



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

Green Space Advisory Board

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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

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

7:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Carvey called the Green Space Advisory Board meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent 1 - Donald Price

Non-voting members present: Director Ken Elwert, Lance DeVoe, Kurt Dawson, Council Member Bowyer

Non-voting members absent: Grace Currier, Elena Romund, Samina Saifee

Others present: Patrick Endres, Brittan Benedetto, Brice Benedetto

Board Member Price provided notice that he would be unable to attend and asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2016-0237](#) Regular Meeting - May 24, 2016

Attachments: [GSAB Meeting Minutes 5-24-16 Draft.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Niks, that the matter be approved as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent 1 - Price

Resolved that the Green Space Advisory Board hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 24, 2016 as presented/amended.

COMMUNICATIONS

Park Ranger DeVoe provided everyone with copies of the latest quarterly report from Niswander Environmental. He summarized the report for the Board describing the work that Niswander has completed to date as well as what is on the schedule for the month of August.

Director Elwert informed Board Members of the Strategic Planning process currently underway in the Parks and Forestry Department and stated his intentions of discussing this process at the August GSAB meeting. He would like to gather ideas from Board Members to incorporate into the first stage of the planning process.

Director Elwert reported that the Six Rivers Land Conservancy has approached the City of Rochester Hills regarding a twenty-four acre parcel of land along the river on the west side of Adams Road that they are possibly considering offering to the City. The Chairperson of the Conservancy will attend the August meeting to present their proposal to the Board.

Board Member Janulis requested that the quarterly report be listed on the August agenda to discuss any further questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Carvey welcomed Brittan and Brice Benedetto to the meeting. Brice informed the Board that he is in attendance this evening to work on his Second Class Scouting badge in Communications and one of the requirements is to attend a public meeting.

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 would like to take up this topic again at the next meeting.

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

Board Member Graves addressed the topic of using social media to inform the public about Green Space activities. Director Elwert informed Board Members that he is working on a department marketing plan that will include Green Space activities. As a component of the plan, he is working with the Mayor's Office to

address the issues of social media and will keep the Board informed as the plan continues to develop. Director Elwert commented that the Museum has been using social media very effectively to market their programs.

2008-0132

GSAB Property Nominations & Acquisitions Sub-Committee

Chairperson Carvey opened the discussion by suggesting that the Board Members visit the parcel that the Six Rivers Land Conservancy is considering offering to the City so they may apply the usual criteria scoring. Director Elwert inquired if the Board was looking for a recommendation to nominate the property. Chairperson Carvey explained the criteria to recommend a property to City Council for acquisition. Board Members reviewed the GSAB criteria for scoring nominated properties beginning with walking and individually scoring each nominated property, researching the history of the property and checking for potential environmental issues. Board Members expressed strong support for the scoring process. Director Elwert asked if in addition to the Board scoring a nominated property, an environmental company performed a review as well prior to presenting a property nomination to City Council. Vice Chairperson Peterson noted that the criteria scoring process that the Board developed is very similar to the Natural Features scoring process that Niswander developed. Director Elwert thanked the Board Members for their information on the nominating process.

Council Member Bowyer described her experience with the last property nomination to come before City Council. She stated that City Council members requested additional information from Park Ranger DeVoe on the nominated parcel as well as what property is currently available in the City. Based upon this experience, Council Member Bowyer worked with Bob Grace in the MIS department to update the red priority map that was developed in 2005 to show parcels of five plus acres with one home on the parcel. Council Member Bowyer expressed that City Council would like to be able to compare a nominated Green Space property to what other property might be available in the City before making a decision to proceed with negotiations on a nominated property. Council Member Bowyer gave a PowerPoint demonstration of the maps showing where these five plus acre parcels with one home were located, as well as showing what land is available along the Clinton River. The new map is an interactive map that brings up the tax roll to show who owns the property. Board Members discussed several parcels on Avon Circle as well as parcels along the Clinton River. Chairperson Carvey and Park Ranger DeVoe expressed their concerns about approaching property owners when the property is not currently listed for sale.

Director Elwert updated the Board on ongoing negotiations between the Mayor's Office and a property owner along the Clinton River. Board Members reviewed parcels along the Clinton River that had previously been reviewed but were rejected due to property condition or environmental issues. Chairperson Carvey stated that letters had been sent to property owners in the red priority area in 2006 asking if they might be interested in nominating their property as a Green Space. Council Member Bowyer suggested sending letters to property owners in the red priority area along the Clinton River. Director Elwert will reach out to the MIS Department to obtain a list of addresses and parcel size for parcels within the red and the burgundy areas on the map and have that

information available for the Board to review at the next meeting. Everyone complimented Council Member Bowyer on the new additions to the priority map.

2008-0133 GSAB Stewardship & Advocacy Sub-Committee

Vice Chairperson Peterson commented that he was waiting for the next presentation from Niswander Environmental to the Board prior to planning any volunteer type clean up. Director Elwert and Board Members discussed possible volunteer and public education issues.

2012-0443 Discuss Stewardship Management Plan

No report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Elwert presented a Fiscal Objectives Review to the Board as part of the 2017 budget preparation process. As part of the planning for next year Director Elwert requested input from Board Members on the two Green Space funds. The original Green Space Fund is set up as an acquisition fund and the second fund is set up as the Green Space Perpetual Care Trust Fund. The first fund is set up similarly to a checking account and earns a small amount of interest where the Trust Fund has a balance of over \$5,000,000 and earns a significant amount of interest yearly. Director Elwert, based upon advice from the Finance Director, suggested that a portion of the balance from the Green Space Fund be moved into the Trust Fund so the additional interest earned could be used to support stewardship projects.

Director Elwert informed the Board Members that he had discussed a change in focus with Chairperson Carvey and asked the Board Members to consider shifting the stewardship focus from the current projects that Niswander is working on to addressing the ten plus areas of river erosion that Niswander has identified. He informed the Board that each of the river erosion projects could cost between one hundred and fifty thousand to two hundred thousand. Director Elwert stated that moving a portion of the acquisition funds into the Trust Fund could generate an additional fifty thousand dollars in interest to help pay for erosion control should the Board agree on this as a goal.

Director Elwert stated that he had removed researching potential grant opportunities to maximize land purchases from his 2017 objectives, however he acknowledged the Board's interest in pursuing additional properties for acquisition based upon the earlier discussion of the GSAB priority map. Board Member Janulis inquired if the Board could still go after grants to help fund these projects in the future. Director Elwert confirmed that the Board could pursue grant opportunities in the future.

Council Member Bowyer objected to spending money from the Acquisition Fund on stewardship issues. Chairperson Carvey stated that it is written into the

Trust Fund By-Laws that funds can be used for purchasing properties by moving the funds back into the acquisition fund. Board Member Gauthier commented that properties that are considered a priority on the GSAB priority map could change hands and become available in the future. Board Members discussed whether or not to move funds and what impression this may give to City Council and the community. Director Elwert asked the Board if they felt it was worth moving funds from the acquisition fund into the Perpetual Care Trust Fund in order to earn an additional fifty thousand dollars in interest each year to help fund projects. Vice Chairperson Peterson cautioned that the GSAB does not want to give Council the impression that the Board is done recommending properties for acquisition. Director Elwert said that this would be presented to Council as part of his budget plan for the year noting that the movement of funds into the Trust Fund was solely for the purpose of earning additional interest. Chairperson Carvey reaffirmed that it is written into the Trust Fund that money can be spent to purchase properties. City Treasurer Kurt Dawson responded that the principal amount in the Trust Fund cannot be used for the purchase of property, only the interest that is earned. Park Ranger DeVoe suggested that all of the questions on the use of money in the Trust Fund be addressed by the City Senior Financial Analyst Joe Snyder prior to making a final decision on the matter. Board Member Janulis asked Mr. Dawson about the difficulty of moving funds from one account to another and whether we need a legal clarification before moving the funds. Board Members wrapped up the discussion by agreeing to request legal clarification on moving funds between the acquisition fund and the Perpetual Care Trust Fund. Director Elwert thanked everyone for their comments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Board Member Gauthier supports the idea of erosion control along the Clinton River and proposed looking at the Clinton River from the banks or by canoe. Board Members agreed that this may give them a different perspective on the properties they have been discussing.

Council Member Bowyer addressed the City Naming Policy currently before City Council. One of the issues before Council is changing the name of a City owned property. Director Elwert stated that the intent of the Naming Policy is to formalize the process and he feels that the GSAB is right in line with current policy and can proceed with naming the Green Space properties. Board Member Graves stated that his subcommittee would revisit this issue in order to formalize their recommendations and bring it up for discussion at a future Board meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Carvey adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Nakonek

Gerald Carvey, Chairperson