



# Rochester Hills

## Minutes

### City Council Regular Meeting

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

*Susan M. Bowyer Ph.D., Kevin S. Brown, Dale A. Hetrick, James Kubicina,  
Stephanie Morita, Mark A. Tisdel and Thomas W. Wiggins*

**Vision Statement:** *The Community of Choice for Families and Business*

**Mission Statement:** *"Our mission is to sustain the City of Rochester Hills as the premier community of choice to live, work and raise a family by enhancing our vibrant residential character complemented by an attractive business community."*

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Monday, July 31, 2017

7:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

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## CALL TO ORDER

*President Tisdel called the Regular Rochester Hills City Council Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Michigan Time.*

## ROLL CALL

**Present** 7 - Susan M. Bowyer, Kevin S. Brown, Dale Hetrick, James Kubicina, Stephanie Morita, Mark A. Tisdel and Thomas W. Wiggins

## Others Present:

*Bryan Barnett, Mayor  
Tina Barton, City Clerk  
Sean Canto, Chief of Fire and Emergency Services  
Ken Elwert, Director of Parks and Forestry  
Allan Schneck, Director of DPS/Engineering  
Lea Schulz, Rochester Hills Government Youth Council Representative  
Joe Snyder, Chief Financial Officer  
John Staran, City Attorney  
Laurie Taylor, Acting Director of Assessing*

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Kubicina, that the Agenda be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 7 - Bowyer, Brown, Hetrick, Kubicina, Morita, Tisdel and Wiggins

## COUNCIL AND YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Rochester Hills Government Youth Council (RHGYC):**

**President Tisdel** introduced **Lea Schulz**, RHGYC representative, and noted that she will be a Senior at Stoney Creek High School, and has been a member of multiple honor societies at the school.

**Ms. Schulz** reported that the RHGYC wrapped up its year with its annual 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Assistance League of Southeast Michigan. She noted that new RHGYC members will be introduced along with a sendoff for graduating seniors at the August 14, 2017 City Council meeting.

**Paint Creek Trailways Commission (PCT):**

**Dr. Bowyer** reported that the PCT will be hosting a Labor Day Bridge Walk on Monday, September 4, 2017. Participants can take a two mile round-trip walk or participate in a 10K run. The event will start at the pavilion in the Rochester Municipal Park in downtown Rochester, and will feature donuts and facepainting for the children. She noted that all ages and abilities are welcome, and commented that volunteers are needed. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact the Trail Manager at [manager@paintcreektrail.org](mailto:manager@paintcreektrail.org).

**Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG):**

**Mr. Hetrick** reported that he attended the SEMCOG Executive Committee meeting last week, where the Committee approved a budget item for a statistical survey in support of the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. He noted that the SEMCOG team will be at the Oakland County Executive Office Building in Waterford on September 26, 2017 for two public outreach sessions, at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to gather additional public information. He mentioned that an educational reform task force and policy were adopted at the Executive Committee Meeting to promote continuing education for technical trades within the County's education system. He commented that as the economy grows, the need for skilled trades will increase. He added that programs for at-risk children and those with special needs will also provide an opportunity to include everyone in the educational process that will contribute to the economy going forward.

## PRESENTATIONS

2017-0343      Announcement of the 2017-2018 Schedule for the Oakland University Football Team; Tom Menas, Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator, presenter

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)

**Tom Menas**, Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator for the Oakland University Football Team, was in attendance to provide highlights of the upcoming season.

**Mayor Barnett** welcomed Coach Menas and stated that over the years a great myth was perpetuated that football cannot be played on the Oakland University (OU) campus. He mentioned that both he and Maria Willett, Special Assistant to the Mayor, are OU graduates.

**Coach Menas** expressed his thanks for the opportunity to dispel a 60-year-old myth. He noted that the University was founded in 1957 and had its first athletic event in 1959, which was a cross country race. Over the next 60 years, the University built great traditions with its basketball, baseball and soccer teams.

*He commented that Oakland and Macomb Counties are two of the most successful counties in the state, yet they do not have a university football team.*

*He stated that he was tasked with the job of bringing football to OU. He explained that the club began in 2013 as a small student-run organization with a handful of players. In 2014, they went on to win the national championship in club football. He noted that he was brought on as Defensive Coordinator in 2015, with the intent of bringing more of a collegiate atmosphere to the sport. Taking over as head coach in December 2015, he treated OU Football as if it were a Division I program. He pointed out that the academics, charity, and community involvement far exceed what a club football team would do. He stated that the team was 12-0 last year, beating club teams from Ohio State, Michigan State, Florida, North Carolina, Miami of Ohio, and Wisconsin.*

*He stressed that the number one objective is to have the students graduate and get their degree, with a second objective to be stewards in the community. He commented that team members volunteer throughout the community.*

*He mentioned that the team had 13 All-American players last year, and eight Academic All-Americans, breaking the NCAA record. He stated that students have jobs, are non-scholarship athletes, carry a full load of classes and do charity work. He noted that the team had the Defensive Player of the Year for the last two years, and he mentioned that he was named Coach of the Year. While playing across the street at the Auburn Hills Civic Center, the team won two national championships and 30 football games, losing only four.*

*He announced that the team will be playing on the OU campus this year on its home field. Games this year will be free and will be on Saturday afternoons or evenings, and will feature tailgating, food and merchandise. He noted that the first on-field experience will be on September 9, 2017 with a flag charity football game against faculty members with 100 percent of the proceeds going to Grace Centers of Hope. The first regular game is scheduled for September 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.*

*Homecoming is set for October 14, 2017 with the team playing Eastern Michigan University. He noted that 100,000 alumni live within 30 miles of OU's campus, and the goal is to bring them back and have them become engaged.*

**President Tisdell** *commented that this is one of the best-kept secrets in the state.*

**Coach Menas** *noted that the NFL Network has contacted the team, and the team shot a commercial for Dan Gilbert. He commented that the team is called a benchmark around the United States and wishes to get the secret out to the people around OU. He stated that the team is taking over the track stadium and will share facilities with the track team. He commented that goal posts are being installed today, and drivers will see the stadium lights from Walton Boulevard.*

**Mayor Barnett** *expressed his thanks to Coach Menas and his team, noting that the team has already contributed to many organizations around town. He*

mentioned that Ms. Willett will be approaching the team about a possible volunteer opportunity. He noted that the team's new field is within the boundaries of Rochester Hills.

**Mr. Brown** commented that he was one of the believers of the myth against having football at OU.

**Coach Menas** explained that the myth was that Matilda Dodge Wilson wanted OU to be the Harvard of the Midwest; an academic haven with no contact sports. In future years, it became a Michigan State University campus, and then was back to OU. He stated that through all that minutiae, no one could produce a document that states that Wilson did not want football.

**Mr. Brown** questioned whether there was a long-term plan for the team.

**Coach Menas** responded that there is at some point. He noted that the University of Michigan, Notre Dame, and Penn State all started as club teams at one time. He commented that while there is sometimes a stigma attached to club sports, it is a great program. He stated that it gives students a great opportunity to continue to play football. He noted that the team members have just as much opportunity to be looked at as players on other teams.

**Mr. Hetrick** stated that while it is great that the team has won national championships, it is just as important to have eight Academic All-Americans. He noted that there are at least a couple of Rochester High School graduates who are OU club team members. He pointed out that the team members proudly had a float in last year's Christmas Parade.

**Coach Menas** commented that the parade was held just after the team won the national championship against a Division I junior college.

**Dr. Bowyer** expressed her congratulations, noting that she is an Oakland University professor teaching the physics of football. She commented that she should obtain some footage for use in her classes.

**Coach Menas** responded that the national championship game is available on YouTube. He commented that it was a great experience.

Presented.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT for Items not on the Agenda**

**Lee Zendel**, 1575 Dutton Road, commented that RecycleBank credited his account with 65 recycle points on a week that he did not place anything out for pickup as he was out of town. He noted that driving on Grandview today, he observed more garbage bins not being placed upright. He suggested that the new waste hauler should be advised.

## CONSENT AGENDA

All matters under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion, without discussion. If any Council Member or Citizen requests discussion of an item, it will be removed from Consent Agenda for separate discussion.

**2017-0333** Approval of Minutes - City Council Special Meeting - July 17, 2017

**Attachments:** [CC Min 071717.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0231-2017

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Special Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be approved as presented.

**2017-0334** Approval of Minutes - City Council Regular Meeting - July 17, 2017

**Attachments:** [CC Min 071717.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0232-2017

**Resolved**, that the Minutes of a Rochester Hills City Council Regular Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be approved as presented.

**2017-0323** Request for Acceptance of a Watermain Easement granted by Blossom Ridge, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, for Blossom Ridge

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Watermain Easement.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0233-2017

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council, on behalf of the City of Rochester Hills, hereby accepts a watermain easement granted by Blossom Ridge, LLC, whose address is 3005 University Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326, for the construction, operation, maintenance, repair and/or replacement of a watermain over, on, under, through and across land more particularly described as Parcel Nos. 10-31-400-003, 004, 013 & 014.

**Further Resolved**, that the City Clerk is directed to record the easement with the Oakland County Register of Deeds.

**2017-0327** Request for Approval of the proposed Flood Plain Use Permit relative to a single family home construction, Lot 77, South Boulevard Gardens

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[DEQ Floodplain Determ.pdf](#)  
[Signed FUP Application.pdf](#)  
[Location Map.pdf](#)  
[Prop 77 Plot Plan.pdf](#)  
[Pat Bell Auth letter.pdf](#)  
[South Blvd Gardens Plat.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0234-2017

**Whereas**, the property owner for Lot 77, South Boulevard Gardens, Rochester Hills, Michigan is proposing to construct a new home with attached garage that encroaches into an existing floodplain within the Lueders Drain; and

**Whereas**, the Department of Public Service recommends approval of the Floodplain Use Permit for Lot 77, South Boulevard Gardens.

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby approves the Floodplain Use Permit for Lot 77, South Boulevard Gardens.

- 2017-0325** Request for Purchase Authorization - PARKS: Blanket Purchase Order/Contract for plants and planting services for Innovation Hills in the amount not-to-exceed \$58,071.28 through August 31, 2018; Titan Commercial, Inc. Southfield, MI

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Tabulation.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0235-2017

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby authorizes a Blanket Purchase Order/Contract to Titan Commercial, Inc., Southfield, Michigan in the amount not-to-exceed \$58,071.28 through August 31, 2018 and further authorizes the Mayor to execute a contract on behalf of the City.

**Further Resolved**, that the City's acceptance of the proposal and approval of the award of a contract shall be contingent and conditioned upon the parties' entry into and execution of a written agreement acceptable to the City.

- 2017-0331** Request for Purchase Authorization - FIRE: Purchase Authorization for Wired and Wireless Headset Applications in the amount of \$31,449.25; Cynergy Wireless Products, Inc., Troy, MI

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Bid Tab.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**This Matter was Adopted by Resolution on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: RES0236-2017

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby authorizes the purchase of wired and wireless headset applications to Cynergy Wireless Products, Inc., Troy, Michigan in the amount of \$31,449.25.

**Further Resolved**, that the City's acceptance of the proposal and approval of the award of a contract shall be contingent and conditioned upon the parties' entry into and execution of a written agreement acceptable to the City.

### Passed the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Morita, seconded by Hetrick, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye** 7 - Bowyer, Brown, Hetrick, Kubicina, Morita, Tisdell and Wiggins

### LEGISLATIVE & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

*In response to Public Comment, **President Tisdell** noted that Bob White, Supervisor of Ordinance Services, is handling issues concerning the new Waste Hauler and for the RecycleBank program. He noted that Mr. Zendel's concerns will be passed along to Mr. White.*

***Vice President Morita** noted that Ryan Smith, who spoke at the last meeting regarding opioid addiction, has been able to get in touch with the Rochester-Auburn Hills Community Coalition. She encouraged any residents wishing to help in certain areas to contact Council Members who can help put them in touch with the right organizations. She thanked Mr. Smith for stepping up to become involved.*

***Dr. Bowyer** announced the following:*

- *The Rochester Hills Public Library will host a lecture on the upcoming solar eclipse on August 17, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Library is hosting a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party on August 21, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*
- *The West Nile Virus has been detected in Oakland County. Residents should use insect repellent and wear long sleeves.*
- *The Paint Creek Trail's Labor Day Bridge Walk is free for participants.*
- *The Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance Wheels and Teal Car Show and 5K is set for Saturday, September 16, 2017, at the Village of Rochester Hills.*
- *The Brookside Way race is set for September 24, 2017.*
- *The Run the Fairway 5K at Pine Trace Golf Course is set for November 11, 2017.*
- *New Outdoor Engagement activities include Hills Hikers events scheduled on Wednesday evenings in September and October.*
  - \* *For the Birds will be featured on September 9, October 14, and November 11, 2017.*
  - \* *A Hoot and Howl Hayride is set for October 13, 2017. Cost is \$5 for this event.*
  - \* *Learn to Coexist with Our Wild Neighbors is set for November 7, 2017. Anyone wishing to attend these events can register on the City's website.*

**Mr. Brown** reported that Sheriff Michael Bouchard attended the Rochester Rotary meeting last week to discuss drugs and human trafficking in Oakland County. He noted that Sheriff Bouchard stated that most police stations have receptacles for disposing unused drugs safely. He mentioned that the Oakland County Sheriff's Office has used Narcan 107 times since the program began in the County. He noted that Sheriff Bouchard mentioned there will be some minor changes to the Dream Cruise this year, as commercial vehicles and trailers will not be allowed on Woodward.

**Mr. Hetrick** stated that the Oakland County Sheriff's Substation on Barclay Circle has a receptacle for unused drugs available from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. He mentioned that the Opening Ceremonies for the Michigan Senior Olympics will be held August 11, 2017 at Bloomer Park. The torch lighting event is free for attendees and will feature food and entertainment.

**Mr. Kubicina** commented that anyone over 50 is eligible for the Senior Olympics.

**Mayor Barnett** stated that opioid addiction will be a rising topic of conversation in the nation in the next few years. He commented that he has talked with many mayors in communities across the country very similar to Rochester Hills, and he noted that the Mayor of Dayton Ohio reported that that city has lost two residents a day over the last six months to overdoses. He reported the following activities and events:

- Michigan Governor Rick Snyder was in Rochester Hills last Wednesday to sign the Good Jobs Bill. The Governor visited the former Suburban Softball site noting that this is the type of location where tax incentives may be available for redevelopment.
- Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley will be in town this coming Wednesday.
- City Clerk Tina Barton will welcome Secretary of State Ruth Johnson to City Hall this coming Wednesday.
- Today is the first day that the City will be serviced by GFL for its trash pickup. While there were challenges today, each day will get better. According to the agreement, there will be no changes that the residents will see with the exception of the color of the trucks. The previous supplier was having problems toward the end of their involvement, as they had high absenteeism. Residents deserve thanks for their patience as the transition is made. A letter went out to all residences that has the contact number for GFL. The City bundled the contract for trash service for better prices.
- Eddington Boulevard reconstruction is progressing. It is hoped that the intersection will be open by September 29, 2017.
- The City will be participating in its second Life Remodeled Project in Detroit this coming Friday. Last year over 100 employees and community members worked to beautify an area around Denby High School. This year the focus is on an area around an innovation center. Anyone interested in participating should call the Mayor's Office.
- There will be races at the International Velodrome at Bloomer Park this coming Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.. The Velodrome is the only outdoor velodrome in the state of Michigan.

*City Clerk Tina Barton announced that Secretary of State Ruth Johnson has called a press conference to be held here at City Hall on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. to present the new voting equipment. She stated that she will be demonstrating the equipment that Oakland County has chosen.*

## ATTORNEY'S REPORT

*City Attorney John Staran had nothing to report.*

## NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

**2017-0342** Request for Confirmation of the Mayor's Appointment of Laurie Taylor to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to fill the unexpired term of Kurt Dawson ending March 31, 2021

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Taylor, Laurie CQ.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**A motion was made by Kubicina, seconded by Morita, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 7 - Bowyer, Brown, Hetrick, Kubicina, Morita, Tisdell and Wiggins

Enactment No: RES0237-2017

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby confirms the Mayor's Appointment of Laurie Taylor to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to fill the unexpired term of Kurt Dawson ending March 31, 2021.

## NEW BUSINESS

**2017-0324** Request for Purchase Authorization - TREASURY/ASSESSING: Blanket Purchase Order for printing and mailing of Treasurer property tax billings and various Assessor reports and forms in the amount not-to-exceed \$139,500.00 through July 31, 2020; IDS.com, Madison Heights, MI

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Proposals Summary.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**Laurie Taylor**, Acting Director of Assessing, and **Joe Snyder**, Chief Financial Officer, were in attendance.

**Ms. Taylor** noted that approval is requested for the blanket purchase order for printing and mailings.

**President Tisdell** pointed out that these are required mailings, and solicitations were sought through the Michigan Intergovernmental Trade Network (MITN).

**Vice President Morita** questioned whether the recommended vendor was the same as last year.

**Ms. Taylor** responded that the same vendor has been serving the city for nine years.

After the vote, **Mayor Barnett** announced that upon Kurt Dawson's retirement, he named Ms. Taylor as Acting Director of Assessing, effective immediately.

**A motion was made by Morita, seconded by Hetrick, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 7 - Bowyer, Brown, Hetrick, Kubicina, Morita, Tisdel and Wiggins

Enactment No: RES0238-2017

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby authorizes a Blanket Purchase Order to IDS.com, Madison Heights, Michigan for printing and mailing of Treasurer property tax billings and various Assessor reports and forms in the amount not-to-exceed \$139,500.00 through July 31, 2020.

**Further Resolved**, that the City's acceptance of the proposal and approval of the award of a contract shall be contingent and conditioned upon the parties' entry into and execution of a written agreement acceptable to the City.

**2016-0113** Request for Approval of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program Development Project Agreement between the City of Rochester Hills and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the Riverbend Park Development - Boardwalk & Pathways/CRT Connection

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Project Agreement.pdf](#)  
[031416 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Public Hearing Notice.pdf](#)  
[031416 Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**Ken Elwert**, Director of Parks and Forestry, explained that this is the final official step to a process that began in 2016 with Council's approval of the application of a \$150,000 grant. He pointed out that this is a budgeted item, and includes completion of the first mile of a trail loop with a 500 linear foot boardwalk and restrooms at the now-named Innovation Hills Park. He mentioned that City Attorney John Staran reviewed and approved the contract and terms.

**President Tisdel** noted that accepting the budgeted dollars allows the City to leverage these types of opportunities. He commented that the knowledge that the City has a 50/50 support for the projects is very helpful in obtaining the grants.

**Dr. Bowyer** commented that it is good to see the trail go in to complete the loop. She questioned whether this approval will allow the purchase of plants for the sensory garden.

**Mr. Elwert** responded that the plantings were included on an item approved on the Consent Agenda.

*Vice President Morita expressed her appreciation to Mr. Elwert for the efforts, noting that she is excited to see the boardwalk go in. She noted that there will be a boardwalk through the marshy area to connect the trail.*

**A motion was made by Bowyer, seconded by Kubicina, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 7 - Bowyer, Brown, Hetrick, Kubicina, Morita, Tisdell and Wiggins

Enactment No: RES0239-2017

**Whereas**, on March 14, 2016, City Council gave support to the Parks and Forestry Department in the submittal of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) through their Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program. The application was submitted and resulted in the MDNR offering Development Project Agreement 26-01774; and

**Whereas**, the development of Innovation Hills (f/k/a Riverbend Park) shows the City's continued desire to deliver the finest recreational opportunities to our residents; and

**Whereas**, the Parks and Forestry Department, based on detail in the Innovation Hills Strategic Framework has calculated the City's cost for this project to be approximately \$150,000 as the required minimum 50% match to the grant; and

**Whereas**, one of the goals of the City of Rochester Hills Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020 includes development of high quality parks; and

**Whereas**, this project has been identified in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP #PK-13); and

**Be It Resolved**, that Rochester Hills City Council does hereby accept the terms of Development Project Agreement #26-01774 Grant as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for the Riverbend Park Development - Boardwalk & Pathways/CRT Connection,

and that the City Council does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project and to provide one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) to match the grant authorized by the MDNR.

To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available to the MDNR for auditing at reasonable times.

To construct the project and provide such funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of said Agreement.

To regulate the use of the facility constructed and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.

To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.

**Further Be It Resolved**, that the Mayor or his designee is authorized to execute Development Project Agreement 26-01774 on behalf of the City.

## 2017-0328 Parks and Forestry Department Strategic Plan

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[Suppl Presentation.pdf](#)  
[Strategic Plan 073117.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**Ken Elwert**, Director of Parks and Forestry, presented highlights from the proposed Parks and Forestry Strategic Plan, including the following:

- Over 38 individuals commented in depth to answer questions, and over 400 comments were received.
- The Leadership Team met regularly to analyze components of the plan.
- Census data and changes were reviewed, which established a strong demand for outdoor engagement.
- The Leadership Team worked with all levels of staff to develop a Mission, Vision and Values for the Department.
- Core Values and Supporting Values were developed, which yielded a desire for sustainability and innovation.
- The main recommendation is to create a new Division focused on Natural Resources.

Mr. Elwert explained that the proposed Natural Resources Division will merge Forestry and Environmental Education Programs, and will provide new functions for outdoor engagement, parkland stewardship, and the pursuit of natural resource-related grants.

He noted that many of the comments received were related to the need for increased outreach and engagement to the community. The restructuring would develop an outdoor engagement function. It will also reduce the scope of functions in the Parks Division, allowing the Parks team to focus on improving operations and implementing new ideas. The restructuring will create one team of staff focused on natural resource issues, and will create a one-stop shop for these issues.

He stated that proposed structural changes include a request for a new Full-Time Natural Resources Manager. He stressed that the position would be included in the 2018 budget process. Two other positions will be reclassified slightly downward.

He noted that three-year focus areas relate to City Council's objectives, and include the following:

- Develop a unique, regional eco-park (Recreation, Parks, Cultural).
- Restructure Department in line with Strategic Plan Recommendations (Environment; Community/Neighborhoods; Recreation Parks, Cultural).
- Increase Department Outreach (Community Trust and Participation).
- Create and increase an innovative culture (Effective Governance; Community Trust and Participation).
- Improve and document internal operations for the large number of retirements expected in the next five years (Effective Governance).

He highlighted the Department's Mission and Vision, noting that the bottom line is to build connections in the community.

**President Tisdell** noted that staff members spent much time and interviewed most everyone on Council along with directors, managers and stakeholders. He questioned when the process began to develop the Plan.

**Mr. Elwert** responded that the process started last summer.

**Dr. Bowyer** expressed her thanks for the plan to restructure the Parks and Forestry Department into something more for the community and the residents. She noted that the City is there to serve the people of Rochester Hills. She commented that her focus on the elimination of phragmites and outreach programs to homeowner associations for tree management was also included.

**Mr. Wiggins** questioned whether this was the first strategic plan undertaken and if other communities were reviewed.

**Mr. Elwert** responded that it is his first Plan with the City. He commented that other communities have undertaken plans; however, none put them together in this format. He explained that outdoor engagement is a newer idea and teaches individuals how to engage in the outdoors. He mentioned that the evening hike program is one area of engagement, and noted that it is hoped that a volunteer can take the program forward.

**Mr. Hetrick** commented that the plan highlights entrepreneurial thinking to deliver programs that the people want. He noted that it speaks well to the team that the plan is proactive in its engagement of the public and includes much innovation. He questioned whether the upcoming budget presentations will include the adjustments for the proposed staffing changes.

**Mr. Elwert** responded that the changes and requested adjustments will be covered in detail in budget presentations by Joe Snyder, Chief Financial Officer.

**Mr. Hetrick** questioned whether the budget impact of the changes will be neutral.

**Mr. Elwert** responded that Mr. Snyder will address the impact. He commented that with the addition of the full-time position, the adjustment will not be neutral.

**Mayor Barnett** stated that the Plan positions the Department well to implement Council's Goals and Objectives. He noted that while the City has a five-year rolling Parks Master Plan, this is the first time that a deep dive was undertaken. He commented that Council will be very proud of what the Department is looking to do moving forward.

**Mr. Elwert** commented that while he has done a few of these plans in his career, this is the first time that the entire team has been fully engaged in the process.

**President Tisdell** noted that the plan will help the City better utilize its green space.

**A motion was made by Morita, seconded by Hetrick, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 7 - Bowyer, Brown, Hetrick, Kubicina, Morita, Tisdell and Wiggins

Enactment No: RES0240-2017

**Whereas**, throughout 2016 the Parks and Forestry Department actively engaged employees, decision leaders, internal and external partners and other departments to create the Parks and Forestry Strategic Plan; and

**Whereas**, the Plan will be updated every three years, and the focus areas in the plan will tie directly to our leader team goals and objectives.

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby receives the Parks and Forestry Strategic Plan and its recommendations and approves the proposed Mission and Vision of the Parks and Forestry Department.

**2017-0332** Strategic Planning Technical Review Committee's Recommendation to City Council

**Attachments:** [073117 Agenda Summary.pdf](#)  
[CC Goals & Strategic Plng.pdf](#)  
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

**President Tisdell** noted that Vice President Morita, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Kubicina serve on the Strategic Planning and Policy Review Technical Review Committee.

**Joe Snyder**, Chief Financial Officer, explained that the Strategic Planning and Policy Review Technical Review Committee met in June to review City Council Goals and Objectives and made a couple of adjustments for 2018.

**President Tisdell** pointed out how often requests to Council regarding public safety, capital improvement plans or processes, and their appropriation of funds for these items follow what the Strategic Planning Committee has laid out before Council. He commented that it is good to see that this is not merely an exercise but an actual plan being implemented. He expressed his thanks to the three members of the Strategic Planning Committee and to the Finance and Purchasing Division for their efforts.

**Mr. Hetrick** commented that it is great news that public safety and infrastructure remain top priorities. He noted that having parks move up into a higher priority clearly demonstrates that those amenities in the city are critical and are highly-regarded by the residents.

**Mr. Brown** noted that through the last couple of budgeting cycles it is noted that Council receives positive feedback on how the departments look at the established Goals and Objectives throughout the year. He noted that while where things rank have some level of importance, every item is important.

**Vice President Morita** stated that she is the senior Council Member on the committee, and noted that Council takes a 1,000-foot view of the city. She pointed

out that Goal #4 of Recreation, Parks and Cultural, has continually moved up in rank. She commented that this is a quality of life item that the residents expect from the City. She mentioned that capital management includes the implementation of a comprehensive stormwater policy including a long-term funding strategy. She noted that this goal comes from both the members who sit on the Public Safety and Infrastructure Technical Review Committee and through Council's acknowledgement of budgeting issues in that particular capital fund. She stated that the Goals and Objectives should not only be a top-down policy but should include staff feedback. She suggested staff members contact Council Members to provide feedback and ideas.

**Dr. Bowyer** stated that the document should be better communicated to residents. She suggested that future consideration of the Goals and Objectives should include a presentation to better explain what the goals are. She expressed her appreciation to the Council Members who sit on the Strategic Planning Committee.

**President Tisdell** noted that the ascension of Parks in ranking the Goals and Objectives speaks well to the Mayor and to past City Councils that successfully saw the City through the recession years and got the City back on track with capital improvements and local and major street reconstruction programs. He stated that the City is now in a position to reinvest and improve quality of life and will help retain a country feel in a city of over 75,000. He noted that Council's predecessors had some very hard votes to cast in past years.

**Mr. Brown** offered that if there was a desire to have a brief presentation included for the upcoming Budget meeting regarding Goals and Objectives, he would be happy to put something together.

**A motion was made by Hetrick, seconded by Wiggins, that this matter be Adopted by Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye** 7 - Bowyer, Brown, Hetrick, Kubicina, Morita, Tisdell and Wiggins

Enactment No: RES0241-2017

**Resolved**, that the Rochester Hills City Council establish the following as its Fiscal Year 2018 Goals and Objectives:

**GOAL: PUBLIC SAFETY**

Protect the residents, businesses, and visitors of Rochester Hills by providing high quality public safety.

**Objective:** Continue to monitor Fire's Funding Structure.

**Objective:** Continue to examine current levels of police service for effectiveness and efficiency.

**Objective:** Implement strategies to improve Fire and EMS service.

**GOAL: INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT**

Provide reliable, safe, and effective infrastructure (roadways, utilities, buildings, etc...) throughout the City.

**Objective:** Implement a comprehensive storm water policy including a long term funding

strategy.

**Objective:** Continue neighborhood storm water education programs (including HOA leadership).

**Objective:** Establish a cross connection education program.

**Objective:** Develop and review a sump pump discharge inspection program (sanitary vs. storm drain).

**GOAL: ECONOMIC / TAX BASE**

Retain investment, maintain the tax and employment base, support redevelopment, and uphold high property values in the City.

**Objective:** Continue to attract and retain businesses that focus on R&D and "High-Tech".

**Objective:** Continue to review policies and ordinances for the maintenance of existing residential and commercial buildings.

**Objective:** Support implementation of the Auburn Road Corridor Redevelopment Plan.

**GOAL: RECREATION, PARKS, CULTURAL**

Preserve the City of Rochester Hills' natural resources and recreational character.

**Objective:** Review the short and long-term needs of the Park system and provide a plan to meet those needs, including funding.

**Objective:** Examine alternate funding sources for park development.

**Objective:** Implement maintenance program of acquired Green Space and natural feature city owned property.

**GOAL: FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

Establish policies for fiscal responsibility that ensure short and long-term prosperity through effective fiscal planning and efficient management of taxpayer assets.

**Objective:** Continue the policy of forecasting revenues, expenses, and critical factors for up to the next seven years on a rolling basis and begin strategic analysis of the years beyond.

**Objective:** Continue to provide a three-year budget plan.

**GOAL: COMMUNITY TRUST & PARTICIPATION**

Promote effective communication between City Council, administration, residents, businesses, and visitors so that decisions reflect the community's desires and expectations.

**Objective:** Maintain and improve openness and transparency in conducting City business by way of cable broadcast and web cast of City Council meetings, and accessibility to City documents.

**Objective:** Utilize technology to further enhance communication with residents, and allow for online delivery of certain services.

**Objective:** Continue the policy of bi-annual public input via a community survey.

**Objective:** Involve youth in leadership growth and in the development of City's future by way of encouraging their participation on the Rochester Hills Government Youth Council.

**GOAL: COMMUNITY / NEIGHBORHOODS**

Protect the family-oriented community from adverse events and conditions by strategic planning and proactive management in all aspects of municipal governance.

**Objective:** Maintain and improve relationships with homeowner associations/neighborhoods to further neighborhood stability to make the community a better place to live.

**Objective:** Continue to implement code enforcement/blight ordinance effectively to preserve existing neighborhoods.

**Objective:** Continue to evaluate and make recommendation(s) to reduce the adverse impact of the deer population in the City, and educate HOA leadership and homeowners.

**Objective:** Develop a comprehensive notification system to alert residents of emergency situations.

**GOAL: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**

Provide clear policy direction to the administration for the execution of City programs and services to ensure the efficient use of taxpayer funds.

**Objective:** Promote cooperative purchases with other communities, i.e. MITN

**Objective:** Explore opportunities for new public/private partnerships, and possibilities for consolidation of City services.

**Objective:** Encourage administration to identify grants and/or opportunities to share project costs with other agencies.

**GOAL: ENVIRONMENT**

Promote conservation of water, electricity, etc.

**Objective:** To move towards a more green city, not only City Hall and City facilities, but also promotion within the community and businesses and which businesses we attract.

**Objective:** Review potential for the expansion of green programs within the City, and encourage vendor participation.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*None.*

## NEXT MEETING DATE

*Regular Meeting - Monday, August 14, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business before Council, it was moved by Morita, seconded by Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.*

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*MARK A. TISDEL, President  
Rochester Hills City Council*

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*TINA BARTON, MMC, Clerk  
City of Rochester Hills*

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*MARY JO PACHLA, CMMC  
Administrative Secretary  
City Clerk's Office*

*Approved as presented at the August 14, 2017 Regular City Council Meeting.*