



Rochester Hills Minutes - Draft

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Green Space Advisory Board

Chairperson Gerald Carvey, Vice Chairperson Tim Gauthier
Members: Thomas Dohr, Richard Graham, Jayson Graves, Lynn Loeb, Dahlvin Peterson, Samantha Phillips, Beth Tilove
Council Member Adam Kochenderfer
Youth Representatives: Shreya Reddy, Alexis Smith, Taylor Thorpe

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

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 6 - Gerald Carvey, Tim Gauthier, Richard Graham, Jayson Graves, Dahlvin Peterson and Beth Tilove

Absent 3 - Thomas Dohr, Lynn Loeb and Samantha Phillips

Non-Voting Members Present: Kurt Dawson, Mike Hartner, Adam Kochenderfer (arrived 7:04 p.m.), Roger Moore, Shreya Reddy, and Taylor Thorpe

Non-Voting Members Absent: Alexis Smith

Others Present: Residents Leo Oriet and Sandy Niks. Keith Sawdon, Finance Director

Committee Members Dohr, Phillips, and Smith provided previous notice they would be unable to attend and asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2013-0347 Regular Meeting - August 27, 2013

Attachments: [08-27-13 GSAB Draft minutes.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

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

Aye 6 - Carvey, Gauthier, Graham, Graves, Peterson and Tilove

Absent 3 - Dohr, Loeb and Phillips

Resolved that the Green Space Advisory Board hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 27, 2013 as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

2013/2014 Youth Representatives

The Board welcomed new youth representatives Shreya Reddy and Taylor Thorpe, and Alexis Smith, returning from last year. Ms. Reddy and Ms. Thorpe were given a folder containing GSAB information to assist them.

Perpetual Care Trust Fund update

Mr. Keith Sawdon, the City's Finance Director, gave an update regarding establishing a perpetual care trust fund for green space and natural features. The concept is to use the longer term investment tools to generate enough earnings to conduct stewardship activities going forward forever. The Green Space Millage funds, which are currently held in a special revenue fund, can legally be transferred into a trust fund. However, certain laws guide certain funds that can be invested via Public Act 20, short-term investments or via Public Act 314, long-term investments. The legal definition of perpetual care is somewhat gray. It could take more than a year to propose language that will amend the investment act to fit Rochester Hills' purpose of stewardship for green space and natural features. There has been no other municipality in Michigan to create a perpetual care trust fund for this purpose that we know of. The City's GSAB is on the cutting edge to develop a perpetual care trust fund, which can be done, but will take more effort than originally thought. It could be possible that the goal may not be reached.

Board members expressed appreciation for Mr. Sawdon's update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Carvey acknowledged that Ms. Sandy Niks and Mr. Leo Oriet were present. There were no comments noted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2008-0130 GSAB Administrative & Strategic Sub-Committee

Chairperson Carvey noted that three members' terms are expiring December 31, 2013. They are Members Loeb, Peterson and Tilove. They will be contacted by the Clerk's Office and asked if they have an interest to be re-appointed by City Council in December.

Discussed

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

Mr. Mike Hartner, Director of Parks & Forestry distributed the information flyer regarding the green space ballot question that will be mailed to all registered voters including 5,200 absentee voters. The flyer has been placed throughout City Hall and will be shared with various groups. The City's green space web page has also been updated to include the ballot question information.

Discussed**2008-0132** GSAB Property Nominations & Acquisitions Sub-Committee

Mr. Hartner distributed maps and descriptions of city-owned green space properties which include the new donated property by the developer of the Clear Creek subdivision located on the southeast corner of Sheldon and Mead roads. The Clear Creek property donation, which is approximately 24 acres, has been recorded. Green space boundary signs will be put in place. This donation resulted from an agreement with the developer. Originally, a 39 acre parcel was nominated for green space acquisition in 2009. In 2010, the State's trust fund awarded a matching grant to the City for the acquisition. As the local economy improved, the developer decided to move the development forward and the City had to decline the grant.

Member Gauthier distributed an update of his property and nominations acquisition log. The total acreage of acquired green space is now approximately 66 acres which includes the newly donated Clear Creek parcel.

Discussed**2008-0133** GSAB Stewardship & Advocacy Sub-Committee**Update on Discovery Hike, Saturday, October 19, 2013 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Chairperson Carvey briefly recapped the last two discovery hikes for the new youth members. The hikes have centered on green space parcels acquired along the Clinton River Trail between Avon and Rochester Roads. The hikes are a method to educate people about the city-owned green space parcels, and explain the natural features and the importance of stewardship for the parcels.

The October 19th hike may help to answer questions regarding the green space ballot proposal on the November 5th election and provide more education to trail users. Member Graham volunteered to chair the event. No rain date will be scheduled. To date, Members Gauthier, Graves, Peterson and Tilove along with Mr. Hartner and Lance Devoe, Ranger/Naturalist are available to participate. It was suggested to meet on Wednesday, October 16 at 6 p.m. at the Rivercrest Medical Center parking lot to discuss the logistics of the hike. Depending on how many GSAB members can attend the hike, will determine the number of information stations set up along the trail.

Mr. Hartner will provide a tent for the main staging area and facilitate a press release through the Mayor's office. He will inquire if a temporary sign can be placed at the site to advertise the hike. Similar brochures and posters used in the past hikes will be provided. Member Tilove will provide the talking points for stations used at the prior hikes and inform the school districts of the October 19th event. The Board agreed the hike would take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Discussed**2012-0443** Discuss Stewardship Management Plan

Member Peterson reported that a sub-committee meeting will be scheduled to review a preliminary outline. The goal is to establish priorities and develop an action plan. Contacts have been made to Ms. Melinda Hill for her input; however, there has been no response to date.

Discussed

NEW BUSINESS

Member Tilove suggested that sub-committee members and assignments are confirmed as well as asking the new youth representatives where they would like to serve.

Mr. Roger Moore, City Surveyor, gave a brief update on the Avon Creek restoration project taking place in front of the City Hall property. The main purpose is to improve the water flow to the Clinton River for a better environment. Mr. Moore will schedule a date for GSAB to tour the site. It was suggested that the site would make a good place for a future discovery hike.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- *Saturday, October 19, 2013 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Discovery Hike*
- *Tuesday, October 22, 2013 - 7 p.m. - Regular Meeting*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Carvey adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Mertz.

Minutes were approved as presented/amended at the _____ 2013 Regular Green Space Advisory Board Meeting.

Gerald Carvey, Chairperson