



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

Green Space Advisory Board

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Rochester Hills, MI 48309
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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, April 25, 2017

6:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Peterson called the Green Space Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

Present 8 - Peter Beightol, Gerald Carvey, Tim Gauthier, Jayson Graves, Darlene Janulis, Dahlvin Peterson, Julia Rodriguez and Terry Stephens

Absent 1 - Donald Price

Member Graves entered at 6:03 p.m.

Member Rodriguez entered at 6:03 p.m.

Member Gauthier entered at 6:05 p.m.

Non-Voting Members Present: Ken Elwert, Susan M. Bowyer Ph.D., Mallory Boyd, Ramona Johnson

Non-Voting Members Absent: Kurt Dawson, Joshua Morgan

Others Present: Sandy Niks

Committee Member Donald Price provided previous notice he would be unable to attend and asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2017-0193 Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting - February 28, 2017

Attachments: [022817 GSAB Draft Minutes.pdf](#)
[0193 Resolution.pdf](#)

Member Carvey stated that he was mentioned in the minutes and was not in attendance. It was noted that this would be corrected.

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

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

Absent 1 - Price

Resolved, that the Minutes of the February 28, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Green Space Advisory Board are approved as amended.

2017-0194 Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting - March 28, 2017

Attachments: [032817 GSAB Draft Minutes.pdf](#)
[0194 Resolution.pdf](#)

Member Stephens stated that a comment attributed to her on page 3 was actually made by Member Janulis. It was noted that this would be corrected.

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

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

Absent 1 - Price

Resolved, that the Minutes of the March 28, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Green Space Advisory Board are approved as amended.

STAFF REPORT

Director Elwert mentioned that the request to designate the property close to Harding south of the Clinton River Trail as Green Space would be ready to take to Council soon. He commented that clarification was just received from Assessing as to the documentation and reason for ownership of the property; he noted that this documentation was necessary before the property was presented to Council for consideration.

He mentioned that Lifetime Fitness has three days remaining to respond to its drainage issues. He stated that their representative has reached out to DPS staff member Tim Pollizzi and indicated that they are attempting to engage an engineer to look toward a long-term fix. He commented that staff will allow the thirty day period to expire prior to moving on to the next step.

He stated that while staff has information regarding the Heron Rookery parcel including a draft summary of reasons why the parcel should be considered, a legal document has not yet been drafted. He commented that while staff asked for a draft legal agreement to be submitted to the City, the Department would consider whether its own legal resources could be utilized to draft the agreement. Once an agreement is received, a presentation could be developed for Council.

He reported that a candidate recommendation has been finalized to take over Maureen Nakonek's position on staff; and once the hiring process is complete, he will make an announcement. He commented that the process yielded two very strong candidates. He noted that once the new employee starts, the Board should begin seeing some regularity again with the minutes. He expressed his appreciation to the Clerk's Office Staff for their assistance during the transition.

Member Janulis questioned when the Heron Rookery property would be presented to Council.

Director Elwert responded that he met with Christopher Bunch, Executive Director of the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy, and noted that the group has asked to develop a presentation. He commented that it would most likely be summer before staff will be comfortable in moving forward.

Dr. Bowyer questioned when the house would be demolished on the Ruby Property.

Director Elwert responded that the demolition is under the Building Department's review, and might be linked to another upcoming demolition activity at Borden Park. He commented that while he was not certain when the demolition would proceed, he expects that it might be by summer of this year. He pointed out that the former landowners wish to be notified when the demolition would occur.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Peterson reported that the Michigan Parks & Recreation Association event where Member Carvey received the Citizenship Award was a wonderful evening, with Member Carvey and members of his family in attendance.

Member Carvey stated that while he appreciated the recognition, he credits the current Board and all those who preceded them for their team efforts.

Member Janulis commented that Member Carvey was instrumental in ensuring the success of the original bond issue.

Director Elwert noted that the Margaret Whitehead Award encompasses two different presentations, and Member Carvey received the award for leadership. He stated that Member Carvey is a very worthy recipient.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandra Niks reported on the upcoming Arbor Day event scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2017 on the grounds of Meadow Brook Hall. She noted that the event would begin with registration at 1:00 p.m., and official tree planting ceremony with Mayor Barnett and the Scouts would be held at 4:00 p.m. She suggested anyone interested in participating come dressed to work with boots as there were several projects working out in the woods. She stated that work will include spreading wood chips on the trails, digging holes for approximately ten trees, cutting down some invasives and pulling garlic mustard.

Member Carvey mentioned an article appearing in the Oakland Press that highlighted goats being used to eat invasives.

Director Elwert commented that he was not certain of the long-term success or cost effectiveness of their use, as they most likely do not remove the plant roots. He stated that perhaps Niswander Environmental might look into that

issue for an upcoming year. He explained that a local demonstration project was undertaken in Springfield Township, and commented that he spoke to a person from Ottawa County about their goat program and the cost-effectiveness of their use.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2017-0015 Appointments to GSAB Sub-committees for 2017

Attachments: [2017 Sub-committee members.pdf](#)
[Draft Resolution from February and March.pdf](#)

Director Elwert noted that the Communications, Promotions and Education Sub-Committee was not dissolved at the previous meeting and suggested that members be appointed to that committee.

Dr. Bowyer noted that it was discussed that it be defined as a standing committee, and noted that projects and events undertaken could include all members.

Director Elwert stressed that any event where a quorum of the Board would be represented would require a posting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and could require minutes of all activities.

Discussion ensued whether to include more than four members on the committee.

Member Graves noted that the intent of the committee is to provide information back to the Board for a Board decision. He stressed that the committee should be kept to only four members; however, all members could participate in any project.

Director Elwert noted that staff and youth members are non-voting and would not contribute to a quorum.

After additional discussion, it was determined that the following Board members would be appointed to the committee:

Jayson Graves as Chairperson
Darlene Janulis
Donald Price
Terry Stephens

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

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

Absent 1 - Price

Resolved, that the Green Space Advisory Board appoints the following members to the Communications, Promotions and Education Sub-committee:

Jayson Graves, Chair
Darlene Janulis
Donald Price
Terry Stephens

2017-0164 Discovery Walk Update

Plans for the Discovery Walk were discussed and a work plan was finalized for the event, including the following:

- *A pop-up tent would be placed at the back of the RiverCrest Professional Building parking area. Another tent will be placed by the pond.*
- *Banners will announce the walk and highlight the donors and sponsors.*
- *Park Ranger Lance DeVoe will make some laminated discovery walk signs with arrows directing individuals to the proper areas. Park Ranger DeVoe will also take care of securing the two tents, water, receptacles for garbage and recycling, tables and chairs.*
- *A Parks staff member will be at the RiverCrest parking lot between 8:30 and 8:45 to set up the tents. Two people are needed to set up the tents; therefore, someone will need to be there to help him.*
- *Member Graves will coordinate a litter pickup on the property on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.*
- *Director Elwert will confirm the youth council involvement. Park Ranger DeVoe has a script that he will distribute that contains information on the parcel, the railroad and the trail. Director Elwert will ensure that the Youth Council Advisor receives the script to distribute to the participating students. He will bring additional copies to the walk for any Board members to use as well and will have these available at each of the tables.*
- *Becky and Tyler will be in attendance to represent Niswander Environmental. Both have been involved in work on the Harding property.*
- *Director Elwert consulted Niswander regarding preparing poster boards. As their estimate to prepare them was in the range of \$1,200, the Mayor's Office was asked to do them instead. They will take photos provided by Niswander and come up with seven different before-and-after boards, that will include the prairie area, the pond area, and one on garlic mustard. He suggested that they be placed at the table or near the front entrance of the Harding Property, depending on the weather.*
- *The I Spy flyer is now in editable form.*
- *Director Elwert will print up 3x5 file card size raffle entry forms. Member Graves will bring two receptacles for the entries - one for each tent. Member Graves will draw the winning entries after the event.*
- *Member Janulis reviewed the prizes she has obtained, including two passes from Emagine Theater, gift baskets from Premier Pet Supply and Wild Birds Unlimited, and a fishing pole. A birdhouse that was a prize from last year's Walk was never picked up, and will be included this year. She will make a list of prizes.*
- *Member Janulis secured approximately 50 discount coupons from Dunhams. They will be given out to those attending until they are gone. Youth Council and participating Board members will have the opportunity to receive a coupon for their efforts.*
- *Member Janulis ordered balloons to be put with the sandwich boards to attract*

attention.

- Board members wanting to meet for breakfast will meet at the Rochester Hills Ram's Horn at 8 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Garlic Mustard Pull:

Potential dates were discussed for the Garlic Mustard Pull. May 6th or 7th was mentioned as possible dates to join Niswander staff. Director Elwert will send out information on the pull date after Park Ranger DeVoe confirms it.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Bowyer noted the list of candidates that have filed for City Council elections, and noted that there were not enough candidates filing to require a primary election. She listed the following:

At Large: Kevin Brown and Jenny McCardell

District 1: Stephanie Morita is unopposed.

District 2: Jim Kubicina is unopposed

District 4: Ryan Deel and Ryan Smith. Thomas Wiggins did not file for re-election.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chairperson Peterson announced that the next Green Space Advisory Board meeting would be held on May 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Peterson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mary Jo Pachla.

Minutes were approved as presented/amended at the _____, 2017 Regular Green Space Advisory Board Meeting.

Dahlvin Peterson, Chairperson