



Rochester Hills

Minutes

Deer Management Advisory Committee

*Monique Balaban, William Carlson, Allen Decker, Jim Kubicina,
Thomas McDonald, Joseph Podvin, Linda Raschke
Council Members: J. Martin Brennan, Michael Webber
Youth Representative: Rachel Schlagel*

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Tuesday, August 17, 2010

7:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jim Kubicina called the Deer Management Advisory Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

Present 4 - Allen Decker, Monique Balaban, Jim Kubicina and Joseph Podvin

Absent 3 - Linda Raschke, William Carlson and Thomas McDonald

Others Present:

*J. Martin Brennan, Council Member, Council Liaison to Committee
Lance DeVoe, Park Ranger II
Michael Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry
Michael Webber, Council Member, Council Liaison to Committee*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Studebaker, 136 E. Maryknoll, stated that deer are still prevalent in his subdivision and in the last week he has seen two sets of fawns and one large doe in his yard.

Don Hughes, Auburn Hills resident, stated that the Committee should strive to find long-term methods of reducing car/deer crashes and suggested signs with flashing lights or motion detectors.

Andy Marshall, 2345 Bunker Hill, questioned whether deer signs with more fluorescence could be used.

Michael Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry, noted that Oakland County replaced all the City's deer signs in the past year with signs that had more fluorescence, decreased the distance covered from two miles to one and utilized data provided by Lance DeVoe to place signs in more appropriate locations.

Council Member Mike Webber mentioned the recently-approved radar speed sign project, commenting that several proposed school zone sign locations are also areas of higher car/deer accidents.

Committee Member Joseph Podvin commented that an upcoming State Deer Committee meeting in Lansing will include an agenda item to discuss whether the State Highway Administration or Michigan Department of Transportation might be able to provide some additional movable signage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2010-0342 Approval of Meeting Minutes, Deer Management Advisory Committee - July 20, 2010

Attachments: [072010 DMAC Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Decker, seconded by Balaban, that the Minutes of the Deer Management Advisory Committee meeting of July 20, 2010 be Approved as Presented. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye 4 - Decker, Balaban, Kubicina and Podvin

Absent 3 - Raschke, Carlson and McDonald

Resolved, that the Minutes of the July 20, 2010 Deer Management Advisory Committee Meeting be approved as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEM

2010-0243 Continued Review of the 2010 Aerial Deer Survey Information and 2009 SEMCOG Car-Deer Crash Data

Attachments: [Aerial Survey Memo 031010.pdf](#)

Committee Chairperson Jim Kubicina reported that he had received a response from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stating that the DNR has not changed its policy and does not authorize the use of GonaCon or any other immuno-contraceptives for the control of deer population.

Committee Member Joe Podvin noted that he would bring the DNR's position on immuno-contraceptives up for discussion at the upcoming State Deer Committee meeting.

Committee Member Al Decker questioned what actions are being undertaken at the State level.

Mike Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry, reported that the DNR still plans to develop regional boards or committees to address deer population concerns. He commented that he has conveyed to Tim Payne at the DNR that the City is interested in participating at a regional level when these boards are finally established.

Chairperson Kubicina recapped the Committee's prior motion to purchase three movable signs at not more than \$5,000 total. He questioned whether the Committee wished to have additional discussion on signage.

Council Member Mike Webber commented that he and Council Member Brennan would be ready to take the Committee's recommendations back to Council and the Administration for discussion during the upcoming Budget Meeting. He questioned whether the Brooksie Way signs would be available for use this year after the race event.

Mr. Hartner responded that bids are being sought for four trailers to be moved once and noted that Purchasing is looking at the possibility of retaining the Brooksie Way signs for an additional month at a cost savings. He noted that Lance DeVoe is looking to identify specific locations for the signs.

Mr. Hartner noted that the City will have the Oakland County Sheriff's Office cart available again this year and this will most likely be used again in front of City Hall, giving a fifth location.

Lance DeVoe, Park Ranger II, noted that he would be able to look at the number of accidents on each road next year and see if the numbers differ after sign placement.

Mr. Hartner stated that he believes that signage should yield a positive effect with minimal monies and noted that even if only a few accidents are prevented, the costs of repairs saved and the possibility of someone not being injured makes it worthwhile.

Mr. Podvin noted that last year there were approximately ten fatalities from vehicle-deer crashes, with motorcycles encompassing eight or nine of the fatalities. He reported that there is a push toward awareness among motorcyclists and commented that a Harley-Davidson dealer is participating in an awareness program.

Committee Member Monique Balaban made a motion that two permanent speed zone signs could be placed in high car-deer crash areas that were outside of the school zones as a means to call attention to speeds and slow traffic, and to measure their effectiveness in comparison to movable signs. She noted that if permanent speed zone signs were found to be effective in decreasing crash numbers in these areas, perhaps additional permanent signs could be purchased each year for other locations.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Podvin and after discussion, passed unanimously by those in attendance.

The Committee discussed how many permanent signs would be required to be effective throughout the city.

Mr. DeVoe mentioned that the highest crashes occur on seven roads in approximately a dozen different locations. He noted that each year, one

location may have more crashes than another; however, the roads that have the highest number of crashes seem to remain the same. He commented that Avon Road, Adams Road and Walton Boulevard have high numbers each year. He stated that if requested, he would be able to suggest a location that could benefit from a permanent sign.

Mr. Hartner commented that a permit would have to be obtained from the Road Commission for Oakland County for permanent signs and stated that the City could install a panel underneath the sign noting that it is a high deer crossing area. He also pointed out that the radar speed signs could be used to provide the Sheriff's Department with additional information on vehicle speeds.

Committee Member Al Decker expressed concern that each permanent sign at a cost of approximately \$10,000 would be equivalent to two years' worth of movable signs.

It was determined that once recommended, Purchasing could be asked to structure the Request for Proposal for the Radar Speed Project to allow for the purchase of additional signs to take advantage of unit pricing. It was also noted that efforts will still be undertaken to determine if the State Highway Administration or Michigan Department of Transportation could assist in providing movable signs.

Chairperson Kubicina questioned whether the Committee should continue discussion on the use of paint markings on roadways.

Mr. Podvin noted that he would address the possibility of road markings with the State Highway Officials during his upcoming State Deer Committee meeting.

Chairperson Kubicina asked for any additional Committee ideas to call attention to high crash areas.

Mr. Podvin mentioned that approximately 30,000 flyers might still be available from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) that could be included this year in water bills or for distribution to residents. He commented that he would obtain as many as he could for the City's use again this year.

Chairperson Kubicina reported that Mayor Barnett stated that he would follow up with Oakland University officials to urge continued efforts to clear brush at Avon and Adams.

The Committee discussed and mutually agreed that it will not be necessary to convene any additional meetings for the remainder of this year and would plan to reconvene in May of 2011 when updated aerial survey results and car-deer crash numbers become available. **Mr. Hartner** noted that no motion was necessary regarding this decision. It was discussed that the Committee would most likely present its recommendations to Council some time in September.

A motion was made by Balaban, seconded by Podvin, that this matter be Approved. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye 4 - Decker, Balaban, Kubicina and Podvin

Absent 3 - Raschke, Carlson and McDonald

Resolved, that the Deer Management Advisory Committee recommends to the Rochester Hills City Council that funds be utilized for two permanent speed zone signs to be placed in high car-deer crash areas that were outside of the school zones as a means to call attention to speeds and slow traffic, and to measure their effectiveness in comparison to movable signs.

Further Resolved, if permanent speed zone signs were found to be effective in decreasing crash numbers in these areas, additional permanent signs could be purchased each year for other locations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

None Scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Kubicina adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mary Jo Whitbey.

Minutes were approved as presented/amended at the _____ meeting of the Deer Management Advisory Committee.

Jim Kubicina, Chairperson