



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes Park Advisory Commission

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

4:00 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street

A CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grand called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

B ROLL CALL

Colin Smith called the roll.

Staff Present:

C. Smith, J. Straw, A. Kuras; 3

Present: 10 - Timothy Berla, Chair Julie Berson Grand, Mike Anglin, Christopher Taylor, Karen Levin, Tim Doyle, Ingrid Ault, Alan Jackson, Bob Galardi, and Melissa Stults

Absent: 1 - John McCoy Lawter

C APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Doyle, seconded by Ault, that the Agenda be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

D PUBLIC COMMENTARY - (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Mary Catherine Spires, 3740 Windemere, spoke in support of Option 1 for the location of the proposed tennis courts at Windemere Park.

Ann McCarre, 3740 Windemere Drive, agreed with Spires, in support of Option 1, and asked for a postponement.

Sven Hahr, 3810 Windemere Drive, agreed with previous speakers and asked for a postponement on the decision of the location of the tennis courts.

Joseph Dozenbaum, 3160 Windemere Drive, asked for landscaping to be added to the park and so not to have to look at a fence.

Ruth Huff, 1215 Severn Court, spoke of the need to clean up the subsoil issues and added landscaping in the park.

Ingrid Ault, 1801 Independence Blvd, Friends of the Park Committee, spoke in support of the renewed Park's millage.

E APPROVAL OF MINUTES

E-1 [12-1328](#) Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2012

A motion was made by Jackson, seconded by Levin, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

F **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

J. Grand welcomed new PAC member Melissa Stults to the Commission.

G **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

[12-1329](#) Report on Additional Off-Leash Dog Facilities

Amy Kuras, City Park Planner, provided a report to the Commission on potential dog park sites throughout the City.

Discussion pursued regarding the rating criteria.

C. Smith asked for clarification on the rating of locations closer to the center of town.

A. Kuras explained that through their public outreach efforts outlined in the PROS Plan, the results showed that people are looking for a more centrally located dog park and West Park is the closest to the center of town.

I. Ault commented that West Park is most accessible and the layout of the park is perfect for this proposal.

K. Levin agreed that the layout of the park would be ideal.

J. Grand asked what the possibility would be to use an area of the 721 N. Main Street site as a dog park.

A. Kuras responded that if a dog park was decided for 721 N. Main, it would have to be located outside of the floodplain area.

T. Doyle asked about lot sizes being sufficient for the needs of the neighborhood.

M. Anglin asked if the need for a dog park had come out of the unofficial dog park site that had occurred at Slauson School on Saturdays, and if it is still continuing.

C. Smith said that he hasn't seen activities lately, like he had earlier. Smith explained that the need for a centrally located dog park came out of the PROS Plan and was established before anything came up at Slauson. He said earlier discussions involving West Park were held before the City owned this particular parcel that is now being considered.

K. Levin said the parcel feels large since it is long. She said while they need to get started on one park at this time, they could be looking at others alternative sites in the future.

T. Berla said that he remembers discussions regarding the need for dog parks going back to 1989, and he thinks it's a good idea to decide on one location to start with and keep options open for future needs.

J. Grand recognizing consensus on the location of West Park for a dog park, asked staff to move forward with plans for that site.

[12-1330](#)

Resolution Regarding the Location of Windemere Tennis Courts

A. Kuras gave a Power Point presentation on the potential re-locations for the Windemere tennis courts.

Jackson asked if rain gardens could be incorporated into other locations than illustrated on the plans, such as where the previous pond was located.

A. Kuras said yes.

T. Berla asked if there was an issue with prolonging making a decision on the location in terms of hindering the planning process.

A. Kuras said, for her, waiting a month would not set her back.

T. Berla noted that there are other tennis courts available for people to use throughout the City, while these courts are being worked on.

A. Kuras said she wouldn't feel comfortable telling people to use tennis courts belonging to the schools, or other locations that might have their own programs.

I. Ault asked if the outlined space in Option 4, would be suitable for Rec. and Ed's needs and other uses, since it seems to divide the space.

A. Kuras said she had confirmed with Rec. and Ed that the proposed layout does not prevent them from using the spaces.

R. Galardi asked if from a planning perspective, there was more advantages to have more open space, such as in Option 3, for unscheduled activities.

A. Kuras said yes.

A. Jackson noted that there was the unused baseball area that was considered unused and would be removed.

M. Stults asked if there was landscaping possibilities with all the proposed options to help with the visual aesthetic.

A. Kuras said yes.

T. Doyle asked what the plans are for the existing court area.

A. Kuras said they would naturalize it, since it is quite soggy.

A. Jackson said there seems to be the most consensus for Option 4, and the Commission will need to strike a balance, while realizing that there will be opposition to whichever option seems to violate individual sensibilities.

J. Grand agreed with Jackson and thanked Commissioners for attending public meetings on the issue.

T. Doyle asked about the height of proposed fencing.

A. Kuras said it would be 10 feet all around the tennis courts.

J. Grand read the following draft resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED
RECONSTRUCTED TENNIS COURTS IN WINDEMERE PARK**

Whereas, PAC has previously supported by resolution that the tennis courts in Windemere Park be replaced;

Whereas, PAC has previously supported by resolution that this reconstruction be accomplished for no more than 10-20% above normal reconstruction costs;

Whereas, input from neighbors and the community has been solicited through public meetings and written communication;

Resolved, that PAC recommends placement of the reconstructed tennis courts in accordance with Option 4 plan.

Resolved, that PAC continue to solicit and incorporate input from neighbors and the community regarding landscaping around the tennis courts and other associated park improvements.

A motion was made by Galardi, seconded by Levin, that the Resolution Regarding the Location of Windemere Tennis Courts be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

T. Berla said he felt that it would be better wait another month to act on the resolution in order to allow more feedback from the neighbors.

J. Grand asked what that process would look like.

C. Smith suggested that if the Commission decided to wait, they could invite the public to continue sharing their comments and concerns through emails that would be made available to the Commission.

C. Taylor said he was in favor of waiting another month if it doesn't cause anyone harm.

T. Doyle asked if the associated neighborhood groups in the area had been given an opportunity to voice their concerns and comments.

A. Kuras said, yes.

A. Jackson said he didn't want to see more staff time invested in the issue when the discussion was regarding a slight location adjustment, and felt that there was most consensus for Option 4.

**Friendly Amendment offered by T. Doyle to add the reference to Option 4, in the resolution. Accepted by Grand.
On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

Yeas: 6 - Chair Berson Grand, Levin, Doyle, Ault, Jackson, and Galardi

Nays: 1 - RAC Rep. Berla

Absent: 1 - Lawter

Recused: 1 - Stults

H NEW BUSINESS

[12-1331](#)

PAC Annual Elections

I Ault nominated Julie Grand for Chairperson, seconded by R. Galardi.
Grand accepted.

I Ault nominated herself as Vice Chair, R. Galardi seconded.
On a secret ballot vote, the results showed Grand as Chair and Ault as Vice Chair.

Grand nominated T. Doyle as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.
Seconded Berla.
Doyle accepted.

I COMMISSION PROPOSED BUSINESS

J REPORTS FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

C. Smith reported that there will be a meeting in Council Chambers tomorrow night at 6:30 pm regarding the Skate Park Design.

C. Smith reported that at last night's City Council meeting they had approved the grants to the DNR for the Skate Park and Gallup Park Livery. He said they had also accepted a \$ 400,000 grant from the Washtenaw County Commission for the Skate Park construction.

C. Smith reported that the South University park project is virtually completed and looks quite nice, and the construction at the Leslie Science Center is well under way on the paths and raptor exhibits.

K REPORTS FROM MANAGER OF FIELD OPERATIONS

L REPORTS FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

T. Berla reported that they got to meet the new director for Rec and Ed; Jenna Bacolor who replaced Sara. He said they have a summer student volunteer program that has been successful that they are looking to expand.

M REPORTS FROM RELEVANT COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND/OR TASK FORCES

Grand reported that the N. Main Huron River Task Force on the 721 N. Main site have had several public meetings that have been well attended and they have been able to solicit a lot of public feedback on what they would like to see on the parcel. She said they will be making a recommendation to City Council for the site.

C. Smith gave a brief update on the Huron River white water permit situation noting that he would be meeting with the City's water manager, Molly Robinson, and with the

State DNR and DEQ staff to find out what options might be available to the City.

N PUBLIC COMMENTARY - GENERAL (3 Minutes per Speaker)

O CLOSED SESSION

P TRANSMITTALS

P-1 [12-1332](#) City Council Items Update

Received and Filed

P-2 [12-1333](#) Park Project Update

Received and Filed

P-3 [12-1334](#) City of Ann Arbor 2008-2013 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements Millage Status

Received and Filed

Q ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Doyle, seconded by Galardi, that the Meeting be Adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Community Television Network Channel 16 live televised public meetings are also available to watch live online from CTN's website, www.a2gov.org/ctn, on "The Meeting Place" page (<http://www.a2gov.org/livemeetings>).

Live Web streaming is one more way, in addition to these listed below, to stay in touch with Ann Arbor City Council and board and commission actions and deliberations.

- *Video on Demand: Replay public meetings at your convenience online at www.a2gov.org/government/city_administration/communicationsoffice/ctn/Pages/Vid eoOnDemand.aspx*
- *Cable: Watch CTN Channel 16 public meeting programming via Comcast Cable channel 16.*

The complete record of this meeting is available in video format at www.a2gov.org/ctn, on "The Meeting Place" page (<http://www.a2gov.org/livemeetings>), or is available for a nominal fee by contacting CTN at (734) 794-6150.