



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

Green Space Advisory Board

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 656-4600
Home Page:
www.rochesterhills.org

Chairperson Gerald Carvey

Members: Thomas Dohr, Tim Gauthier, Richard Graham, Adam Kochenderfer, Lynn Loeb, Dahlvin Peterson, Samantha Phillips, Beth Tilove

Council Member Nathan Klomp

Youth Representatives: Kelsey Jackson, Laisa Magucha, Michelle Thorpe

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

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, Dahlvin Peterson, Beth Tilove, Adam Kochenderfer, Samantha Phillips and Thomas Dohr

Absent 3 - Tim Gauthier, Lynn Loeb and Richard Graham

Non-Voting Members Present: Kurt Dawson, Mike Hartner, Nathan Klomp, Roger Moore, and Michelle Thorpe

Non-Voting Members Absent: Kelsey Jackson and Laisa Magucha

Others Present: None

Committee Members Gauthier, Graham, Jackson and Magucha provided previous notice they would be unable to attend and asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2011-0229 Regular Meeting - March 22, 2011

Attachments: [03-22-11 Draft Minutes.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

*The minutes were approved as amended with the following corrections under **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:***

Item 2011-0073, page 3, paragraph 14:

** ~~Discussion will continue on~~ **Mr. Staran will address the issue of whether millage funds can be used to develop and carry out a Stewardship Management Plan for acquired green spaces.***

Item 2011-0073, page 3, paragraph 15:

* ~~It may be possible~~ **It should be considered whether it may be possible** to sell "wetland banking rights" from green space parcels to interested parties and use those funds as a source for a stewardship management plan.

Item 2008-0131, page 4, paragraph 1:

Ms. Loeb's noted Bordine's ~~will be one of the sponsors~~ **has been contacted to possibly be a sponsor** for a raffle prize.

Approved as Amended

Aye 6 - Carvey, Peterson, Tilove, Kochenderfer, Phillips and Dohr

Absent 3 - Gauthier, Loeb's and Graham

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Mike Hartner, Director of Parks & Forestry, distributed CD copies of the 2011-2015 Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The plan is required by the Department of Natural Resources for grants. It also encourages communities to update their plan every five years by taking an in-depth look at recreational usage of parks. The plan was reviewed by the Planning Commission and adopted by City Council in March 2011 and is a great resource regarding park information.

Chairperson Carvey distributed an updated subcommittee structure and internal member contact list.

The Board welcomed new member Thomas Dohr, who was appointed by City Council to fill the remaining term of former Member Laura Douglas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Carvey noted there were no members of the public present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2007-0753 Update regarding any nominated properties

Mr. Hartner noted no new developments to report since the March meeting.

Mr. Roger Moore, City Surveyor, commented that a parcel north of the Cross Creek subdivision known as Tree Tops is going to be developed into five single family lots. The parcel was previously considered for acquisition but not recommended by GSAB.

Discussed

2008-0130 GSAB Administrative & Strategic Sub-Committee

Chairperson Carvey stated no report at this time.

Discussed

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

- Recap of Earth Day Discover Hike

The floor was opened for feedback from GSAB members. The following points were noted:

- * Some hikers were not aware of where to obtain the participation/raffle card which was offered at the welcome tent located near Avon Road for maximum exposure to the public.*
- * Some hikers commented that Station 1 was not convenient. They were confused with the hiking route and the numbering of Stations 2 and 5 which were across from each other.*
- * Volunteers knew who the sponsors were for the raffle prizes but were not aware of what the raffle prizes were when questioned by the hikers.*
- * The open time-frame for hiking, the small bags provided by the Mayor's office to hold brochures, and the river tour raffle prize donated by Outdoor Escorts were well received.*

Discussed

[Lynn Loeb entered at 7:32 p.m.]

Present 7 - Gerald Carvey, Lynn Loeb, Dahlvin Peterson, Beth Tilove, Adam Kochenderfer, Samantha Phillips and Thomas Dohr

Absent 2 - Tim Gauthier and Richard Graham

- Recap of Earth Day Discovery Hike - continued

Suggestions for future hiking events:

- * If the next discovery hike is at the same location, consider eliminating Station 1 and having 4 stations or move the welcome tent.*
- * Enhance the parcel maps to include the hiking paths marked with each station.*
- * Provide small bottles of water and Paddlepalozza event flyers in addition to the Clinton River, Clinton River Trail, Paint Creek Trail and Oak Routes brochures.*
- * Education would be an important goal of future hiking events. Craft a message to make the public aware of why green space property is valuable and worth preserving for the future generations.*
- * Consider holding the discovery hike event closer to Rochester's Earth Day*

celebration and partner with their publicity. The discovery hike location could be different depending on what properties are acquired in the future.

** Signage indicating parcel boundaries can be funded by the Green Space Millage. The signage should reflect the City's new branding image and state that the property is permanently preserved by Rochester Hills' Green Space Millage.*

Overall, 134 hikers participated in the event and were generally complimentary. Kudos to the Steering Committee of Tilove, Thorpe and Peterson and all the Board members for a great first event. The Board consensus was that it should be an annual event.

2008-0132 GSAB Property Nominations & Acquisitions Sub-Committee

With the absence of Member Gauthier, no report was noted.

2008-0133 GSAB Stewardship & Advocacy Sub-Committee

Chairperson Carvey stated that the board has done some overall cleanup, but more remains to be done particularly on the Childress property. Mr. Hartner noted that there is no overtime budget that would permit Parks & Forestry to perform any cleanup, however staff may be able to pick up bags of trash during the week if they were placed in one location by volunteers.

Member Phillips noted that Boy Scout badge requirements are detailed and children would be limited to what type of clean-up they can do due to types of debris relative to safety factors. Many youth are interested in volunteer hours in which certificates could be issued as a token of appreciation.

Board members have compiled notes on what type of debris clean-up needs to be done on certain parcels. For example, Boy Scouts could pick up small amounts of trash on the Harding parcel, rake small areas and spread grass seed. Trash bags could be compiled in one location where Parks & Forestry staff could collect for disposal.

Members Phillips and Loeb volunteered to format a clean-up plan that might meet Boy Scout requirements and/or volunteer hours that youth are seeking.

Discussed

2011-0073 Green Space Properties Protection Policy

Chairperson Carvey summarized comments from Mr. John Staran, City Attorney and Mayor Barnett regarding the March discussion on a Green Space Properties Protection Policy that included the following:

** The use of Green Space Millage funds to formulate a stewardship management plan is beyond its scope.*

* *Mitigating wetland banking rights may become a slippery slope and could create the wrong impression to the public.*

* *Green space properties are protected by the ballot language that voters approved in 2005 which stated that natural green spaces shall be "permanently preserved".*

The Board noted the following points:

* *It may be a matter of educating the public on the Green Space Millage language by consistently stating that natural green spaces shall be "permanently preserved" and are a good use of taxpayer money.*

* *Green space property signage should include language that states, "This parcel is permanently preserved by the Rochester Hills' Green Space Millage."*

The Board agreed that the Green Space Millage language was worded in such a manner as to protect each parcel acquired from development and the focus should be on educating the public to understand that properties acquired with the Green Space Millage funds are "permanently preserved". The protection of city park lands is beyond the scope of this board and should be handled by the residents, the Parks Department and the City Council.

Mr. Hartner noted that Attorney Staran is working on a draft amendment to the current Park ordinance which would add a section to govern the protection of green space parcels against specific violations similar to those described for city parks and trails.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing noted at this time.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 2011 Goals and Objectives

The Board reviewed the suggestions submitted by Member Gauthier. It was suggested to have two or three main goals that can be measured and attainable rather than a long list. The following goals were suggested:

* *Continue to educate the public on currently owned green space parcels as well as any newly acquired parcels.*

* *Continue to investigate grants and funding for a stewardship plan.*

* *Educate owners of potential open space properties on the benefits of the Green Space preservation program.*

It was agreed that each sub-committee could take on one of the above goals for further exploration.

Member Dohr volunteered to serve on the Communication, Promotion & Media Sub-committee. It was suggested to change the sub-committee's name to Communication, Promotion and Education Sub-committee.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Carvey adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise Mertz.

Minutes were approved as presented/amended at the _____ 2011 Regular Green Space Advisory Board meeting.

Gerald Carvey, Chairperson

