

DEARBORN RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION

Jeff Stassen, Chair
Margaret Green, Vice Chair
Greg Orner, Director of Dearborn Recreation and Parks

Commissioners:

Rami Abousaleh; Jamal Aljahmi; Carolyn Blackmore; Mark Bruce, Greg Gomolak;
Warren Hartley; Kevin Kreger; Joseph Kubinski; Michael Macpherson;
John Ruselowski; John Sczomak; Johanna Seidel; Lynn Sherman;
Joe Siciliano; Eugene Smith; EmmaJean Woodyard

REGULAR MEETING

January 14, 2015

Present: Abousaleh; Aljahmi; Blackmore; Gomolak; Green; Hartley; Kreger; Kubinski;
MacPherson; Ruselowski; Sczomak; Seidel; Shamey; Siciliano; Stassen

Excused: Moussa; Sherman; Smith

Also Present: Greg Orner, Director of Dearborn Recreation and Parks
Eric Peterson, Deputy Director of Dearborn Recreation and Parks
Silvio Davis, Dearborn resident
Beth Michael, Dearborn resident
Regan Ford, Dearborn resident

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve December minutes by Seidel; seconded by Shamey. Unanimous approval.

Director Orner distributed information regarding pools.

Five-Year Master Plan

Commissioners Siciliano and Blackmore attended a kick-off meeting with Landscape Architects that included an overview of the Five-Year Master Plan preparation with a complete inventory of facilities and economic inventories. They will reconvene in approximately one month to discuss goals and objectives and will meet with the Federation of Neighborhoods and key residents.

Director's Report

Postponed as pool discussion was anticipated to be lengthy.

Outdoor Pools

City Council had requested that the Dearborn Recreation and Parks Commission make a recommendation on pool locations.

- Commissioner Blackmore asked for permission to withdraw her previous motion regarding the selection of Summer Stephens as the fourth pool. The request for withdrawal was unanimously accepted.



Dearborn Recreation & Parks

Aquatics • Golf • Ice Arena • Camping • Sports • Theater

- Director Orner reported that County Commissioner Woronchak expressed an interest in allocating the Wayne County Parks Millage Funds in the amount of \$218,000 toward the renovation of Whitmore Bolles. Director Orner also reported that there are discussions with the Rotary Club regarding a \$50,000 donation. There will be a briefing for City Council on February 3, 2015 which will include the recommendation for the fourth pool.
- Silvio Davis, Dearborn resident, asked if questions could be asked during Commission deliberations. Chair Stassen stated that comments would have to be made before deliberations.
- Commissioner Shamey made a motion to select Ten Eyck as the fourth pool; seconded by Kubinski.
- Commissioner Shamey stated that a pool that would fit into a community park setting was needed and Ten Eyck meets those requirements. He asked if Whitmore Bolles was primarily on property owned by Dearborn Public Schools. He also stated that he felt Summer Stephens was too small.
- Commissioner Macpherson stated that Ten Eyck was the most distant and had the fewest attendees in the younger age range.
- Commissioner Siciliano stated he agreed with the need for a multi-purpose park.
- Commissioner Ruselowski stated he agreed with the need for a community park.
- Commissioner Stassen stated that the need for a neighborhood park was not as important as having other amenities.
- Commissioner Blackmore stated that Telegraph would be a barrier for people who live east of it.
- Commissioner Stassen stated that parking is a concern at Summer Stephens.
- Commissioner Gomolak stated that additional parking would be needed at Summer Stephens and Whitmore Bolles. He also stated that Whitmore Bolles is essentially on school property, but that should not be a problem. Ten Eyck is a great park, but the primary use would be by kids who live in the immediate neighborhood.
- Commissioner Blackmore asked if the county funding could be used for a park other than Whitmore Bolles. Director Orner responded that his sense was that there was interest in a spray park at Whitmore Bolles.
- Deputy Director Peterson stated that Dearborn Public Schools could be approached about the parking situation at Whitmore Bolles.
- Commissioner Blackmore asked if money would be saved by the demolition of pools. Director Orner responded that reconstruction on the same site may be the best way to save money.
- Commissioner Blackmore asked if we have a “keep going until we break” scenario.
- Deputy Director Peterson stated that the timeline is that Crowley would be demolished in the spring of 2015. In the fall of 2015 there will be a renovation of the 50M and diving pool at Dunworth. The new pools would be constructed in the summer of 2016. When the new pools are up, the old pools would close.
- Commissioner Seidel asked if another pool can be maintained privately if we choose a specific location. Director Orner stated that SOP opted out of this scenario.
- Commissioner Kreger stated that safety issues and utilization is of the most concern. Whitmore Bolles would be a viable option for kids who would bicycle.

- Commissioner Kubinski asked if there was data on spray park usage when there is an adjoining pool. He feels that a splash park is not a good option.
- Deputy Director Peterson stated that a summer's worth of data would be needed to make a reasonable assessment.
- Commissioner MacPherson stated that population density is very important.
- Commissioner Kreger stated that it is nice to have a multifaceted park, but it is better to diversify and balance amenities.
- Commissioner MacPherson stated that Whitmore Bolles can be accessed by larger groups without having to cross major streets.
- Commissioner Ruselowski stated that Whitmore Bolles has the densest population and asked if we prepared to invest beyond the pool itself.
- Deputy Director Peterson stated that property around the former Whitmore-Bolles pool site is mostly owned by Dearborn Public Schools.
- Director Orner stated that Dearborn Public Schools will be approached about property if the Commission recommends it.
- Commissioner MacPherson stated that Summer Stephens did not seem to have the other amenities that other parks did.
- Deputy Director Peterson stated that there would have to be meetings with the neighborhood associations before additional activities could be installed.
- Commissioner Shamey stated that, the busier the kids are, the less trouble there will be at the park.
- Commissioner Aljahmi stated that Lapeer may be a different issue in terms of issues at parks as the people tend to know each other.
- Commissioner Blackmore asked if Whitmore Bolles had a neighborhood association.
- Commissioner Kubinski stated the pool usage is decreasing and asked if we really need the capital expense of pools.
- Commissioner Ruselowski stated he supported renovating pools. He feels more amenities will attract more people to Dearborn.
- Commissioner Shamey stated that this was a great discussion to be having.
- Regan Ford, resident, stated that pools make neighborhoods happy.
- Commissioner Gomolak stated that he felt there are more overall activities at parks that have pools.
- Commissioner Blackmore stated that it is great that four pools are being considered.
- Commissioner Blackmore called the question.
- Director Orner stated that Council has not committed to funding four pools and a spray park.
- Commissioner Stassen stated that Council had not yet made a decision on pools.
- **Chair Stassen asked for a show of hands on the motion to select Ten Eyck as the fourth pool.**
- **One vote for; nine against; three abstentions. Motion did not carry.**
- **Commissioner MacPherson made a motion to select Whitmore Bolles as the fourth pool. Seconded by Kreger.**
- Commissioner Kubinski stated he was concerned that the school would not be able to accommodate the pool.

- Commissioner Gomolak stated that the school would not be open in the summer.
- Commissioner MacPherson called the question.
- **Chair Stassen asked for a show of hands on the motion to select Whitmore Bolles as the fourth pool.**
- **Twelve votes for; zero against; one abstention. Motion carries.**
- Regan Ford, resident, stated that the Dearborn Rotary was initially going to donate \$50,000 for a splash park. They are concerned about public opinion on a splash park. He stated he would do what he could with the Rotary to provide a donation to Whitmore Bolles renovation.
- Deputy Director Peterson stated that there would be a bid out this winter and groundbreaking as soon as frost recedes. Looking at a nine-month construction period. The goal would be to open on Memorial Day of 2016 and to have pools constructed simultaneously.
- Commissioner Kubinski asked how the bid is reviewed.
- Director Orner stated that a low bid is a major criterion but other factors would be considered.
- Commissioner Kubinski volunteered to be part of the selection committee as he has construction experience.
- Commissioner Siciliano asked if the \$800,000 included everything.

New Business

Commissioner Kreger inquired as to who determines where winter outdoor ice rinks are placed. Director Orner said he will get information back to the Commission. The City only provides nozzles and directions.

Director Orner reported that there will not be golf simulators at Dearborn Hills Golf Course as there were no viable bids.

The Chair and Vice Chair approved a \$2,000 expenditure for the Dearborn Track Club.

The DMC is expanding to one of the Club Rooms.

Martina McBride grossed \$46,500. Trace Adkins grossed \$46,500.

Construction on the renovation of the Hubbard Ballroom is moving forward, and it is hoped that it is completed by the end of summer.

The zip line is going for approval to the Milford Township Planning Commission.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:35 p.m. by Ruselowski; seconded by Seidel.