



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Final

Deer Management Advisory Committee

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*Terry Scott Bain, Monique Balaban, Christopher Cobb, Allen Decker, Jim Kubicina,
Thomas McDonald, Joseph Podvin
Council Members: J. Martin Brennan, Michael Webber
Youth Representative: Scott Difilippo*

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

7:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jim Kubicina called the Deer Management Advisory Committee meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., Michigan Time.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Allen Decker, Monique Balaban, Jim Kubicina, Thomas McDonald, Joseph Podvin and Christopher Cobb
Absent 1 - Terry Scott Bain

Others Present:

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

Chairperson Kubicina indicated that Committee Member Scott Bain contacted him and that he was detained and would be arriving late.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introductions were made for the benefit of the new member in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michelle Good stated that she was a resident living in the Streamwood area and mentioned that while she has recently seen several deer around her home, she has noticed that there have not been as many dead deer on the roadways. She commented that it is her belief that the flashing signage along the roadways has helped reduce crashes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2011-0419 Approval of Meeting Minutes, Deer Management Advisory Committee - August 17, 2010

Attachments: [081710 DMAC Minutes.pdf](#)
[Resolution.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Balaban, seconded by Podvin, that the minutes of August 17, 2010 be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Decker, Balaban, Kubicina, Podvin and Cobb

Abstain 1 - McDonald

Absent 1 - Bain

Resolved, that the Minutes of the August 17, 2010 Deer Management Advisory Committee Meeting be approved as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEM

2011-0420 Review of 2011 Aerial Deer Survey and 2010 SEMCOG data

Attachments: [Agenda Summary.pdf](#)
[DMAC Recommendations for 2012 report.pdf](#)
[2011 Deer Crashes and Density Trend Analysis\[1\].pdf](#)
[2010 Deer Crash Map 08-10\[1\].pdf](#)

A chart with 2011 numbers for Deer Vehicle Crashes (DVCs), Density and Percent Change from previous years was distributed to those in attendance.

Mike Hartner explained that data was slow in coming from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) as budgets have contracted and many projects are delayed due to lack of personnel. He stated that the information is being related to the Committee as quickly as it was received by the City. He pointed out that deer crashes have decreased from 163 in 2009 to 122 in 2010.

Member Monique Balaban questioned whether breakdown of population numbers for the original five areas studied (prior to the inclusion of five additional areas) could be reviewed.

Lance DeVoe presented the population numbers for the original five areas studied for 2011 and for 2010:

	2011	2010
Butler Ridge:	32	30
Riverbend:	21	20
City Hall/Environmental Education Center Site:	44	26
Bloomer Park:	13	7
Winkler Mill Area:	22	24
Total:	132	107

Mr. DeVoe noted that the population is gradually rising from the 2009 levels. He noted that in 2009, the deer population drastically dropped due to the Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease.

Member Joe Podvin pointed out that the drop in DVC numbers is significant.

He commented that the Committee's educational efforts toward could be a notable factor in this reduction.

***Ms. Balaban** questioned whether additional areas could be included in the coming year's flyover.*

***Mr. Hartner** responded that each area added increases the cost for the flyover. He noted that the flyover is not intended to count every deer in the city, but to show a general trend. He mentioned that no money is allocated in City Council's Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 for either the flyover or for message signage.*

Committee members expressed disappointment that funds were not allocated. It was suggested that members could contact individual Council Members to request they consider allocating funds.

Discussion ensued regarding the possible use of any radar speed signs in high DVC areas. It was mentioned that the grant which provided radar speed signs to the City limited their use to school zones. It was also noted that the several of the speed signs installed in school zones are also in places where DVCs occur.

***Mr. Hartner** suggested that the areas where speed signs are being installed could be monitored to determine whether a decrease in DVCs also occurs in these locations after their installation. He stated that the Committee could make recommendations in its report to Council based on the crash reduction data and request that funding be restored.*

***Chairperson Kubicina** questioned whether Oakland University (OU) would still be cutting brush back in the area of Adams and Avon.*

***Mr. Hartner** responded that OU has cut back due to budget restraints as well, and commented that it does not appear that they will be undertaking the hand-cutting of brush again this year.*

***Committee Member Cobb** noted that there appears to be a correlation between the decrease in DVCs and the areas where the movable signs were placed from 2009 to 2010, with the exception of the areas along Tienken Road, near Fairview Farms Subdivision.*

***Mr. DeVoe** responded that this section of Tienken has always been problematic for DVCs as Fairview Farms has a 50-acre commons area with Sargent's Creek running through it, which attracts deer crossing in that location.*

It was noted that DVCs have decreased 25.22 percent in Rochester Hills, versus a five percent decrease in Oakland County and a seven percent decrease in the area served by SEMCOG.

***Member Tom McDonald** stated that there is quantitative evidence that the recommendations of the Committee that were implemented along with the results attached show that education and reduced speeds have reduced the*

DVCs to the point where the Committee should recommend that City Council not take any lethal action for at least one more year.

Mr. Hartner noted that the FY 2011 budget has funding for sign installation this fall.

Discussion ensued for various funding possibilities. It was questioned whether sign sponsorships could be solicited from area businesses, such as insurance companies. Mr. Hartner indicated that he would contact Tara Beatty in the Mayor's Office to review this possibility with her.

Mr. McDonald questioned whether budget cuts might cause the County or SEMCOG to suspend their programs.

Mr. Hartner stated that that Mr. DeVoe will contact the County and SEMCOG and determine whether program funding will continue.

Council Member Webber questioned whether complaint calls are still being tracked and if they have increased or decreased.

Mr. Hartner responded that staff has been instructed to log all deer complaint calls. He stated that call numbers have decreased.

*After additional discussion on what a report to Council should highlight, It was determined that **Chairperson Kubicina** will prepare a draft report to be distributed among Committee members for comments.*

Mr. Webber mentioned that a report could be scheduled for the October 17th Council Meeting and a request could be made at that time to determine whether Council would support including funding in a future Budget Amendment. He stated that he would present a brief report at the next meeting during Council Committee Reports regarding tonight's meeting and the Committee's concerns for lack of funding for next year.

Discussed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

None Scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Kubicina adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mary Jo Whitbey

*Approved as presented at the August 15, 2012 Deer Management Advisory
Committee.*

Jim Kubicina, Chairperson