



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 15, 2020

4:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at a2gov.org/watchCTN

To speak at public comment call 206-337-9723 or 213-338-8477 or Toll Free 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID: 918 1269 1896

1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Paige Morrison called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

2 ROLL CALL

City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Manager Colin Smith called the roll.

Present: 10 - Paige Morrison, Stephen Borgsdorf, Julie Grand, Praveena Ramaswami, Lauren London, Mike Appel, Ruth L. Kraut, Rachel Skylis, Jeff Hayner, and Anne Marsan

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously as presented.

4 FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Seeing no callers, Chair Morrison closed Public Comment.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

20-1968 Minutes of the November 17, 2020 PAC Meeting

Attachments: 11-17-2020 PAC Minutes.pdf

Moved by Lauren, seconded by Appel, approved unanimously as presented and forwarded to the City Council.

6 PRESENTATIONS

None.

7 REPORTS

7-A REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

Smith provided an update on Park facilities related to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Park Renaming Committee and their efforts regarding renaming Winchell Park, the installation of the signage for Graydon Park, and fiscal year 2022 and 2023 budget information.

7-B REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

No report. C. Smith explained that the Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) has appointed a RAC liaison.

7-C REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASKFORCES

No report.

8 NEW BUSINESS

8-A [20-1969](#) Resolution to Approve Routing a Paved Portion of the B2B Trail Through Barton Nature Area

Attachments: Resolution to Approve Routing a Paved Portion of the B2B Trail Through Barton Nature Area.pdf, BandemerBarton Feasibility Study Part 1.pdf, BandemerBarton Feasibility Study Part 2.pdf, BandemerBarton Feasibility Study Executive Summary.pdf, Barton-Bandemer Connection_2020 Public Meeting Summary.pdf, Barton-Bandemer Connection_Previous 2019 PAC packet materials.pdf, Barton-Bandemer Connection_2020 Community Feedback Emails.pdf

City of Ann Arbor Landscape Architect Hillary Hanzel presented the proposed resolution to approve routing a paved portion of the B2B Trail through Barton Nature Area and provided an overview of a public meeting regarding the project.

Councilmember Jeff Hayner inquired about any other plans for the city's involvement in the B2B trail.

Smith answered that the remaining large area of work would be connection over the Huron River near Maiden Lane and Fuller Street.

Commissioner Mike Appel shared a preference for the path to be closer to the fence line and train tracks.

City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Deputy Manager Dave Borneman explained that area was native prairie that NAP wished to preserve.

Moved by Borgsdorf, seconded by Appel to approve the Resolution to Approve Routing a Paved Portion of the B2B Trail Through Barton Nature Area

On a roll call vote, the vote was as follows, the Chair declared the motion approved.

Approved resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ROUTING A PAVED PORTION OF THE B2B TRAIL THROUGH BARTON NATURE AREA

Whereas, In 2007 the City Council passed resolution R-07-516 that designated the Barton Nature Area as a Preserve;

Whereas, In 2016 the City Council stated that at times there are identified capital improvement needs and projects that are generally acceptable to improve ecological diversity, environmental conditions, water quality, and other community benefits;

Whereas, In 2016 the City Council amended resolution R-07-516 to allow construction in areas designated as Preserves as long as the proposed improvement will improve ecological diversity, environmental condition, or water quality as determined by the Parks Advisory Commission (PAC);

Whereas, Resolution R-07-516 states that “Trail maintenance, trail development, and recreational and educational activities that the Natural Area Preservation program finds do not negatively affect the ecological resources of the Preserve are allowed.”

Whereas, The feasibility study has identified a preferred alignment for the paved portion of the B2B trail through Barton Nature Area;

Whereas, The rest of the existing trail network in Barton Nature Area will remain unpaved, natural surface trails.

Whereas, The feasibility study identifies the desire to provide unpaved walking path alternatives across Barton Nature area where practical;

Whereas, Natural Area Preservation staff have reviewed the proposed alignment for the paved B2B trail and generally support it; and

Whereas, The value of a paved, accessible portion of the B2B trail through Barton Nature Area is predicated upon the construction of an accessible pedestrian underpass tunnel connecting Barton Nature Area to the paved accessible B2B trail portion in Bandemer Park,

Resolved, That features in the Barton Nature Area identified for protection by NAP are protected during the course of the project and that NAP is consulted during detailed design and construction;

Resolved, That unpaved walking path alternatives across Barton Nature area are constructed where practical;

Resolved, That construction of a paved portion of the B2B trail through Barton Nature Area would only be constructed if the pedestrian underpass tunnel connecting Barton

Nature Area to Bandemer Park has secured funding for construction;

Resolved, That the layout and location of the paved portion of the B2B trail generally follow the placement as detailed in Exhibit A and any significant deviation from this will require PAC review and approval; and

Resolved, That PAC approve construction of a paved portion of the B2B trail through Barton Nature Area as shown in Exhibit A.

Yeas: 8 - Morrison, Borgsdorf, Ramaswami, London, Appel, RAC Rep. Kraut, Skylis, and Marsan

Nays: 0

9 COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

9-A [20-1971](#) Approval of the 2021 Park Advisory Commission Meeting Calendar

Attachments: 2021 Park Advisory Commission Meeting Calendar For Approval.pdf

Moved by Kraut, seconded by London, to approve the 2021 Park Advisory Meeting Calendar as presented.

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

Yeas: 8 - Morrison, Borgsdorf, Councilmember Grand, Ramaswami, London, Appel, RAC Rep. Kraut, Skylis, Councilmember Hayner, and Marsan

Nays: 0

9-B [20-1970](#) Ann Arbor Center of the City - Council of the Commons

Attachments: CenterofCity.pdf

C. Smith explained the resolution, and discussed that the time commitment is unclear.

Councilmember Hayner explained that the Council of the Commons will likely meet once a month starting in January.

Commissioner Rachel Skylis explained that lack of a formal schedule discourages diverse representation because it assumes that members will be available whenever and where ever.

Commissioner Borgsdorf further discussed the Council of the Commons makeup, and inquired about PAC's role on the Council of the Commons.

Smith explained that PAC's role would be to represent the commission's expertise and input, and to also communicate relevant Council of the Commons information back to PAC.

Commissioner Praveena Ramaswami inquired about funding sources for the work proposed by the Council of the Commons.

Councilmember Julie Grand explained that the typical task force process wasn't followed and funding has not been identified yet.

Commissioner Ruth Kraut inquired about the current members and the timeline for appointing a PAC representative.

Chair Morrison answered that Councilmembers Hayner and Briggs are currently on the Council.

Commissioner Borgsdorf volunteered to participate on the Council of the Commons.

Moved by Morrison, seconded by Kraut to nominate Stephen Borgsdorf to serve on the Council of the Commons.

Approved unanimously.

Yeas: 8 - Morrison, Borgsdorf, Ramaswami, London, Appel, RAC Rep. Kraut, Skylis, and Marsan

Nays: 0

10 **CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Lauren, seconded by Marsan to enter a closed session to discuss land acquisition at 4:56 PM

Approved Unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Appel, seconded by Borgsdorf to exit the closed session at 6:22 PM

Approved Unanimously

21-0158

Moved by Kraut, seconded by Skylis to recommend City acquisition of fee title to 3.77 acres of property identified in Application ID 2020-02, and approval of the contribution of funds not to exceed \$1,507,500.00 from the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage.

On a roll call vote the vote was as followed. Motion Passed.

Yeas: 5 - Morrison, Appel, RAC Rep. Kraut, Skylis, and Marsan

Nays: 2 - Borgsdorf, and Ramaswami

Absent: 1 - London

11 SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (Not Limited to Agenda Items)

Seeing no callers, Chair Morrison closed Public Comment.

12 COMMUNICATIONS

12-a [20-1972](#) Park Planning Capital Project Update

Attachments: 2020-12 PAC Update.pdf

Received and Filed

12-b [20-1973](#) PAC Council Update

Attachments: PAC COUNCIL UPDATE 12_2020.pdf

12-c [20-1974](#) Parks Project Status Table

Attachments: Parks_Project_Status_Table-FY2021.pdf

Received and Filed

13 CLOSED SESSION

None.

14 ADJOURNMENT

Unanimously adjourned at 6:24 PM

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/kvl