



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, March 19, 2019

4:00 PM

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

A CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:04 p.m.

B ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Robert Galardi, Paige Morrison, Stephen Borgsdorf, Julie Grand, Praveena Ramaswami, Lauren London, Mike Appel, Rachel Skyllis, and Jeff Hayner

Absent: 2 - David Santacroce, and Ruth L. Kraut

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D APPROVAL OF MINUTES

D-1 [19-0532](#) Minutes of the February 26, 2019 PAC Meeting

Attachments: 2-26-2019 PAC Minutes .pdf

Moved by London, seconded by Galardi, approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council.

E PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Rita Mitchell expressed concern with with polution at the DTE site. She also expressed concern with emergency access within the proposed project at the DTE site.

F SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

G NEW BUSINESS

G-1 [19-0533](#) Update on Bandemer - Barton Feasibility Study and Barton Pathway

Attachments: Barton-Bandamer Connection Project .pdf, Public Information Meeting Summary.pdf

Hillary Hanzel, City of Ann Arbor City of Ann Arbor Landscape Architect and Peter Sanderson, Washtenaw County Park Planner, provided the following updates:

- *Bergmann and & OHM selected to complete the study*
- *Completion anticipated summer 2019*
- *Project Goals: create safe and legal connection, improve non-motorized safety, extend the trail*
- *Tunnel under railroad vs. Barton Hills Route options*
- *Improve access for all users*
- *Invasive species management*
- *Public Meeting took place February 26, 2019*
 - 60 written responses were received.
 - Public concerns with paving
- *Proposed trail layout*

Commissioner P. Ramaswami discussed the trail layout.

Commissioner S. Borgsdorf discussed the positive public responses and inquired about expediting the process.

C. Smith explained that due to applying for grant funding, the process will likely take the proposed amount of time.

Councilmember Julie Grand inquired about any efficiencies gained by the completion of these projects.

P. Sanders and H. Hanzel discussed the relationship with the tunnel structures in each project, and how that has been time saving.

Councilmember Jeff Hayner inquired about the cost for construction.

C. Smith answered that the feasibility study will provide a cost estimate.

Commissioner Lauren London asked about PAC's next steps.

C. Smith explained that the next decision making will likely be deciding whether or not the pavement should take place. He described past similar projects and PAC's involvement. He explained that it would take place early summer 2019.

P. Ramaswami inquired about the canoe rental aspect of the proposed plan. She encouraged traffic management for vehicles and pedestrians.

C. Smith explained that staff is interested in having a livery facility on the DTE site

DiRita explained that there will be parking dedicated to the livery purpose as well as a pedestrian bridge.

S. Borgsdorf expressed concern with the environmental aspects of the project and traffic. He also inquired about the livery use. He also inquired about the ownership model for the parks.

DiRita responded explaining that the cost of the environmental cleanup is around nine million dollars, that the traffic at the site will be manageable due to the lower density, and that the goal is to not only avoid a negative impact, but to improve the traffic conditions at the site. He further explained that the ownership of the park area will be managed by a 501(c)3 nonprofit conservancy, which would be board led and initially funded by the developers.

M. Appel discussed the Amtrak lot and how the space can be incorporated into the proposed plans.

DiRita explained that Amtrak has been overall very cooperative with the development process.

J. Hayner discussed the floodplain and floodway issues as well as the functionality of the canoe livery operations.

Deb Axelrod, Landscape Architect, Smith Group JJR, described that the existing conditions of the site are different than what is listed on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map, and that request for a letter of map revision has been submitted, and that the process is at the final stage. She further explained the proposed plans do not interfere with the conditions at the site as they currently are.

C. Smith explained that there will be enough space available for operating canoe livery vehicles.

S. Borgsdorf discussed the involvement with City of Ann Arbor boards and commissions on the nonprofit board.

DiRita agreed, and also encouraged neighborhood stakeholder presence on the board.

L. London inquired about the next steps for PAC.

C. Smith explained that an important next step is determining emergency access to the area through Broadway Park. He explained that when the plans are more concrete, action can be taken by PAC to allow or not allow the emergency access.

Axelrod inquired about feedback and if any problems are perceived that can be address before the process advances.

C. Smith explained that there would be very little disturbance in the Broadway Park area to accommodate the emergency access

Axelrod explained that one tree would need to be relocated, and that there are a few areas where the pathway would need to be reinforced or widened. She inquired about PAC's opinion or objection.

M. Appel explained that he does not see a problem with making this change, and that there is an opportunity to determine how the path is used and what the character has potential to be.

DiRita answered that in the future different options can be presented.

C. Smith explained that at this time, staff's perspective is supportive contingent on details being finalized.

S. Borgsdorf added that the request is small and that PAC's interest is in preserving the park space.

Received and Filed

H COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

H-1 [19-0535](#) Environmental Commission Appointment

Moved by London, seconded by Borgsdorf, to appoint Commissioner Mike Appel to serve a one year term on the Environmental Commission.

Motion passed unanimously.

I PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

J REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith explained that due to the spring weather, spring activities are beginning to occur, including prescribed burns that took place at Leslie Park and Leslie Science and Nature Center, and that nine holes are open at Huron Hills Golf Course. He added that Commissioners are welcome to visit the Barton site with staff to observe the site to aid in the decision making regarding paving the area.

K REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

No report.

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

None.

M CLOSED SESSION

N TRANSMITTALS

N-2 [19-0537](#) Park Planning Capital Project Update

Attachments: 2019-03 PAC Update.pdf

Received and Filed

N-3 [19-0538](#) PAC Council Update

Attachments: PAC COUNCIL UPDATE 3_2019.pdf

Received and Filed

N-4 [19-0539](#) Parks Project Status Table

Attachments: Parks_Project_Status_Table-FY2018-19.pdf

Received and Filed

O ADJOURNMENT

Unanimously adjourned at 5:25 p.m.