



# Rochester Hills

## Minutes - Draft

### Green Space Advisory Board

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Home Page:  
[www.rochesterhills.org](http://www.rochesterhills.org)

*Chairperson Gerald Carvey, Vice Chairperson Dahlvin Peterson*  
*Members: Peter Beightol, Tim Gauthier, Jayson Graves, Darlene Janulis, Sandra Niks,*  
*Donald Price, Terry Stephens*  
*Council Member Susan Bowyer Ph.D.*  
*Youth Representatives: Grace Currier, Elena Romund and Samina Saifee*

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Tuesday, August 23, 2016

7:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

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## CALL TO ORDER

*Chairperson Carvey called the Green Space Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.*

## ROLL CALL

**Present** 7 - Peter Beightol, Gerald Carvey, Jayson Graves, Darlene Janulis, Sandra Niks, Dahlvin Peterson and Terry Stephens

**Absent** 2 - Tim Gauthier and Donald Price

*Non-voting members present: Ken Elwert, Dr. Susan Bowyer*

*Non-voting members absent: Kurt Dawson, Lance DeVoe, Grace Currier, Elena Romund, Samina Saifee*

*Others present: Danielle Devlin, Chris Bunch*

*Members Gauthier and Price provided notice that they would be unable to attend and asked to be excused.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2016-0347](#) Regular Meeting - July 26, 2016

**Attachments:** [GSAB Meeting Minutes 7-26-16 Draft.pdf](#)  
[Resolution.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by Janulis, seconded by Beightol, that this matter be approved as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 7 - Beightol, Carvey, Graves, Janulis, Niks, Peterson and Stephens

**Absent** 2 - Gauthier and Price

**Resolved** that the Green Space Advisory Board hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 26, 2016 as presented/amended.

## COMMUNICATIONS

*Director Elwert updated the Board on his progress in obtaining a list of property addresses for the designated areas on the priority map. He hopes to have this information for the September meeting. Council Member Bowyer informed the Board Members that she is working with the MIS Department to post the priority map to the website.*

*Director Elwert reported on his research into the Green Space Funds stating that he had met with Joe Snyder, City of Rochester Hills Senior Financial Analyst to try and delve into the difference between the two funds as well as determining the original principal amount placed into the trust fund. He will continue to look into the matter and report back to the Board.*

*Director Elwert asked if there were any questions on the most recent quarterly report submitted by Niswander. Board Members did not have any additional questions at this time.*

*Council Member Bowyer shared the Riverbend Park Legacy brochure that was presented to City Council earlier this month.*

*Director Elwert advised the Board of the progress being made on a small memorial park along the south side of the Clinton River Trail that is close to the existing Green Space properties.*

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*None at this time.*

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*None at this time.*

### 2008-0132 GSAB Property Nominations & Acquisitions Sub-Committee

*Chairperson Carvey welcomed Chris Bunch and Danielle Devlin of the Six Rivers Land Conservancy to the meeting. See legislative file 2016-0366 for details.*

### 2016-0366 Motion to begin the process of evaluation to make a recommendation to transfer the Clinton River Rookery Preserve to the City of Rochester Hills as a Green Space property.

**Attachments:** [Clinton River Rookery Preserve map.pdf](#)  
[Clinton River Rookery Preserve Fact Sheet.pdf](#)  
[Clinton River Rookery Preserve Deed.pdf](#)

*Mr. Bunch thanked both the Parks & Forestry Department and the Green*

Space Board for the work they do as well as their support of the Six Rivers Land Conservancy. Ms. Devlin provided the Board with a map, fact sheet and a copy of the deed restrictions (attached) of the Clinton River Rookery Preserve that the Six Rivers Land Conservancy would like to turn over to the City of Rochester Hills as a Green Space acquisition. The preserve is a twenty-four acre property along the Clinton River. Ms. Devlin informed the Board that it has been a challenge to get adjacent property owners to respect the natural area. After meeting with Park Ranger/Naturalist Lance DeVoe, Ms. Devlin and the members of her organization decided to approach the GSAB regarding a transfer of the property with the hope that the City of Rochester Hills could better care for the preserve. Board Member Janulis inquired if the members of the Six Rivers Land Conservancy thought the City of Rochester Hills would have more influence over adjacent property owners. Ms. Devlin responded affirmatively stating that they would like to pursue a partnership with the City to protect the preserve by transferring the property to the City. Chairperson Carvey inquired if there would be an expectation of compensation. Ms. Devlin responded that they hoped the City would pay the cost of the transfer only. Chairperson Carvey explained the process of property evaluation and recommendation to City Council to either purchase at a nominal amount or accept the donation of the property. Ms. Devlin stated that there are deed restrictions on the property that dedicate it for conservation purposes and require the property to be retained in its natural state. Councilperson Bowyer and Board Members discussed the deed restrictions and property encroachment issues. Chairperson Carvey confirmed that if the property was to become a Green Space property it would not only be protected but possibly benefit from restoration projects. Director Elwert stated that dealing with encumbrances on the preserve would require a commitment from the City to enforce the property lines. In addition, accepting this property would add to the invasive species and erosion issues to be budgeted in the future. Director Elwert commented that he would be in favor of exploring the property further. Board Members concluded the discussion with a motion to move forward with the evaluation process of the property. Ms. Devlin offered to walk the property with Board Members. Director Elwert reported that he had spoken with the Mayor and the Mayor was in favor of moving forward with the GSAB evaluation process. Mr. Bunch thanked the Board Members for their time and offered his support when this matter is presented to City Council. Chairperson Carvey thanked Mr. Bunch and Ms. Devlin for their presentation.

Chairperson Carvey asked for a motion from the Board.

**Motion by Peterson, seconded by Niks, to begin the process of evaluation to make a recommendation to City Council to transfer the Clinton River Rookery Preserve to the City of Rochester Hills as a Green Space property.**

**Aye** 7 - Beightol, Carvey, Graves, Janulis, Niks, Peterson and Stephens

**Absent** 2 - Gauthier and Price

**Resolved** that the Green Space Advisory Board evaluates and scores the Clinton River Rookery Preserve for the purpose of considering recommending to City Council a transfer of the property from the Six Rivers Land Conservancy to the City of Rochester Hills as a Green Space property.

[2008-0130](#) GSAB Administrative & Strategic Sub-Committee

*No report at this time.*

*Discussion ensued on the topic of strategic planning.*

[2015-0503](#) Concept plans for individual Green Space properties.

**Attachments:** [Rivercrest maps.pdf](#)  
[Harding Maps.pdf](#)  
[White maps.pdf](#)

*No report at this time.*

[2008-0131](#) GSAB Communication, Promotion & Education Sub-Committee

*Board Member Graves opened the discussion on tag names for Green Space properties. See legislative file 2016-0367.*

[2016-0367](#) Motion to send an email to GSAB Members to adopt an official tag name for GSAB properties.

*Member Graves reported on the internal GSAB survey results from November, 2015. Board Members selected "Green Space" as their first selection with "Nature Area" coming in second to be part of each Green Space property. Board Members reviewed the background of the naming process they were trying to develop to present to City Council. Councilperson Bowyer suggested reaching out to our residents to select the name. Board Member Graves stated that he and the other Board Members felt it was their responsibility to determine names to recommend to City Council. Director Elwert clarified that the intent was to add "Green Space" to the property names, for example "Harding Green Space" would be the official name of the Harding property. Director Elwert stated that there were two steps to the naming. There is the tag line and the property name. He used the example of Riverbend Park stating that the names could be Riverbend Park and Riverbend Green Space. Board Members discussed the naming process. Councilperson Bowyer and Board Member Stephens agreed that the use of Green Space as the name helped to identify the properties purchased with Green Space funds and managed by the GSAB. Director Elwert commented that the use of the words "Nature Area" would be in conflict with the Avon Nature Area which is not a Green Space property. Councilperson Bowyer suggested that before the Board presents this issue to City Council they decide if there will be any name changes of the property as well as the addition of the official tag name.*

*Director Elwert suggested presenting a motion to move this discussion forward.*

**Motion by Janulis, seconded by Beightol, to send an email to GSAB Members to adopt an official tag name for GSAB properties.**

**Aye** 7 - Beightol, Carvey, Graves, Janulis, Niks, Peterson and Stephens

**Absent** 2 - Gauthier and Price

Whereas, the initial vote of the committee ranked "Green Space" as the number one selection for tag line names to be used in conjunction with the Green Space property name. Whereas, the committee now has new members that did not participate in the original vote, an email will be sent to all members to revisit and confirm the vote. Now be it resolved, that if confirmed, the Parks Department will move this issue through the City naming policy.

2008-0133 GSAB Stewardship & Advocacy Sub-Committee

*No report at this time.*

2012-0443 Discuss Stewardship Management Plan

*Director Elwert confirmed that the Stewardship Management Plan is the quarterly status reports from Niswander Environmental and that plans are in place for 2016 and 2017.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Chairperson Carvey will contact Park Ranger DeVoe to determine potential dates for a walk of the Clinton River Rookery Preserve. He will contact Board Members to arrange the site visit.*

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*Board Member Niks shared information on a program in Ottawa County using goats to help with landscape management within their park system. Director Elwert will reach out to Ottawa County for more information and report back to the Board.*

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

*- Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Carvey adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.*

*Minutes prepared by Maureen Nakonek*

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Gerald Carvey, Chairperson