



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

Green Space Advisory Board

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Rochester Hills, MI
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Chairperson Gerald Carvey, Vice Chairperson Dahlvin Peterson
Members: Peter Beightol, Tim Gauthier, Jayson Graves, Darlene Janulis, Thomas Neveau,
Sandra Niks, Samantha Phillips
Council Member Adam Kochenderfer
Youth Representatives: Grace Currier, Elena Romund and Samina Saiffee

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

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 8 - Peter Beightol, Gerald Carvey, Tim Gauthier, Jayson Graves, Darlene Janulis, Sandra Niks, Dahlvin Peterson and Samantha Phillips

Absent 1 - Thomas Neveau

Non-voting members present: Kurt Dawson, Mike Hartner, Lance DeVoe, Grace Currier, Elena Romund, Samina Saiffee

Non-voting members absent: Adam Kochenderfer

Others: Patrick Endres, Jeff Bridgland

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2015-0394](#) Regular Meeting - September 22, 2015

Attachments: [Resolution.pdf](#)
[GSAB Meeting Minutes 9-22-15 Draft.pdf](#)

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

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

Absent 1 - Neveau

Resolved that the Green Space Advisory Board hereby approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2015 as presented/amended.

COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

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

No report at this time.

Discussed

2008-0131

GSAB Communication, Promotion & Education Sub-Committee

Board Member Graves resumed the discussion on developing guidelines for the naming of Green Space properties. He provided everyone in attendance with a rough draft of the naming policy that he developed after meeting with other committee members and receiving input from Board Members Beightol and Janulis. He requested that everyone review the information and be prepared to discuss the policy at the November meeting with the goal of establishing a set of standards, procedures and guidelines for the naming of properties acquired through the Green Space Millage. Member Graves also suggested that all future property names include "natural preserve" as part of the name.

Chairperson Carvey asked that all Board Members review the draft provided by Member Graves and be prepared to discuss the topic at the next meeting and go forward with making a recommendation to City Council on the naming of Green Space properties. Discussion ensued on the topic and Chairperson Carvey requested that Board Members e-mail their suggestions to Member Graves prior the November meeting. Mr. Mike Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry suggested that the group give serious thought to the policy as well as their final recommendation to Council. He asked if there are any highlights that Member Graves wanted the Board to consider. Member Graves responded that he would like everyone to consider changing the names of the properties to include the term "natural preserve." Park Ranger DeVoe inquired about the meaning and definition of "natural preserve." Member Janulis responded that she found the term "natural preserve" while conducting her research of Michigan sites and it is defined as protected areas of importance for wildlife, flora, fauna or special interest which is reserved and managed for conservation and to provide special opportunities for study and research. Mr. DeVoe commented that this terminology is not consistent with the goal of stewardship and the long term management plans for Green Space properties is to manage and improve the properties. Discussion continued on possible names to use to designate the Green Space properties.

Director Hartner gave a brief history of the Highlands Nature Area where City Hall is located. The area is protected by a City Ordinance which restricts and protects the area. He suggested that this type of protection be extended to all Green Space properties by including the "Nature Area" tag along with the names. Discussion concluded with a suggestion that input from Rochester Hills residents be included in the naming process.

Discussed

2008-0132

GSAB Property Nominations & Acquisitions Sub-Committee

Director Hartner reported that the City has received the results of the phase one environmental study completed at the Ruby property. There is an underground fuel tank that has to be taken care of but there is nothing that would stop the City from following through on the purchase of the property. The process is now in the hands of the Mayor, the City Attorney and the property owner.

Director Hartner advised everyone that he had spoken with the Maplehill property owner and reviewed the procedure for once again nominating and scoring the property for Green Space acquisition. There has been no further contact on this matter.

Discussed

2008-0133

GSAB Stewardship & Advocacy Sub-Committee

No report at this time.

Discussed

[2012-0443](#) Discuss Stewardship Management Plan

Jeff Bridgland of Niswander Environmental passed out copies of the Rochester Hills Natural Features Stewardship Program Long Term Management Plan and gave an overview of the material. The first four chapters of the booklet cover the Green Space initiative, goals, methodology and assessment of each property. The Long Term Management Plan outlines the goals for each of the Green Space properties as well as the Clinton River Corridor. Mr. Bridgland discussed how his team came up with the assessment and scoring based upon what they had done in the past and the review of each of the Green Space properties this past summer. Director Hartner gave a brief history of what Niswander has done for the City of Rochester Hills. In 2005, the City contracted with Niswander to do a Natural Features Inventory of the entire City. This inventory classified the areas into high, medium and low priority areas. This document is the basis for identifying potential green space areas. Director Hartner stated that Niswander has a great deal of knowledge on each of the Green Space properties. Mr. Bridgland explained that his company has developed individual management plans for each of the Green Space properties as well as City owned properties along the Clinton River Corridor. The management plan scores and assesses each property and identifies priority 1, 2 and 3 natural areas addressing issues that need to be focused on. Director Hartner commented that the needs identified in the Long Term Management Plan will take years of work to accomplish and may necessitate working with other government agencies to accomplish the goals. Mr. Bridgland commented that the Management Plan lists both immediate as well as long term projects that could take five to ten years to accomplish.

Director Hartner stated that the City not only has a plan but has a source of revenue dedicated entirely to stewardship. Mr. Kurt Dawson, Treasury Director, reported to the Board that there is currently three million dollars in the Green Space Perpetual Care Trust Fund. Mr. Dawson will bring future earnings reports to the Board. Director Hartner affirmed that in 2016 City Council is scheduled to transfer an additional two million dollars into the Trust Fund bringing the total to five million dollars to be used for stewardship of Green Space properties. In addition, there is a working fund currently in place with \$1.6 million that will be used to fund stewardship for the next two years until the Trust Fund is providing an income stream.

Director Hartner requested that everyone review the Long Term

Management Plan so that a resolution can be sent to City Council to accept and adopt the plan. He further stated that the plan gives the Board the tools necessary to propose annual budgets for stewardship to the Mayor and then to City Council as well as recommending projects to be undertaken. Member Janulis requested that Director Dawson provide a budget summary sheet to go along with the Management Plan when it is presented to City Council.

Director Hartner asked Mr. Bridgland to explain the scoring system in the Long Term Management Plan to the Board. Mr. Bridgland explained how the scoring was developed by Todd Losee, of Niswander Environmental, based upon his experience with other projects throughout the State of Michigan. Mr. Bridgland reviewed the process in determining the restoration/enhancement values of a project and the public benefit to determine the final value score of each project. He will provide a summary sheet on the values and scoring process to Board Members to help clarify the process. Member Gauthier inquired how long the scores will be good for. Mr. Bridgland stated that the scores were a baseline score and subject to change over time or as conditions change.

Director Hartner discussed the relative value of projects and proposed that the Board look at projects that will provide the best benefits to our residents. Lance DeVoe addressed the issue of Public Benefit in determining the viability of some of the projects indicating that some projects might not justify the costs involved to remedy them. Board Members discussed signage for Green Space properties that would inform the public of work in process, as well as how best to educate the public on ongoing projects. Mr. Bridgland recommended that Niswander Environmental do most of the work for the next year before including volunteers on projects. In this way, best practices and procedures will be in place as guidelines to be followed and the volunteers can be productive and effective.

Patrick Endres, Environmental Education staff member of the Museum at Van Hoosen Farms, shared his experiences with the Michigan Conservation Stewardship Program. This program trains volunteers in the elements of stewardship. Mr. Endres suggested that the Board could reach out to this group for possible assistance with future Green Space projects. Director Hartner suggested that Board Members might have the opportunity to enroll in the same training program in the future.

Board Member Phillips left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Board members discussed grant ideas as well as examples of future projects. Director Hartner affirmed that the progress of all projects will be tracked and reported to City Council on an annual basis. Chairperson Carvey requested that everyone review the Long Term Management Plan in preparation for the November 10th meeting.

Discussed

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Carvey adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Maureen Nakonek.