



City of Ann Arbor

Formal Minutes

Park Advisory Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Tuesday, June 16, 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: 888 788 0099

Enter Meeting ID: 932 4296 5661

1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Paige Morrison called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

2 ROLL CALL

Others Present:

Colin Smith, City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Manager
Remy Long, Open Space & Parkland Preservation Program Manager

Kristen Vander Lugt, City Staff

Present: 9 - Paige Morrison, Stephen Borgsdorf, Julie Grand, Praveena Ramaswami, Lauren London, Mike Appel, Ruth L. Kraut, Rachel Skylis, and Jeff Hayner

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously as presented.

4 FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT

Seeing no speakers, Chair Morrison closed Audience Participation.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5-a [20-0894](#) Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2020

Attachments: 1-28-2020 PAC Minutes.pdf

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

6 PRESENTATIONS

None.

7 REPORTS

7-a REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

[20-0895](#) Update on Park & Recreation operations under COVID-19

Attachments: PAC COVID.pdf

C. Smith presented an update on Parks operations relating to Covid-19 and highlighted the following points:

March 12, City begins to alter operations as a result of COVID 19. Recreation Facilities are closed, and programming is suspended.

March 24, In response to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order all park facilities and amenities are closed (playgrounds, courts, etc.) Messages shared with press releases, social media channels, web site updates, email subscribers and other media. Refunds issued. Parks staff must work from home unless performing essential work.

April 8, remove tennis nets, cover basketball rims .

April 20, Park Operations starts to mow, working split shifts

New Executive Order allows for golf and boating to resume, with restrictions. May 1, City golf courses open. May 8, Some amenities reopen, provided physical distancing and other precautions are followed by users: Disc Golf, Dog Parks, Tennis, e.g. May 9, Farmer's Market reopens in phase I, moves to phase 2 on May 20.

May 17, decision to cancel day camp for the summer and keep outdoor pools closed is made.

May 29, Argo and Gallup liveries open in a limited capacity

June 1, Governor Whitmer Executive Order, stay at home lifted early, comment on camps/pools, opening of other outdoor facilities.

June 8, Playgrounds and Skatepark reopen. Oakland County and other agencies reopen playgrounds and skateparks

June 10, decision to open Fuller Pool July 1 for modified use. Buhr and Vets pools remain closed. Camps remain cancelled.

Athletic Fields open for rental starting on Monday, June 22. Rental groups will need to provide plans for adhering to the current Executive Orders in terms of social distancing prior to renting.

Fuller open July 1

Buhr and Vets remain closed

Senior Center remains closed.

Shelters/Pavilions available July 1, 100 people or less, plan for social distancing

Overview of Financial Impact

Commissioner L. London inquired about online reservations.

C. Smith answered that online reservations have been pretty good overall, and that there has been more compliance than anticipated.

R. Kraut commended C. Smith and staff for successfully adapting to the changing situation relating to Covid-19. Kraut also inquired about the Staff approach to managing social distancing.

C. Smith explained that Parks has been working with the Ann Arbor Police Department to provide a presence, to aid with compliance. He also explained that there is significant effort to communicate the rules and guidelines online.

Councilmember Julie Grand added that any intervention by police is expected to be educational, and not punitive in nature.

Commissioner R. Skylis expressed appreciation for clear and effective communication from Parks on social media.

Commissioner P. Ramaswami expressed appreciation for effective planning and clear communication at the Farmer's Market, explaining that she attended and had a positive experience.

Chair Morrison agreed with Skylis and Ramaswami.

Councilmember Grand expressed appreciation for the quality of Parks communications.

7-b REPORT FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

No report.

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

Councilmember Julie Grand explained that some street names and park name changes are being explored.

8 NEW BUSINESS

- 8-a** [20-0896](#) Resolution to recommend that the City grant a pathway easement and a grading permit to the Charter Township of Ann Arbor in Marshall Nature Area

Attachments: 20200312 Dixboro Trail Right Turn Lane Plan.pdf, PAC - MARSHALL DIXBORO TRAIL EASEMENT.pdf, PAC Final FAQ June 2020.pdf

Karen Sikkenga, with the Huron River Group, explained the request for the pathway easement at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Sikkenga explained the request, highlighting the requested easement location and described existing conditions.

R. Kraut expressed support.

P. Ramaswami inquired about the proposed crosswalk.

Sikkenga explained that it will be a signalized crosswalk and there will also be a signalized mid-block crossing.

Moved by Kraut, seconded by Borgsdorf, TO RECOMMEND GRANTING TWO EASEMENTS AND A GRADING PERMIT TO THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ANN ARBOR IN MARSHALL NATURE AREA

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

Whereas, the Charter Township of Ann Arbor would like to complete Phase 2 of their popular Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail, a critical north-south connector to the B2B Trail, that would connect Marshall Nature Area and Matthaei Botanical Gardens to Parker Mill and the B2B Trail; and

Whereas, insufficient space exists to construct this trail within the existing Dixboro Road ROW, due to a planned new right turn lane on southbound Dixboro; and

Whereas, in order to construct the trail along the eastern edge of Marshall Nature Area, the Charter Township of Ann Arbor requests a pathway easement and a grading permit from the City of Ann Arbor; and

Whereas, the Park Advisory Commission supports creating new trail linkages to City parks, and between the City and the surrounding area; and

Whereas, the portion of Marshall Nature Area that would be impacted is already impacted by, and kept clear for an overhead utility easement; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommend granting the requested easement and grading permit between the City and the Charter Township of Ann Arbor for the construction of Phase 2 of the Matthaei Botanical Garden Trail.

Yeas: 7 - Morrison, Borgsdorf, Ramaswami, London, Appel, RAC Rep. Kraut, and Skylis

Nays: 0

9-a [20-0897](#) Environmental Commission Appointment

Moved by London seconded by Skylis to appoint Mike Appel to the Environmental Commission.

Approved unanimously.

10 LAND ACQUISITION MATTERS

Moved by Kraut, seconded by Ramaswami to enter a closed session to discuss land acquisition.

Returned to open session at 6:28 p.m.

11 SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (Not Limited to Agenda Items)

Seeing no speakers, Chair London closed Public Comment.

12 COMMUNICATIONS

12-a [20-0898](#) Park Planning Capital Project Update

Attachments: Parks_Project_Status_Table-FY2020.pdf

Received and Filed

12-b [20-0899](#) PAC Council Update

Attachments: 2020-06 PAC Update (002)cs.pdf

Received and Filed

12-c [20-0901](#) Parks Project Status Table

Attachments: Parks_Project_Status_Table-FY2020.pdf

Received and Filed

13 CLOSED SESSION

14 ADJOURNMENT

Unanimously adjourned at 6:29 p.m.