



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, April 16, 2019

4:00 PM

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

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Santacroce called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

B ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 3 - Stephen Borgsdorf, Mike Appel, and Rachel Skylis

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved to move items G-1 and H-2 ahead of item F-1

D APPROVAL OF MINUTES

D-1 [19-0733](#) Minutes of the March 19, 2019 PAC Meeting

Attachments: 3-19-2019 PAC Minutes .pdf

Moved by London, seconded by Galardi, approved unanimously as presented and forwarded to the City Council

Yeas: 5 - Galardi, Morrison, Ramaswami, London, and RAC Rep. Kraut

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Borgsdorf, Appel, and Skylis

Recused: 1 - Santacroce

E PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

NNancy Whitter, 235 Brookside Drive, here to discuss 75 Barton Drive, neighboring Onder Nature Area. She explained that the home at 75

Barton recently burnt down, and expressed concern for the impacts to the ecosystem of Onder Nature Area. She explained that the property of 75 Barton is adjoining with Onder Nature Area. She explained that the nature area is very important because it connects many nature areas within the city. She encouraged the Commission to explore acquiring the property of 75 Barton Drive. She described the characteristics of the property, explaining that it is desirable and is worth preserving.

Rachel Forenger, explained that she has lived on the north side of Ann Arbor for 28 years. She inquired about the rules for Ann Arbor residents for walking on the golf courses within the Parks system.

C. Smith responded that when the golf course is open for playing golf in the spring, summer, and fall, members of the public are asked not to walk the golf course if they are not playing golf for safety purposes, explaining that people who are walking and not playing golf might not be aware of a golf ball that has been hit towards them.

Forenger further inquired if there are rules or regulations for walking on the golf course in the early morning or evening when there are no golfers present.

C. Smith responded that during the season when the course is open, before or after hours it is not permitted for members of the public to walk the golf course for safety purposes, explaining that maintenance crews are present during those times.

Forenger explained that a sign that is posted at the golf course she finds offensive, and wants to know the rule that allows it.

F SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- G-1** [19-0735](#) Resolution to Recommend Awarding a Contract for the Geddes Dam Gate Recoating and Repairs Project to Gerace Construction Company, Inc. (\$828,000), Appropriate Funds, and Amend the Project Budget

Attachments: Geddes Dam Gate Painting and Repairs .pdf, Resolution to Recommend Awarding a Contract for the Geddes Dam Gate Recoating and Repairs Project.pdf

G. Wiczorek, City of Ann Arbor Civil Engineer, explained that he oversees the Capital Improvement Projects for the four dams within the City. He presented the following information:

- Dam components
- Scope of Project
 - Installation of stop logs and removal of gate
 - Abrasive blast and painting
 - Inspection of steel corrosion
 - Replacement of minor bracing
 - Replacement of site and bottom seals
- Alternate Bid Items
 - Replace trunnion hub and pin
 - Replace major gate arms
 - Allowance for unspecified steel repairs
- Bid awarded to Gerace Construction. Gerace completed construction for gate four at Geddes Dam.
- Project Schedule
 - May 6, 2019 City Council meeting
 - If approved, estimated notice to proceed, June 2019
 - Estimated project completion March-June 2020

Commissioner P. Ramaswami inquired about repairing vs. replacing the gate.

G. Wiszorek explained that replacing is much more expensive, and that the repairs would likely last for 15 years.

Commissioner R. Kraut inquired about whether or not the budget allows for replacement of the gate if it is determined necessary.

G. Wiszorek explained that it is very unlikely that the gate would need to be replaced. He explained that small components of the gate will need to be replaced, and those replacements have been budgeted.

Commissioner R. Galardi inquired about time for creating parts. He also inquired about the process for blocking the dam area.

G. Wiszorek explained that all parts will be custom but the process is standard. He explained that the stop logs will be put in place.

Commissioner P. Morrison asked if there would be impacts to recreation.

G. Wiszorek answered, no impact.

Commissioner L. London inquired about the failure of a separate gate.

G. Wiszorek explained that the failure was due to electrical components

failing as well as weather condition impacts.

Councilmember J. Hayner clarified that the Geddes Dam and Argo Dam are maintained through the Parks budget.

C. Smith agreed and clarified that Barton and Superior Dams are not maintained through Parks.

Moved by Galardi, seconded by Morrison, that the Parks Advisory Commission Recommend Awarding a Contract for the Geddes Dam Gate Recoating and Repairs Project to Gerace Construction Company, Inc. (\$828,000), appropriate funds, and amend the project budget.

On a voice vote, the vote was as follows with the Chair declaring the motion unanimously passed.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Borgsdorf, Appel, and Skylis

H-2 [19-0738](#) Discussion regarding "Center of the City" Taskforce

Attachments: R-19-135 As Amended Center of City Task Force.pdf,
Board & Commissions Application.pdf, Park Advisory
Commission (PAC) Downtown Parks Subcommittee
Report - Final.pdf

C. Smith explained that at the April 1, 2019 City Council meeting the Center of the City Taskforce was created, and as a part of that resolution, the PAC is asked to consider giving feedback on the application used for the Center of the City Taskforce.

Councilmember J. Grand explained that the goal of the application is to help make decisions on who will be nominated to the taskforce.

J. Hayner explained that many people have expressed interest, and that a customized application will be available.

D. Santacroce inquired about the charge of the taskforce, and asked for clarification on what the "Center of the City" is.

J. Hayner answered that the "Center of the City" is the working name of

the area formerly known as the "Library Lot"

J. Grand explained that the space includes the "Library Lot" and Liberty Plaza.

R. Kraut clarified that Liberty Plaza is under the purview of Parks, and that the other portions are City owned but not under the purview of Parks.

J. Grand explained that she is seeking to add a portion to the application that inquires about what the applicant believes some challenges and opportunities for the area are.

J. Hayner explained that he is interested in involving youth in the decision making process.

D. Santacroce suggested asking questions regarding residency, financial planning/budgets, and knowledge with low income housing.

L. London suggesting asking specifically why the applicant is interested in participating on the taskforce.

L. London inquired about how taskforce members will be selected.

J. Grand explained that City Council will make the final decision, and that she expects there will be many applicants, and that including more specific application questions will help narrow the process.

D. Santacroce and R. Kraut discussed including a portion where applicants can describe relevant experience.

P. Ramaswami discussed asking about stewardship experience.

R. Galardi discussed the ability to reach a diverse applicant pool using the online application.

J. Grand explained that there will have to be significant community outreach.

Received and Filed

F-1 [19-0734](#) FY2020 Budget and FY2021 Budget Plan

C. Smith reviewed the budget process highlighting the following:

Staff and Parks responsible for overseeing their budgets reported to City Administrator quarterly
99.98% of Fiscal Year 2018 budget was expended
1.4% cut target in FY2020
No general fund cut proposed for FY2021
No reduction in Millage revenue
Fee Increases
Proposal to have a Park Planner position return

J. Hayner inquired about a forestry contract that City Council approved.

C. Smith explained that the contract was for one year and for \$450,000 and was for Park Forestry needs

R. Galardi congratulated Colin and City staff, explaining that the budgets have been managed extremely appropriately.

R. Kraut expressed support for the addition of a Park Planner.

Received and Filed

G NEW BUSINESS

G-2 [19-0736](#) Resolution Recommending Approval of Fiscal Year 2020/21 Fee Adjustments for Parks & Recreation Services

Attachments: Resolution Recommending Approval of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Fee Adjustments for Parks & Recreation Services.pdf, Proposed Fee Increases or New Fees – Parks and Recreation Services.pdf, Comparative Data FY 20-21 Junior Golf Camp Fees.pdf, Comparative Data FY 20-21 Ice Arena Hourly Rental Fees .pdf, Comparative Data FY 20-21 Day Camp Fees.pdf, Comparative Data FY20-21 Buhr Drop-In Hockey Fees .pdf

The Commission expressed support for the proposed changes.

Moved by Morrison, seconded by London, to approve the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Fee Adjustments for Parks & Recreation Services.

On a roll call vote, the vote was as follows with the Chair declaring the motion passed.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Borgsdorf, Appel, and Skylis

H COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

H-1 [19-0737](#) Park Advisory Commission Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget and Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Plan for Parks and Recreation Services

Attachments: PAC - FY2020 Parks and Recreation Budget Resolution.pdf, Goals and Objectives-Parks.pdf, GeneralFund_ActivityLevel.pdf, MillageFundInv_ActivityLevel.pdf

Moved by Galardi, seconded by Kraut, to approve the FY2020/21 Budget and FY2021 Budget Plan.

On a voice vote, the vote was as follows with the Chair declaring the motion passed.

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

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Borgsdorf, Appel, and Skylis

I PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

J REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith shared that many seasonal employees have been hired, that the canoe liveries are opening, and that there is an Earth Day event at Leslie Science and Nature Center on Earth Day.

K REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

R. Kraut reported that there was a recent presentation to RAC regarding team sports relating to interest in participating in more competitive or less competitive activities. She also explained that the Freeman school summer programming for will take place outdoors at this time because of issues with the building. She also explained that there are positions available on RAC for members of the community to apply for.

L **REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASKFORCES**

M **CLOSED SESSION**

N **TRANSMITTALS**

N-1 [19-0739](#) Park Planning Capital Project Update

Attachments: 2019-04 PAC Update.pdf

Received and Filed

N-2 [19-0740](#) PAC Council Update

Attachments: PAC COUNCIL UPDATE 4_2019.pdf

Received and Filed

N-3 [19-0741](#) Parks Project Status Table

Attachments: Parks_Project_Status_Table-FY2018-19.pdf

Received and Filed

O **ADJOURNMENT**

Unanimously adjourned.