

## **Park Advisory Commission Resolution on the Fiscal Year 2010 Parks Budget and Proposed Two-Year Financial Plan**

Whereas, a vibrant, extensive, and healthy parks system is part of every great town and city;

Whereas, Ann Arbor Residents value their parks and pay substantial taxes based on the assumption that, in part, they pay for the daily operation of the current excellent park facilities and services;

Whereas, the Park Advisory Commission (PAC) commends staff for their efforts to include PAC members in the budget process as early as possible and as much as possible, and in producing an overall fair and reasonable budget draft that follows PAC's recommended budget priorities to preserve the most affordable facilities and activities for the most number of residents, especially 'captive audiences' such as children, low income, and seniors, particularly where these services are not otherwise available;

Resolved, that PAC recommends that City Council approve the parks budget developed by staff with the exceptions specified below.

Resolved, that PAC recommends that, for FY 2010 and FY 2011, the Leslie Science Nature Center (LSNC) be funded in the amount suggested in the "Amended and Restated Partnership Agreement Between the City of Ann Arbor and Leslie Science and Nature Center" dated May 4, 2009, in order to preserve the unique and critically important environmental education services to City residents and residents in surrounding areas. PAC recommends that this be paid for by closing the city-owned swimming pool at the Mack Open School at the beginning of FY 2010 (July 1, 2009) in consideration of the availability of swimming facilities in that general area that have the capacity to accommodate those residents who currently use Mack Pool for Parks and Recreation programs. PAC further recommends that the facility be offered to the Ann Arbor Public Schools for either purchase, lease, or, if feasible, a joint operations agreement, in order to allow the schools to continue to provide the swimming programs they currently offer at Mack Pool.

Resolved, that PAC recommends that staff will work with representatives of the displaced Mack Pool user groups, including the Dawn Ducks, Masters Swimmers, and Seniors, to find alternative swimming facilities for their activities.

Resolved that PAC recommends that a task force be formed, to include interested seniors in the community and members of the Senior Center Advisory Board, to study the impact of closing the Ann Arbor Senior Center in the second year of the budget; to document adequate alternative services, if any, for the approximately 500 seniors currently using the facility; and to develop a proposal for alternative funding sources to allow for the sustainability of the current Ann Arbor Senior Center. PAC requests that the task force submit its report to PAC by December 1, 2009 so that PAC may review and forward a recommendation to City Council by January 1, 2010, so that Council can advise park staff and users of the Senior Center of their final decision regarding the disposition of the Senior Center well before the proposed closing date of July 1, 2010.