

Minutes of Recreation Advisory Commission
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 6:30 PM

Rec & Ed Office

1515 S. Seventh St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

MEMBERS PRESENT Mark Brehob, Hannah Cary, Nicholas Crowe, Naomi Goldberg, Larry O'Connell, Hannah Smith

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT Jenna Bacolor, Donna Dishman, Josh Landefeld

GUESTS PRESENT Victor Morales, Annie Pynch

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Larry O. called the meeting to order at 6:31pm
- B. Larry O. led round robin introductions

II. PUBLIC COMMENTARY - None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the May 21, 2024 meeting. A motion was made by Mark B. and seconded by Hannah C. that the meeting minutes of May 21, 2024 be approved. On a unanimous vote, Larry O. declared the motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Annual election for Chair and Vice-Chair of RAC - vote required
 - 1. Larry O. asked for nominations for Chair
 - a) Larry O. nominated Hannah C.
 - Hannah C. accepted the nomination
 - 2. Larry O. asked for nominations for Vice Chair
 - a) Mark B. expressed interest
 - Mark B. accepted the nomination
 - 3. Larry O. closed nominations
 - 4. Unanimously elected to serve as 23-24 Recreation Advisory Commission Hannah C. as Chairperson and Mark B. as Vice Chair
- B. Selection of PAC committee representative
 - 1. Hannah S. serving second year of the two year term

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation: [Ann Arbor Parks Millage](#) - Josh Landefeld
 - 1. Millage History
 - a) First parks millages approved in 1983
 - b) Two more park millages approved between 1983-2006
 - c) Updated millage passed in 2006
 - d) 2006-2018 millage renewed twice and expires in 2024

2. Millage Details

a) Current Millage

- Current millage rate is 1.10 mills
- \$190 average annual cost to a homeowner
- \$7.8M estimated to generate in Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)
- 20-40% funds capital improvements
- 60-80% funds park maintenance

b) Current Millage Allocation

- Parks & Facility Maintenance \$3.1M
- Natural Area Preservation \$1.1M
- Volunteerism \$600K
- Park Forestry \$550K
- Capital Project Planning & Construction \$2.5M

c) What does the Millage Support?

- 136 parks in Ann Arbor
- 800 acres of non-natural area parks
- Park Maintenance - covers repairs, inspections & cleanups
- Park Operations - fields, courts, diamonds, paths, playgrounds, restrooms, picnic shelters and 87 picnic areas
- Forestry - there are hundreds of thousands of trees in natural areas and parks
- Natural Area Preservation (NAP) - fully funded by parks millage
 - Mission is to protect and restore natural environments while fostering a strong environmental ethic in the community
- Give 365 - fully funded by parks millage
 - Coordinates wide range of activities to enhance park system
 - Activities include park beautification, special events, Visit Every Park and the Adopt-A-Park programs
 - For all ages
- Volunteerism
 - Give 365 & NAP total hours for fiscal year 2024 was 19,202.25 hours
 - 2,511 Give 365 volunteers
 - 1,805 NAP volunteers

d) How does the Ann Arbor Parks Millage impact me?

- Park usage by the numbers - 23-24 Fiscal Year Admissions was \$927,631 people
 - Pool, Livery, rentals/events, Farmers Market visitors, rounds of golf and day camp attendees
- Several capital projects since 2018
 - More accessibility, safer pools, cleaner energy, new courts, improved and new playgrounds, inclusivity and increased activity
- Matching funds helps us achieve our goals

3. Millage Future
 - a) Maintaining the park system
 - Playground improvements, basketball, tennis & pickleball courts and facility improvements
 - Parks millage is roughly 40% of the budget
 - b) Becoming a 21st century park system
 - ADA transition plan, data-driven decision making, recreation trends, asset management plan, new opportunities and sustainability initiatives
4. Park Maintenance and Capital Improvement Ballot Language 2024
 - a) Shall the Charter be amended to authorize a tax up to 1.10 mills for park maintenance and capital improvements for 2025 through 2044 to replace the previously authorized tax for park maintenance and capital improvements for 2019 through 2024, which will raise in the first year of the levy an estimated revenue of \$8,519,150? In accordance with State law, a portion of the millage may be subject to capture by the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority and the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.
 - b) This is a 20 year renewal
 - c) Mark B. asked when voting takes place
 - Josh L. answered on November 5th ballot
 - d) Josh L. mentioned that the county millage is completely different from this millage
 - e) Larry O. asked a question about the 20 year millage and will it work.
 - Josh L. said that they can review and see if they have other projects that they may be able to bond a portion of the balance to complete the projects
 - f) Josh L. noted that revenue in 2018 was 6.5M and 2024 they are at 7.8M

B. Presentation: [Rec & Ed's Summer Recap](#) - Jenna Bacolor

1. Youth Programs by the Numbers - Registrations
 - a) Summer Camps (Early Childhood-12th grade): 3,090
 - b) Safety Town (Rising Kindergarteners): 501
 - c) Youth Team Sports (t-ball, baseball, softball, HS volleyball): 933
 - d) Enrichment Classes (ECH-8th grade): 448
2. Adult Programs by the Numbers - Registrations
 - a) Adult Enrichment (arts, hobbies, finance, adapted): 458
 - b) Adult Fitness (fitness, yoga, pilates): 302
 - c) Adult Team Sports (baseball, softball, kickball, sand volleyball): 2,140
 - d) Adult Tennis: 212
3. Community Division / Rec & Ed
 - a) Welcoming child care workers
 - Rec & Ed is still hiring: [Rec & Ed Before & After Care Employment](#)

- b) Added 4 new after care programs for 2024-2025 school year
 - Bach, Eberwhite, Logan and Thurston
- c) Lowered fees and added part-time options
- d) Writing grant to open a new combo site
- e) Currently registering for Fall season - displayed Adult Program Mailer that was sent in early August

C. [Washtenaw County Special Education Millage Renewal](#) - Donna Dishman.

- 1. Donna D. discussed some highlights of the Washtenaw ISD Special Education Millage Renewal
 - a) On November 5th ballot
 - b) Millage is a renewal of 2.3826 mills and will run for 12 year and no increase
 - c) Affects 2,300 Ann Arbor students
 - d) 900 additional children ages birth-3 years old that will benefit from this millage
 - e) More information can be found here: [Special Education Millage Renewal](#)

D. Review RAC Meeting Start Time - Donna Dishman

- 1. Donna D. discussed changing the start time of meetings. The commission decided to keep a 6:30pm start time

E. Review RAC Student Applications - vote required

- 1. There are 2 student vacancies on the RAC roster. Conner P. reached out to volunteers of the Rec & Ed High School Volunteer Program. 4 applications were received and reviewed
- 2. Applications were reviewed by a subcommittee prior to the RAC meeting
- 3. Larry O. mentioned that Aiden has a wide variety of experience and taking classes and seems familiar with Rec & Ed and Parks & Recreation
- 4. RAC members motioned to move forward with applications for Aiden Kang and Irene Kim
 - a) Jenna B. will take these applications to the Board of Education for approval on September 25, 2024

VI. BRIEFING AGENDA

A. Report from PAC - Hannah Smith

- 1. PAC had two meetings since the last RAC meeting
 - a) Discussed pest management in parks
 - b) Barton-Bandemer update
 - c) Improve Fuller Park parking lot
 - d) Presentation on sustainability in the parks
 - e) Gallup Bridge now open to pedestrians

B. Report from Parks and Recreation - Josh Landefeld

- 1. Continuing with Bicentennial Park improvements
 - a) Splash pad fundraiser
- 2. Green Spaces, Happy Places yard signs available
- 3. Staffing - Victor Morales will be taking over for RAC

C. Report from Community Education & Recreation - Donna Dishman

1. Fall registration is going on now
2. Fall youth sports going on. Late Fall registration begins soon
3. Bringing back adult basketball this year
 - a) Had to stop due to Covid

VII. TRANSMITTALS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Hannah C. adjourned the meeting at 7:37pm

The next RAC meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2024