

*Not Yet Approved*  
**CITY OF AUBURN HILLS  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

**August 20, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Hurt-Mendyka called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present. Doyle, Hitchcock, Hurt-Mendyka, Mitchell, Ouellette, Pierce,  
Absent. Beidoun, Kittle, Verbeke  
Also Present. Director of Community Development Cohen, Director of Recreation  
Marzolf, Water Resource Coordinator Keenan  
Guests. 1

**LOCATION:** Community Center, Wesson Room, 1827 N. Squirrel, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

**PERSON WISHING TO BE HEARD –** None

**MINUTES –**

**PETITIONERS –** None

**OLD BUSINESS –**

**Ms. Doyle moved to approve the minutes of August 7, 2008 with noted change.**

**Supported by Ms. Mitchell.**

**VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hitchcock, Hurt-Mendyka, Mitchell, Ouellette, Pierce**

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (6-0)**

Ms. Hurt-Mendyka deviated from the agenda and proceeded with Item 6b.

**6b. Parks & Recreation Plan Update** (6:15 p.m.)

Mr. Cohen and Mr. Marzolf discussed the purpose of the plan is to improve and enhance the community's park system and recreational programs over the next five (5) years.

Key discussion points were the public participation techniques, consider shifting from building new parks to maintaining and improving existing parks, and park planning for the northwest portion of the city. More in depth issues were:

- Enhancing current parks such as third phase of River Woods Park.
- Add lighting to the ball diamond at civic center park.
- Adding play equipment at Hawkwoods and enhancing the nature center.
- Look to partnership and opportunities to expand Amberwood Conservation area for a future park.
- Look for partnership and/or donations in purchasing equipment, up keeping parks and benches for city parks.
- To complete the Riverwalk Project pathway Loop.
- To complete the Northeast Corner pathways loop. Obtaining pedestrian access easements along the Galloway Drain to connect this loop.
- Utilizing the website, water bill mailings, cable channel, and the Auburn Hills Review to make residents aware of a participation survey form to obtain feedback for the resident's needs.
- Exploring grant funding opportunities for land acquisition and park improvement projects.
- Promote small pocket parks in new residential developments that are being proposed.

The two main goals for the Recreation Department are:

- To provide recreation facilities and programs that meet the diverse needs and interests of the community
- To strive to connect its park systems with adjacent neighborhoods and business centers via pathways and trails.

In response to a discussion about partnerships **Mr. David Heilbrun, resident on Bald Mountain Road** stated he was not in favor in naming parks after large corporations.

Pathways are the number one used recreation equipment in the nation per Mr. Marzolf.

Mr. Marzolf stated per the new state law, bike paths are to be constructed ten (10) feet wide.

The Commissioners were very impressed with all of the Department of Parks & Recreation completed projects.

Mr. Cohen and Mr. Marzolf will submit a marked up plan at the next meeting to help visualize the changes being made in the Parks & Recreation Plan.

Mr. Marzolf advised the Commissioners that the Y2009 goals and objectives of the City Councils are:

- Open Space Planning.
- Connecting existing pathways, including Riverwalk.
- Full utilization of the new football field.
- Investigate Hawkwoods for winter use.
- Security cameras in all parks.

Due to limited resources there will not be significant changes made to the next five year Parks & Recreation Plan. (7:39 p.m.)

**6a. Discussion of Amending By-Laws to Change Meeting days for Y2009 (7:40 p.m.)**

Mr. Cohen explained originally by changing the meeting days to Tuesday it had the opposite effect on which was intended. The intent was to have fewer days between Planning Commission meetings and the City Council meetings, but would need to change to the second Tuesdays of the month. All commissioners were in agreement.

**Mr. Pierce moved to amend Article IV. Meetings, Section 1 in the City of Auburn Hills Planning Commission By-laws to state.....**

“Regular meetings of the Planning Commission will be held on the Tuesday preceding the 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council meeting of the month at 7:00 p.m., at the City Council Chamber at 1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326 unless otherwise stipulated. The Chairperson may authorize, as determined by necessity, a date and time change of the regular meeting in accordance with the requirements of the Michigan Open Meetings Act.”

**The change will be become effective January 2009. (7:49 p.m.)**

**Supported by Ms. Doyle.**

**VOTE: Yes: Doyle, Hitchcock, Hurt-Mendyka, Mitchell, Ouellette, Pierce**

**No: None**

**Motion Carried (6-0)**

**NEW BUSINESS – None**

**COMMUNICATIONS –**

In regards to the September 4 Planning Commission meeting Mr. Cohen explained that Brose Parking Lot extension maybe postponed. Also, the PUD for Pitcairn Place on Taylor Road is about to expire and he will be contacting the applicant for follow up.

Mr. Cohen advised the Commissioners that if the drive-thru at Golden Triangle is unnecessary it may not be constructed.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is September 4, 2008.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Tyler  
Clerk III