Offen** stated approximately two years ago the Commission received the budget at  
378 the point of approval and had little time to comment.

379  
380 **L. Berauer** stated the budget committee will be working with staff for this issue to  
381 improve.

382  
383 **C. Smith** stated Kelly McKinnon (Financial Manager for Community Services) will start  
384 to have conversations regarding creating a schedule for the budget. Once this  
385 information is obtained it will be shared with the Commission.

386  
387 **L. Berauer** stated she and B. Macomber hope to have a better process in place before  
388 their terms expire.

389  
390  
391 **G. Nystuen** stated she supports a third position on the Commission and feels for the  
392 foreseeable future this is a very important element for communicating with the public as  
393 well as internally. The budget of Parks is large and very complex due to the millages  
394 and different funds. A third position is appropriate allowing a point person to  
395 concentrate on the budget at this time. This can be changed in the future.



396 **L. Berauer** stated she and C. Smith would work on language including title changes  
397 and the Leslie Science Center issue and will bring this information to the next meeting  
398 so that the Commission can vote on the amendments one by one.  
399

400 **S. Offen** stated that in article 4, section 2 under membership in the by-laws it mentions  
401 representation from the Ann Arbor Public Schools.  
402

403 **L. Berauer** explained there is still representation for the Ann Arbor Public Schools and  
404 she is welcome to attend the meetings at any time.  
405

406 **A - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
407

408 **A-1 Commissioner Berauer** moved, supported by **Commissioner Lawter** to  
409 approve the minutes of the August 19, 2008 meeting with corrections.  
410

411 The minutes of August 19, 2008 were approved unanimously.  
412

413 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**  
414

415 **Project Grow**  
416

417 **M. Kesterson** spoke on Project Grow along with passing photos to the Commission and  
418 explained in detail regarding the pilot program that was discussed approximately 2 years  
419 ago.  
420

421 Last season a garden was opened at Buhr Park, pictures were explained to the Commission  
422 showing how nice the garden is. The season at Buhr Park was very good and only positive  
423 comments have been received.  
424

425 Guidelines were created due to concerned neighbors; these guidelines are to be followed by  
426 the gardener's in the community garden. This has been well received.  
427

428 Other sites are being considered, one being South Maple, the other is Hunt Park. This is a  
429 slow process and the neighbors are very involved with the decision making. If the  
430 neighborhood support is in tact then a community meeting will be held regarding the garden.  
431

432 **S. Offen** asked if all the space at the Buhr garden is used or if only what would be used is  
433 created.  
434

435  
436 **M. Kesterson** stated it was important to the neighbors that the space for the garden was  
437 very definitive. The agreement was to have eight spaces; those are all 25 by 30 plots and  
438 there is a 2 -3 foot aisle down the middle.  
439

440 After the garden was full, there were more people calling wanting to participate. It would be  
441 nice to make the garden larger if possible.  
442

443 **S. Offen** asked if there were any plans to expand the garden at this time.  
444  
445

446 **M. Kesterson** stated not at this time.  
447

448 **S. Rosencrans** asked if there is a donor base within the membership and what other  
449 sources of funding is available.  
450

451 **M. Kesterson** stated yes, the majority of the monies come from the gardener's who rent  
452 plots for the season, which is a significant portion of the budget. The County provides  
453 money and Project Grow has been reinstated in the budget with the City for 2009 fiscal  
454 year.  
455

456 **J. Lawter** asked if there was an outreach program and fundraisers.  
457

458 **M. Kesterson** stated yes there are fundraiser's, letters are sent, plant sales and grants.  
459

460 **G. Nystuen** asked how many people are participating in this endeavor.  
461

462 **M. Kesterson** stated approximately 500 gardeners, if one person signs up there may be a  
463 family that is actually participating. This number does not include the donations to Food  
464 Gathers, neighbors and friends.  
465

466 **S. Offen** asked C. Smith if Project Grow would be a part of the budget in the 2010 – 2011  
467 fiscal year.  
468

469 **C. Smith** stated all programs and facilities are evaluated during the budget process; and it is  
470 too early to be able to answer effectively.  
471

472 **S. Offen** asked if the monies would come from the Parks budget as oppose to the  
473 Community Services budget.  
474

475 **C. Smith** stated yes.  
476

477 **T. Berla** asked if there is a garden at the Church on Liberty.  
478

479 **M. Kesterson** stated yes, and there are many smaller sites to make up for the bigger site at  
480 the Church.  
481

482 **T. Berla** asked if there was any way to know how many people would like to participate and  
483 have project grow gardens. Also asking what the City could do to help promote this project.  
484

485 **M. Kesterson** expressed her thanks and stated the City is already helping by allowing  
486 people that are a part of the Parks Department to identify spots to place gardens. Part of the  
487 guidelines are to identify spots where people want to garden.  
488

489 **T. Berla** asked if there has ever been a problem with neighbors that did not want a garden  
490 to be put in.  
491

492 **M. Kesterson** stated no.  
493

494 **L. Berauer** asked how many plots there are.  
495

496 **M. Kesterson** stated approximately 200 plots and this number is subject to change. For  
497 example at Greenview Garden, the swamp is coming in and a few plots are lost due to this;  
498 the plots are approximately 25 x 30.  
499

500 **L. Berauer** asked how many locations are there.  
501

502 **M. Kesterson** stated approximately 12; two of those are discovery gardens which are  
503 gardens for children, seniors and handicap accessible plots.  
504

505 **L. Berauer** asked if the guidelines for each location are customized.  
506

507 **M. Kesterson** stated yes and explained the over arching guidelines which are the all  
508 organic gardening. Within each garden the guidelines are customized to fit the designated  
509 area.  
510

511 **M. Anglin** thanked Jayne Miller for re-working and re-funding the budget to include Project  
512 Grow. City Council was in full support of Project Grow. The community is also in full support  
513 and it is very important and has been in existence for a long time.  
514

## 515 **PUBLIC HEARING**

### 516 **B - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### 517 **B-1** HRIMP Update

518  
519 **S. Rosencrans** spoke on this issue, explaining the topic of discussion is  
520 whether to remove Argo Dam or if the Dam can be repaired. This topic will go  
521 to the Public in September 2008 in a series of meetings to get feedback on  
522 ideas concerning the Dam.  
523  
524

525  
526 The State of Michigan found a deteriorating condition on the earth and berm  
527 section of the Argo Dam, which could compromise the Dam itself. The  
528 mechanical concrete and steel section which controls the flow with moveable  
529 gates, there is an island attached to it; that is where we are referring to the  
530 earth and berm.  
531

532 There have been new developments with a possibility of altering the earth and  
533 berm section of the Dam that would facilitate increased recreational activities  
534 as well as maintain the Dam and preserve the rowing program that is in place.  
535  
536

537 There are five different rowing associations; there is a private rowing club and  
538 school teams including the University of Michigan who use that body of water  
539 for their rowing programs. There are hundreds of thousands of dollars invested  
540 in their boats and facilities; these are successful programs that are sending  
541 children to many of the Ivy League schools.  
542

543 On one side of the earth and berm you have the flow of the river that comes  
544 out of the concrete and steel mechanical area and that is not the one that you  
545 canoe from when you go down the river.

546 There is a by-pass on the other side of the earth and berm where a short white  
547 water rafting run could be developed.

548  
549 David Barrett is on this task force. The hard numbers are not available  
550 regarding what the cost would be to repair the Argo Dam. There are very  
551 broad estimates at this point.

552  
553 The actual numbers need to be defined before a decision is made whether or  
554 not to remove or repair the Dam.

555  
556 **J. Lawter** asked if the silting, health of the river and the depth being lost are  
557 points of concern.

558  
559 **S. Rosencrans** stated wherever there is a Dam there is silt built up.

560  
561 **B. Delaney** explained at one point the Dam was drained, and they could  
562 cruise the river, pull firearms out of the river and re-condition them.

563  
564 **S. Rosencrans** stated the periodic drainage also facilitated some of the  
565 clearing of the silt.

566  
567 **G. Nystuen** stated another problem with the Dam would be the vegetation and  
568 the growth of the invasive waterweeds, which has gotten worse.

569  
570 **S. Rosencrans** explained there are different methods for management of  
571 vegetation being proposed.

572  
573 **L. Berauer** stated the Argo Dam question is the largest issue in terms of  
574 impact on recreational uses and potential expense.

575  
576 The larger purpose of the study is exactly managing the water quality in terms  
577 of siltage and invasives.

578  
579 **S. Rosencrans** stated the investments and popular rowing programs are very  
580 large issues.

581  
582 **S. Offen** asked if the state has set a deadline that should be met.

583  
584 **S. Rosencrans** stated yes, the original deadline was January 2008.

585  
586 **S. Offen** asked if there would be any penalties imposed due to missing the  
587 deadline.

588  
589 **S. Rosencrans** stated he was not aware of any penalties.

590  
591 **T. Berla** stated when there is standing water the normal course of events is for  
592 vegetation to grow and turn into swamp.

593  
594

595 The overall health of the river is a concern and generally Dams are not  
596 positive.

597  
598 The rowing clubs cut off the top of the vegetation when it is in their way, which  
599 may not be the best solution; this could be spreading the plants or creating  
600 dead material at the bottom. If the Dam remains open, an agreement should  
601 be made with the rowing clubs, to consider having them pay for a portion of  
602 the work that is needed.

603  
604 **S. Rosencrans** stated the removal of the Dam gives the opportunity of the  
605 direction of having the river system within the City limits work in a natural  
606 fashion. It would not be possible to maintain the City structures and  
607 infrastructure as we have them today if the Dams were removed.

608  
609 It is not economically feasible to remove all of the Dams and restore it to a  
610 completely natural state. It would be a huge global change to what we've  
611 done.

612  
613 The removal of the Argo Dam would wreak havoc on the rowing programs that  
614 are in place. Since this is a City wide problem it should be the City's  
615 responsibility to help whatever replacement those rowing clubs need.

616  
617 **T. Berla** stated the U of M women's club rows in different places.

618  
619 **S. Rosencrans** stated the U of M women's rowing club rows at Ford Lake.

620  
621 **T. Berla** asked if some of the Dams are producing electricity.

622  
623 **S. Rosencrans** stated yes, both Barton Dam and Superior Dam produce  
624 electricity.

625  
626 **C. Smith** explained the immediate concern is the Dam, but it is good to keep  
627 in mind that part of what this committee is dealing with is a long term vision for  
628 the rivers. Regardless of the results, there will be an impact both  
629 environmentally and recreationally.

630  
631 The recreation aspect is a big part of the decision due to so many people  
632 using the river, whether it is for rowing or the canoe liveries which is also  
633 popular.

634  
635 **L. Berauer** asked if the idea has been discussed regarding the Parks  
636 Department assisting with the cost of the repairs to the Dam.

637  
638 **S. Rosencrans** stated the topic of the City assisting with the cost of repairs  
639 was mentioned in the meetings on the task force.

640  
641 **C. Smith** stated there were discussions pertaining to the possible increase of  
642 recreational opportunities, and whether this is something the Parks system  
643 would be interested in or able to fund.

644

645 **B-2** Update on Charter Amendment regarding Voter Approval for Sale of Parkland

646  
647 **L. Berauer** explained the Park Advisory Commission wrote a Resolution  
648 attempting to close the loop hole pertaining to the sale of parkland.

649  
650 Retired Councilperson Robert Johnson took the Resolution to City Council and  
651 it failed.

652  
653 Currently the ordinance requires the sale of parkland to go to the voter's for  
654 approval, there is a loop hole in the current language that was used  
655 successfully by the City of Novi.

656  
657 Novi City Council severed a portion of land from the Parks system, thereby  
658 allowing that land to be sold simply by a majority of Council votes rather than  
659 having to go to the voters. The Park Advisory Commission vote was intended  
660 to say non-severability and the voter's would be involved with any parcel of  
661 land within the Park system.

662  
663 Recently the Mayor sponsored a similar Resolution, took it to Council and it  
664 passed. L. Berauer asked Councilperson Mike Anglin to explain in further  
665 details.

666  
667 **Mike Anglin** strongly suggested the Commission look at the videotape of that  
668 specific meeting where the actual resolution was passed.

669  
670 The Resolution was re-written at City Council on the night of that particular  
671 meeting. It was a situation in which you are asked to support an issue that is  
672 extremely important. There is a possibility that changes as well as law suits  
673 will take place in a result of the Resolution.

674  
675 Parks and parcels of land are defined differently with many people and could  
676 result in an endless discussion. The intent that I voted for was for the citizens  
677 due to it being an important item. Most issues that go to ballot are open to  
678 interpretation; this issue was one of those issues.

679  
680 There were opinions that this issue was already protected by the State, that it  
681 was a redundancy and there was not a need to actually vote.

682  
683 **L. Berauer** stated the language that Robert Johnson worked on with the Park  
684 Advisory Commission, the City Attorney's office and ultimately taking it to the  
685 Attorney General office to make sure it was approved at the State level  
686 because it is changed to an ordinance.

687  
688 The language brought forth to City Council was different. The understanding is  
689 that the Resolution was changed further at the Council meeting.

690  
691 **M. Anglin** stated there would be a better understanding if the tape from that  
692 particular meeting is viewed.

693

694 **S. Rosencrans** stated there is existing legislation at the State level; the  
695 situation in Novi resulted in the parcels being re-designated as non-parkland  
696 and therefore were able to sell that land. This was in fact the loop hole.  
697

698 S. Rosencrans disagreed that the Resolution did not have a leg a stand on;  
699 people in this City are very passionate regarding parkland.  
700

701 **L. Berauer** stated the definition of a Park was clear in the original resolution  
702 that the Park Advisory Commission presented.  
703

704 **M. Anglin** stated we do not want to sell this land unless we as citizens are  
705 asked about it; this is a complicated issue that requires further investigation.  
706

707 **T. Berla** stated the political connection that we have with preventing the sale  
708 of parkland is not enough, we want a legal solution.  
709

710 There is confusion regarding this issue. There is a parcel of land on Fuller Rd.  
711 that is used as a parking lot for the University of Michigan, the revenue goes to  
712 Parks; is it a Park or not.  
713

714 This Resolution may make it harder to buy land if the millage money went to  
715 buy land.  
716

717 **L. Berauer** stated it would not make it impossible to do this, we should ask the  
718 voters.  
719

720 **B-3** Park Operation Budget & Updates from the Budget Committee  
721

722 **G. Nystuen** explained a meeting will be set up in October to discuss the  
723 upcoming budget. We have not received very much information regarding the  
724 budget for Forestry and Park Operations.  
725

726 The formula is of interest for the General Fund allocation and the plan for the  
727 upcoming two year cycle.  
728

729 The Golf budget will be viewed closely.  
730

731 **J. Lawter** hopes the meetings with Kelly McKinnon will take place  
732 regularly.  
733

734 **C. Smith** stated there are plans to have regular meetings to explain the Cost  
735 Center details with the Commission.  
736

737 **S. Offen** asked if Kelly McKinnon was a Parks employee.  
738

739 **C. Smith** stated yes she is a Community Service employee and does not work  
740 solely for the Parks & Recreation Services.  
741

742 **C. Smith** explained the end of year reports pertaining to Field Operations and  
743 Park Operations. The reports are a three year running history, 2005 – 2008.

744 **S. Offen** asked for an explanation of a line item called debt service.

745  
746 **C. Smith** stated he would confirm this information.

747  
748 **G. Nystuen** stated that line item could be the building debt for the new facility  
749 (The Wheeler Building).

750  
751 **M. Warba** stated one of the line items under maintenance athletic field is a  
752 large amount of money. This was the money City Council had ear marked for  
753 the Athletic Field project. As a result of the project not being underway at that  
754 time, the money could not be used for any other function.

755  
756 This is why a large amount of unspent money is seen. The money is ear  
757 marked for the project that is under way now.

758  
759 **T. Berla** asked about the monies that were allocated for the ball diamonds  
760 maintenance.

761  
762 **M. Warba** stated the only part of maintenance the City does not currently do is  
763 line the fields for play. We drag the fields, water the fields, mow the fields,  
764 maintain the fences at the fields, we install the bases and the anchors.

765  
766 **T. Berla** asked where this item would be found on the report.

767  
768 **M. Warba** stated this item would be part of a millage function.

769  
770 **S. Offen** asked for an explanation of non park mowing.

771  
772 **M. Warba** stated we contract out some of the mowing of the boulevards, but  
773 there are some areas that are not contracted out and we are responsible for  
774 those areas.

775  
776 **S. Offen** asked why the budget was so low for mowing and non park mowing.

777  
778 **C. Smith** stated he would clarify and explain to the Commission.

779  
780 **M. Anglin** asked for the lighting at Veterans Memorial Park to be  
781 explained.

782  
783 **M. Warba** explained at the start of the season through the efforts with Rob  
784 Millett and Larry Dishman the new lighting system was installed and is an  
785 automated the system. We have the ability to call in changes to the schedules  
786 that Rec. & Ed. supplies us for the field usage.

787  
788 We now have the ability to go on line if the weather is not feasible as well as  
789 call an 800 number that allows you to provide a user ID to have the lights  
790 continue if needed.

791  
792



793 **T. Berla** stated the new lighting system is better for the City, the players and  
794 staff.

795  
796 **L. Berauer** stated it was not an expensive purchase.

797  
798 **M. Warba** stated the total cost was approximately \$19,000.00 and has been  
799 well received.

800  
801 **S. Offen** asked if the lights were new or if the same lamps were being used.

802  
803 **M. Warba** stated he did not think the lights were changed.

804  
805 **M. Warba** explained the progress of the two fields at Fuller Park. The drainage  
806 work is complete on field #4; the drainage work is well on the way on field #5.

807  
808 There will be additions made to the irrigation system and all of the irrigation  
809 pipes will have a GPS system. Once the earth work is complete on field #5 the  
810 project will be moved over to Olson Park.

811  
812 **T. Berla** asked if there is a timeline on when fields 4 and 5 will be open for  
813 play.

814  
815 **M. Warba** stated hopefully by late spring of 2009 or early summer of 2009.

816  
817 The underground work will be done so the work that is complete will not be  
818 disturbed. It will be the same type of computer operated system that we have  
819 at Southeast Area Park and Veterans Memorial Park.

820  
821 Seven new water fountains are being installed throughout the parks. We have  
822 the ability to customize the fountains to the needs of the park.

823  
824 **S. Offen** thanked M. Warba for the new water fountains in Gallup Park.

825  
826 **M. Warba** stated we now have the ability to have dog drinkers on all of the  
827 fountains.

828  
829 **S. Offen** asked if there are handicap accessible fountains in the parks as well.

830  
831 **M. Warba** stated based on the volume of the park the fountains are being  
832 installed and increase capacity and use of the fountains as well as the  
833 handicap fountains.

834  
835 **M. Anglin** thanked M. Warba for all of the efforts that are being made to  
836 improve the parks.

843 **C - NEW BUSINESS**

844

845 **C-1** 415 West Washington Project as it relates to Greenway (**deferred to the next**  
846 **meeting**)

847

848 **C-2** Capital Project Prioritization and Capital Process (**deferred to the next**  
849 **meeting**)

850

851

852 **D - COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS**

853

854 **D-1** Carbon Neutral Concert Series

855

856 **S. Rosencrans** stated this is an idea that he was working with Brian Delaney  
857 to achieve.

858

859 **B. Delaney** explained that he was a full time musician here in Ann Arbor, and  
860 stated he uses the term “full time musician” very loosely. B. Delaney also explained  
861 a poster to the Commission in depth.

862

863 As you are probably already aware, in June of this year, 81 acre Brown Park  
864 was rededicated as Mary Beth Doyle Park, recognizing the late Mary Beth  
865 Doyle’s long-standing commitment to environmentalism, around which she  
866 shaped her life.

867

868 Scott and I both being friends of Mary Beth, we were in attendance for the  
869 Dedication Ceremony, which was a beautiful event.

870

871 As the ceremony ended, a small group of musicians gathered to play a few  
872 songs as the crowd was dispersing. Later, as we cased up our instruments, it  
873 occurred to us that the site of the park could be a viable venue for the concept  
874 of an environmentally sound concert series.

875

876 In the ensuing months, I have taken the time to speak with numerous  
877 musicians about the concept of a “Green” concert series, (potentially in 2009)  
878 and received a very positive response.

879

880 But just what would an “environmentally sound” concert series look like in Ann  
881 Arbor? I tapped a talented friend, Mr. Eric Kelly to come up with a mock up  
882 poster to give you a visual idea, and here are the concepts.

883

884 First, the project would be absolutely carbon-neutral and environmentally  
885 friendly at a time when awareness of such issues is important and is being  
886 championed by the city. At a glance, this means a musical series completely  
887 devoid of the use of electrical amplification. You heard right- no traditional  
888 power sources- no generators, solar panels- no power whatsoever beyond the  
889 musicians and their creativity and ability to put their music across.

890

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942

How might this work?

For some it may be somewhat difficult to imagine, but history shows us that musicians have created art in public spaces for thousands of years without the use of external amplification. Only in the last 70 years has electricity been a tool harnessed for such a purpose.

Many of today's musicians rehearse and sometimes play in an acoustic manner and typically will only use amplification in a public setting to reach a vast cross-section of people.

**S. Offen** asked if the performers would be paid and would people be required to pay admission.

**B. Delaney** stated the intention is to solicit sponsorship from local businesses.

**S. Rosencrans** stated it is against park regulations to solicit funds; this is why we are seeking sponsorship.

**L. Berauer** asked if sponsorship is received, would there still be a charge for admission.

**B. Delaney** stated the goal would not to charge admission

**S. Offen** asked if there was proper space in the Mary Beth Doyle Park.

**B. Delaney** explained the original idea came to mind at the dedication of the park.

**L. Berauer** asked if there was anything specific that the Park Advisory Commission could do to help this project.

**S. Rosencrans** stated the idea was brought to the Commission as informational purposes only.

**C. Smith** there would not be a reason for the Park Advisory Commission to act on this idea; this would be discussed through the rental/special events application process.

**D-2** Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair (**moved to the beginning of the meeting**)

**D-3** Review of Park Advisory Commission Work Plan for 2008-09 (**deferred to the next meeting**)

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

**C. Smith** gave an update on the vacancies and the interviews that have taken place.

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

943 **G - REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

944  
945 **T. Berla** gave an update on the water main project that disturbed the volley ball courts  
946 at Forsythe School.

947  
948 Recreation & Education has started to partner with a soccer team for disabled  
949 children.

950  
951 **H - REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK**  
952 **FORCES**

953  
954 **J. Lawter** stated there is good news regarding the Golf Courses, largely due to marketing,  
955 customer service and capital improvements.

956  
957 **C. Smith** stated Cheryl Saam will return to the Canoe Liveries and Jason Nealis will return to  
958 Veterans Memorial Park. There will be a transition period for training purpose with the new hires.

959  
960 **S. Rosencrans** stated the golf cart tunnel issue will be resolved for approximately \$10,000 -  
961 \$20,000.00 which was far less than expected.

962  
963 **C. Smith** stated the cart lease will have to be re-biddded. One suggestion is to purchase carts that  
964 have canopies, and to have bumpers on both sides of the tunnels to assist in guiding the carts  
965 through the tunnels.

966  
967 **I - PUBLIC COMMENTARY – GENERAL** (3 Minutes per Speaker)

968  
969 **J - CLOSED SESSION TO DEAL WITH LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES** (If Applicable)

970  
971 **K - TRANSMITTALS**

972  
973 **K-1** City Council Items Update

974  
975 **K-2** Park Project Update

976  
977 **K-3** Park and Recreation Events for August – September 2008

978  
979 **K-4** By-Laws of the Park Advisory Commission – City of Ann Arbor, Michigan  
980 **(moved to the beginning of the meeting)**

981  
982 There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner**  
983 **Berauer** moved, supported by Commissioner Rosencrans that the meeting be  
984 adjourned. The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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990