



500 West Big Beaver  
Troy, MI 48084  
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## Green Space Subcommittee

Timothy S. McGee | Committee Chair

Kurt Bovensiepe | Staff Liaison

### Notes: June 13, 2018

#### 1. Call to Order

- a. On June 13, 2018, in the Council Boardroom of Troy City Hall, the Green Space Sub Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

#### In attendance:

- a. Chair Tim McGee, Ida Edmunds, Barbara Fowler, Diane Rowe, Dave Lambert, Mike Brady, Pam Brady, Cindy Hoffman
- b. City staff:  
Kurt Bovensiepe, Public Works Director  
Scott Mercer, Recreation Supervisor  
Laura Campbell, Committee Secretary

#### 2. Approval of notes from May 17, 2018 Meeting

- a. Moved by Mike Brady and seconded by Pam Brady to approve the meeting notes from May 17, 2018 as printed.

#### 3. Update on Review/Action Items:

- a. Discussion and review of updated work in progress (Revised June 16, 2018) report by Chair Tim McGee.

##### i. CHANGES/UPDATES TO REPORT:

- Addition of Section VII – Health Benefits of Small Neighborhood (Pocket Parks), Change on 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet to “better”
- The undeveloped parks number throughout the report should be changed from 11 to 12
- Page 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet from the bottom should be changed from four to one
- Add to Open Space under Private Ownership Inventory – Turtle Woods Preserve (Troy School District passed a resolution to lease/deed 70+ acres in Section 1 to Six Rivers Land Conservancy)
- Once this document is agreed upon, Kurt will have several staff members review for accuracy.

##### ii. 2004 TROY CITY CENTER PRIORITY TASK FORCE (CCPTF) DISCUSSION:

Tim mentioned the committee was originally not going to include the Civic Center as part of the report, but some reference to preserving and enhancing the space needs to be addressed. Mike said it would have been great if we would have actually done some of these things, but cost prohibitive. Ida said it would be great for a developer to do, but not with taxpayer dollars.

The question was asked if residents would really drive to the Civic Center for activities and it was determined they would. The task force expanded from the Civic Center and also wanted a citywide pathway system. The whole concept is a good one but the only way it could be done is with a partnership to help pay for it. Mike mentioned the idea of a dedicated millage for a central park in Troy.

Tim summarized: there are key things throughout the report. The Civic Center must be open to all and quoted “The CCPTF seeks superior quality, within available resources, so that a legacy

can be left for future generations. The community must go beyond what is being done elsewhere. It must lead and not follow.” It is the perfect statement and the way it should be.

Tim mentioned the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy accomplished so much in working with partnerships.

Discussed the current status of the City Manager position. Kurt indicated once a new City Manager is appointed, City Council will direct them on how to proceed with the Civic Center development.

Dave suggested adding an intro to this section that this committee makes no opinion on development plans, but if it should be developed in the future, it should take into account the key features of the property.

**iii. 2020 FUTURES DISCUSSION:**

One of the key points of the Image and Feel Task Force was to improve and implement the Storm Water Management Plan. Kurt indicated portions of the Storm Water Management Plan have been implemented. The City has not established LEED Certification with projects or facilities as it comes with a substantial cost. The Future Land Use Plan has been updated since this report. Villaging/neighborhood nodes and mixed use concepts are being promoted.

Another study recommendation included a boundless playground where everything in the park can be enjoyed despite any disability you may have. Kurt said whenever we develop or reconstruct we always consider making it accessible to all. Currently, not all parks are ADA compliant.

Both reports talked about creating a committee of staff, citizens, businesses that would work with developers and private partnerships. This has not been done. The end result of this committee would be to enhance the village concept throughout the city.

**iv. OTHER DISCUSSION:**

Mike indicated that everyone agrees that pathways are a must have. We need a group of people to fill the City Council Meeting audience with pathway positive people and not just the voices of the angry few who do not want it in my neighborhood. The most vocal will get the attention of City Council. If the majority of the people want the pathways, City Council is going to have to take a stand.

Kurt indicated that in 2009, the city hired a company (Greenway) to do a complete trails and pathways master plan that included complete streets. It was for non-motorized transportation as well as recreation opportunities. It was a \$9 million project in 2009. Since then, the Trail and Pathway program has been revitalized to create interconnectivity for recreation enthusiasts. The current approach is to build the trail/pathway section to show the community what it is and that it actually increases the value. The goal is to get the community behind this and then when we go to do more, the enthusiasts will come and advocate and outweigh the minority in the community who are against it. Kurt really wants to finish Trails and Pathways. The 2009 plan will be added to the website.

It was noted that the trail and pathway continuation/completion would be a great recommendation for this committee.

**v. DISCUSSION of INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED WISH LIST**

Ida feels the committee needs to emphasize the fact that we are a green-rich community and we have much developed and undeveloped green space. We want to continue to fund the parks and develop parks. Somehow we have to put that into part of the report. There is a feeling that there is overdevelopment. It is actually a sign of wealth in the community. We need to communicate better with the community that we do not have control over private property. The value of the green space we have should be opening paragraph for the wish list.

Barbara would like Community Gardens similar to Bloomfield Hills with garden patches for individuals. It would most likely be at the Farm.

Tim's list includes:

- Additional picnic tables and benches in existing parks
- Thinning of existing invasive forestry (Huber Park)
- Water and restroom facilities at all developed parks
- Amphitheater or outdoor shell at Civic Center (preferably) or Boulan Park – Kurt is confident we could get funding for this
- Further development of bike and walking trails
- In the 11 undeveloped parks, a joint working relationship with surrounding residents and/or businesses to adopt a mini-pocket park system with gardens
- Park development with ½ mile radius
- Signage at all parks including undeveloped parks
- Troy Parks/Recreation App
- Bike lanes within the City
- Eliminate growth of invasive species
- Study to create river trails
- Development of Sylvan Lake
- Small dedicated millage .05 (2.25 million annually)

Kurt asked the committee to focus on 1-2 parcels to commit funds to and determine what it would be and what would it look like. Tim mentioned 3 priorities – Sylvan Lake, continuation of pathways, and neighborhood mini-parks.

Dave suggested that with the City Bond expiring (Proposal A and B/Community Center and land acquisition) the committee should recommend to City Council to direct staff to look for ways that bond could be renewed. New bond but not an increase in taxes is easier to sell.

Kurt suggested instead of a renewal of bond to possibly suggest a dedicated millage for parks acquisition, enhancement and maintenance equivalent to the current bond so the end result would be no increase in taxes.

Pam asked what the plan is for having a way to clean up invasive species. Kurt suggested the City join Oakland County CISMA group and City Council authorize CISMA funding to become a resource for the City and residents. Also, discussed the possibility of a booklet with recommendations.

The location of Farmer's Market in the Library parking lot is only temporary. The proposed future location is off of Town Center near the skate park and the City has received federal funding to remove the parking lot. In its place, there will be a drivable grass area. We will be seeking funding next budget year for electrical, gazebo, drainage, etc. Currently waiting to determine success of market this season.

Tim will compile the wish list and send it out this weekend. Please review and make any changes, suggestions, etc.

For the next meeting the report should be complete and ready to turn over to Kurt for staff to put together. Tim would prefer to meet in a Study Session with Council. Kurt suggested limiting members representing the committee to 8-10 because of the space limitations.

The Director of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy sums up their vision for the City of Detroit with, "All great Cities have places where people can meet and play". Tim feels this quote sums things up nicely.

Tim shared how riding a bike gives you a whole different look. Kurt said that is one thing they realized while mapping out the trails and pathways. Their slogan was going to be, "Come see Troy a different way". Riding really allows you to appreciate neighbor landscapes and other things you would not see during a drive.

4. Future meetings/topics/assignments:

- a. June 27, 2018 Meeting
  - i. Finalize work in progress report including wish list recommendations to City staff
- b. July 18, 2018 Meeting
  - i. Review of the report developed by City staff
- c. July 23, 2018 – Council Meeting Presentation in a Study Session?

5. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.