



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

Green Space Advisory Board

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Rochester Hills, MI
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Home Page:
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Chairperson Dahlvin Peterson, Vice Chairperson Darlene Janulis
Members: Peter Beightol, Gerald Carvey, Tim Gauthier, Jayson Graves, Donald Price, Julia Rodriguez, Terry Stephens
Council Member Susan Bowyer Ph.D.
Youth Representatives: Mallory Boyd, Ramona Johnson and Joshua Morgan

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

7:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Carvey called the Green Space Advisory Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 9 - Peter Beightol, Gerald Carvey, Tim Gauthier, Jayson Graves, Darlene Janulis, Dahlvin Peterson, Donald Price, Julia Rodriguez and Terry Stephens

Non-voting members present: Ken Elwert, Kurt Dawson, Dr. Susan Bowyer, Lance DeVoe, Mallory Boyd, Ramona Johnson

Non-voting members absent: Joshua Morgan with notice

Others present: Patrick Endres, Steven Niswander, Jeff Bridgland, Becky Bradford, Sandra Niks

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2016-0571](#) Regular Meeting - December 13, 2016

Attachments: [GSAB Meeting Minutes 12-13-16 Draft.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Beightol, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 8 - Beightol, Carvey, Gauthier, Graves, Peterson, Price, Rodriguez and Stephens

Abstain 1 - Janulis

Resolved that the Green Space Advisory Board hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2016 as presented/amended.

STAFF REPORT

Director Elwert informed the Board that the Ruby property was purchased by the City of Rochester Hills as a Green Space property on December 30, 2016. He confirmed that the entire nine and one-half acre parcel was purchased and that the City is working with the Facilities Department on the demolition of the house as well as with the Fire Department on potential training exercises at the house prior to the demolition.

Director Elwert welcomed Steve Niswander, Jeff Bridgland and Becky Bradford of Niswander Environmental to the meeting. Mr. Niswander gave a brief background on his company history working with the City of Rochester Hills. He then asked Mr. Bridgland to review the Long-Term Stewardship Plan 2016 Final Report as well as the 2017 Stewardship Program Proposed Budget. Mr. Bridgland presented a power point presentation that reviewed the six projects implemented on the Harding Green Space property in 2016 and the six projects implemented on the White Green Space property in 2016.

Harding Green Space property projects:

*Wet Meadow Restoration and Enhancement
Prairie Restoration
Pond Area Enhancement
Japanese Knotweed Control
Garlic Mustard Control
Upland Woods Species Control*

White Green Space property projects:

*Remnant Fen and Tamarack Swamp Enhancement
Forested Wetland Enhancement
Swallow-Wort Control
Barberry Control
Scrub-Shrub Wetland Enhancement/Phragmites Control
Upland Woody Species Control*

Mr. Bridgland stated that work would continue on the above projects in 2017. Director Elwert inquired if Niswander Environmental has had any experience with the use of goats for invasive species control. Mr. Bridgland responded that the company has not used goats but stated that the White Green Space property has an area where this might be tried out. Mr. Bridgland reported success with all of the above projects including the development and registration of an International Monarch Waystation within the Harding Green Space property. Director Elwert informed the Board that he would send out a press release on the new Monarch Waystation and invite attendees to the Discovery Hike on April 29 to view the site. Discussion ensued on signage and individual project questions.

Mr. Bridgland provided budget information on the Harding, White, Clear Creek and Cloverport Green Space properties. The Harding budget for 2016 was

\$125,000 and will be reduced to \$75,000 for 2017. The White budget for 2016 was \$75,000 and will be reduced to \$51,000 for 2017. These budgets will support all of the projects listed above as well as add Garlic Mustard Control on the White property. The 2017 Clear Creek budget is \$20,000 for Buckthorn, Honeysuckle and Phragmites Control. The Cloverport budget is \$29,000 for Sediment Control, Bank Stabilization and Phragmites Control. Mr. Bridgland confirmed the total budget for 2017 would be \$200,000 and \$25,000 of that amount would be for administrative costs associated with the projects.

Board Member Janulis asked what would happen with the budget if a new issue arose on one of the Green Space properties that needed to be addressed. Director Elwert responded that City Council had approved the total budget of \$200,000 for 2017, and we attempt to adjust throughout the year to stay within budget. He additionally stated that if an issue arises, the Board can go back to City Council to request additional funds. Park Ranger DeVoe reminded the Board that the proposed plan is a fluid document and can be adjusted as necessary. Board Members discussed year to year budget costs. Mr. Bridgland stated that the goal of the Long-Term Stewardship Plan is to get all projects to move to a maintenance only phase within a year or two. Director Elwert is working on a five year rolling fiscal estimate and will request updated maintenance cost estimates from Niswander staff to develop this document. He additionally informed the Board that the Strategic Plan for the Parks and Forestry Department is nearing completion and will include the addition of a Natural Resources Unit that will incorporate a community outreach component. Chairperson Carvey wrapped up the discussion and thanked Mr. Niswander, Mr. Bridgland and Ms. Bradford for their presentation at the meeting.

Board Members took a short recess at 8:45 p.m. Mallory Boyd, Ramona Johnson, Steven Niswander, Jeff Bridgland and Becky Bradford left the meeting at this time.

Chairperson Carvey called the meeting back to order at 8:50 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Former GSAB Board Member Sandra Niks congratulated the Board on the success with the Ruby property acquisition.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

2008-0130 GSAB Administrative & Strategic Sub-Committee

No report at this time.

2015-0503 Concept plans for individual Green Space properties.

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

Chairperson Carvey reported on his latest sub-committee meeting and expressed his concerns that the Rivercrest Green Space property is being neglected. He has spoken with Mayor Barnett regarding replacing the fencing that borders the property with fencing similar to what is installed on the south side of Avon Road. Chairperson Carvey would like to see some stewardship work started on the property since it is the most visible Green Space parcel. Director Elwert stated that Green Space funds cannot be used to replace the fencing and the parcel is ranked the lowest on the Stewardship Plan. Park Ranger DeVoe commented that the property is overrun with invasive species and the riverbank is unsightly as the concrete reinforcement is breaking down. Director Elwert suggested that the fence issue should be resolved before any decisions are made on stewardship work.

Board Members discussed possible projects with Chairperson Carvey suggesting the removal of invasives and the development of a prairie area on the south end of the parcel. Dr. Bowyer agreed upon the need to replace the fencing and will discuss the matter with the Mayor and City Council. Board Member Beightol suggested the issue be tabled until a future meeting. Director Elwert reminded the Board that there are other higher priority riverbank restoration projects planned. Board Member Janulis proposed asking Niswander to reprioritize some of the 2017 budget dollars for this property. Director Elwert concurred that the discussion should be continued at a future meeting.

2008-0131 GSAB Communication, Promotion & Education Sub-Committee

Board Member Graves reported on the plans for the April 29th Discovery Hike at the Harding Green Space property. He shared a draft of the Discovery Hike flyer and requested that any suggestions be forwarded to Maureen Nakonek for incorporation. Board Member Janulis reported on the status of the sponsor donation letter. Director Elwert suggested staging large boards with before and after photos of stewardship projects throughout the property to showcase the work that has been completed.

Board Member Graves stated that he has spoken with Director Elwert on signs for the Green Space properties. He will look at this issue with his sub-committee and report back to the Board.

2008-0132

GSAB Property Nominations & Acquisitions Sub-Committee

Chairperson Carvey thanked Board Member Gauthier for the updated copy of the Property Acquisition Log. Board Members discussed the Acquisition Log and inquired about the status of the Clinton River Rookery Preserve. Director Elwert advised the Board that the volunteers at the Six Rivers Land Conservancy were working on a draft agreement to transfer the property and that he would reach out to them for an update.

Board Member Beightol asked about the Clinton River Valley II property. Director Elwert gave a brief update of the discussions that have taken place with the property owner and a citizen who is hoping to have a small area of the parcel donated as a memorial site. Director Elwert stated that the property owner may be interested in a wetlands mitigation agreement that might allow them to develop the property to the east of the Clinton River Valley II parcel. Director Elwert related that the property owner implied that he would give the City the six acre parcel if a wetlands mitigation agreement could be worked out. Director Elwert will pursue further discussion on the matter.

2008-0133

GSAB Stewardship & Advocacy Sub-Committee

No report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Action taken on files: 2017-0012,0013,0014. Discussion and action on 2017-0015 to be continued at the February 28th GSAB meeting.

2017-0012 Adopt GSAB Meeting Schedule - 2017

Attachments: [GSAB 2017 Meeting schedule memo.pdf](#)
[Resolution 2017-0012 Adopt GSAB Meeting Schedule - 2017.pdf](#)

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

Aye 9 - Beightol, Carvey, Gauthier, Graves, Janulis, Peterson, Price, Rodriguez and Stephens

Resolved that the Green Space Advisory Board establish the 2017 meeting schedule as the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, Michigan time, at 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, Michigan, Oakland County, with the understanding that any meeting dates conflicting with holidays or elections will be scheduled as needed. The exceptions will be November 14, 2017 and December 12, 2017.

The 2017 meeting dates are as follows: February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 14, December 12, 2017.

Further resolved that the meeting schedule will be posted in accordance with the Public Act 267 of 1976 as amended.

Following the vote discussion ensued on the meeting time and the Board agreed to change the meeting time to 6:00 p.m.

A second motion was recorded and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Price, seconded by Stephens, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 9 - Beightol, Carvey, Gauthier, Graves, Janulis, Peterson, Price, Rodriguez and Stephens

Resolved that the Green Space Advisory Board establish the 2017 meeting schedule as the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM, Michigan time, at 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, Michigan, Oakland County, with the understanding that any meeting dates conflicting with holidays or elections will be scheduled as needed. The exceptions will be November 14, 2017 and December 12, 2017.

The 2017 meeting dates are as follows: February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 14, December 12, 2017.

Further resolved that the meeting schedule will be posted in accordance with the Public Act 267 of 1976 as amended.

2017-0013 Election of GSAB Chairperson - 2017

Attachments: [2017 Nomination Form - Chair.pdf](#)
[Resolution 2017-0013 Election of GSAB Chairperson 2017.pdf](#)

Chairperson Carvey informed the Board that he no longer wished to serve as Chairperson and this would be his final year on the GSAB. He opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson for 2017. The following Board Members received nominations:

*Peterson - 6
Janulis - 1
Beightol - 1
Gauthier - 1*

The Board was instructed to vote for one of the nominees and Dahlvin Peterson was nominated by a unanimous vote.

Resolved that Dahlvin Peterson be appointed as Chairperson of the Green Space Advisory Board for 2017.

Aye 9 - Beightol, Carvey, Gauthier, Graves, Janulis, Peterson, Price, Rodriguez and Stephens

Resolved that Dahlvin Peterson be appointed as Chairperson of the Green Space Advisory Board for 2017.

2017-0014 Election of GSAB Vice Chairperson - 2017

Attachments: [2017 Nomination Form - Vice Chair.pdf](#)
[Resolution 2017-0014 Election of GSAB Vice Chairperson - 2017.pdf](#)

Chairperson Carvey opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson for 2017. The following Board Members received nominations:

*Janulis - 6
Beightol - 1
Gauthier - 1*

*The Board was instructed to vote for one of the nominees and Darlene Janulis was nominated by a vote of
Aye - 8 Abstain - 1*

New Board Member Julie Rodriguez abstained from voting.

Resolved that Darlene Janulis be appointed as Vice Chairperson of the Green Space Advisory Board for 2017.

Aye 8 - Beightol, Carvey, Gauthier, Graves, Janulis, Peterson, Price and Stephens

Abstain 1 - Rodriguez

Resolved that Darlene Janulis be appointed as Vice Chairperson of the Green Space Advisory Board for 2017.

2017-0015 Appointments to GSAB Sub-committees for 2017

Attachments: [2017 Sub-committee members.pdf](#)
[Resolution 2017-0015 Appointments to GSAB Sub-committees for 2017.pdf](#)

Board Members discussed the appointments to the GSAB Sub-committees and agreed to table the discussion until the February 28th meeting to give everyone time to reflect on any changes they would like to make. Director Elwert informed the Board that he would like to have a staff member be appointed to each of the committees and additionally wanted the staff members to attend all future Sub-committee meetings.

Postponed

Resolved, the Green Space Advisory Board concurs with the following 2017 appointments to their Sub-committees:

Administrative & Strategic Sub-committee: Dahlvin Peterson, GSAB Chairperson, , Darlene Janulis, GSAB Vice Chairperson, Ken Elwert, Director of Parks and Forestry and Dr. Susan Bowyer, Council Member

Communications, Promotions & Education Sub-committee: Jayson Graves, Sub-committee Chair, Darlene Janulis, Donald Price, Julia Rodriguez, and Mallory Boyd and Ramona Johnson, RHGYC representatives

Property Nominations & Acquisitions Sub-committee: Tim Gauthier, Sub-committee Chair, Gerald Carvey, Ken Elwert, Director of Parks and Forestry

Stewardship & Advocacy Sub-committee: Dahlvin Peterson, Sub-committee Chair, Peter Beightol, Terry Stephens and Joshus Morgan, RHGYC representative

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(See Legislative File # 2017- 0045)

2017-0045

Transfer of Green Space funds from Green Space Fund (299 Operating) into the Green Space Perpetual Care Trust Fund (761)

Attachments: [Resolution 2017-0045 Transfer of Green Space Funds.pdf](#)

Director Elwert reported that the next City budget amendment will be out prior to the February GSAB meeting and he would like the Board to consider moving Green Space funds from the operations fund (299) which currently earns .25% interest into the Green Space Perpetual Care Trust Fund (761) which earns 5% interest. Joe Snyder has recommended moving \$700,000 to \$800,000 into the Trust Fund. This move would leave a balance of \$350,000 to \$400,000 in the operations fund. Director Elwert explained that in moving the money into the Trust Fund it becomes principal and can only be taken out by a loan to the operations fund that would have to be paid back.

Chairperson Carvey and Dr. Bowyer agreed that the movement of funds would generate a great deal more interest to help sustain the stewardship work. Director Elwert requested a motion from the Board.

Motion to move the surplus amount from Green Space Fund (299) as determined by Joe Snyder, Chief Financial Officer, into the Green Space Perpetual Care Trust Fund (761).

Aye 9 - Beightol, Carvey, Gauthier, Graves, Janulis, Peterson, Price, Rodriguez and Stephens

Resolved, the Green Space Advisory Board supports the movement of the surplus amount from Green Space Fund (299), as determined by Joe Snyder, Chief Financial Officer, into the Green Space Perpetual Care Trust Fund (761)

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Carvey adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Nakonek.

Gerald Carvey, Chairperson