



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: January 9, 2024
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Parks Administration Building, 2230 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

AGENDA

- 1. *Call to Order / Moment of Silence***
- 2. *Pledge of Allegiance***
- 3. *Approval of the Minutes***
 - A. December 12, 2023 Meeting** (attached, pp. 1-4/action item)
- 4. *Public Comment***
- 5. *Communications, Projects & Activities*** (attached, pp. 5-12/action item)
- 6. *Financial & Recreation Reports – December 2023***
 - A. Claims Report** (attached, p. 13/action item)
 - B. Fund Balance Reports** (attached, pp. 14-15/action item)
 - C. Recreation Reports** (attached, pp. 16-22/action item)
- 7. *Old Business***
 - A. Concentrate Media / On the Ground Ypsi Annual Update** (presentation at meeting)
 - B. Director's Comments / Project Updates**
 - C. Fee Structure Subcommittee Appointments** (presentation at meeting)
 - D. Other Old Business**
- 8. *New Business***
 - A. Election of Officers** (action at meeting)
 - B. Preserve Naming Request** (attached, pp. 23-28/action item)
 - C. Other New Business**
- 9. *Executive Session***
- 10. *Commissioners Comments***
- 11. *Adjournment***

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Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: December 12, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Parks Administration, 2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI

Members Present: Janis Bobrin, Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, WCPARC Secretary; Robert Marans, JoAnn McCollum, Brenda McKinney, Yousef Rabhi, and Katie Scott

Members Absent: Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President, Robert Joerg, Evan Pratt

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration; Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Planning and NAPP, Ann Ziolkowski, Communications Manager; Thomas Power, Superintendent of Maintenance & Stewardship; Peter Sanderson, Project Manager; Kira Macyda, Park Planner

Others Present: Jayne Miller, PROS Consulting

1. Call to Order

Ms. Bobrin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 14, 2023, regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023; regular meeting as amended. All ayes, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

Colleen O'Toole, City of Saline Manager, addressed the commission remotely. She informed the commission that some City of Saline staff will be attending the Master Plan public meeting in the evening, but she cannot attend. She wanted to follow up with the commission on some outstanding items from the last master plan meeting including the desire for an indoor aquatics center. She also stated the City of Saline is interested in partnerships with WCPARC.

5. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn provided an overview of the communications for the month, including articles on WEMU Issues in the Environment; an article regarding the Amtrak fence. Mr. Vaughn thanked the leadership of Commissioner Scott on the issue and noted that conversations are ongoing with Amtrak. Also included

was a card from Janice Anschuetz and a copy of the Ypsilanti Gleaning publication highlighting WCPARC 50th Anniversary.

Year in review, 50th anniversary; each facility held events focused on 50th anniversary. Other highlights included MFS acquisition and opening of the Blackbird lodge; the completion of 3.5 miles of B2B trail including, connection to VanBuren Township and M-52 south of Werkner Rd.

Commissioner Marans, wanted to talk about the work that Ann Ziolkowski did for the 50th anniversary. Detroit Riverfront Conservancy also had its anniversary this year and just put out video of history (45-50 min). Are we doing anything more permanent in nature about history of Parks? Riverfront conservancy also has very strong volunteer programs. Matthew may be in touch with Riverfront Conservancy to build up our program.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney, seconded by Mr. Rabhi, to receive and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of November 2023, as submitted. All ayes, the motion was approved.

6. Financial & Recreation Reports – October 2023

A. Claims Report

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of November 2023 was \$1,920,291.47.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the claims for the month of November 2023 as submitted. Roll call vote, 7 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent (Scribner, Joerg, Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. Fund Balance Reports

Mr. Brooks provided an update on the Parks fund and Natural Areas Funds along with the fund balance status for each through November 31, 2023.

Mr. Marans inquired about the projected fund balance. Mr. Brooks noted that the fund balance of \$16M is based on actual activity to date, however there will be additional 2023 expenses through mid-January 2024. The end projection is \$14M in fund balance, but that does not account for committed funds and obligations already made, including large projects such as the B2B and Eastern County Recreation Center.

It was moved by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Marans, to receive and file the financial reports for November 2023 as submitted. All ayes, 3 absent (Scribner, Joerg, Pratt), the motion was approved.

C. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks presented the Recreation Reports for the month of October 2023. He also provided a comparison of revenue vs. expenditures for all facilities. He pointed out that across all facilities there is approximately a \$2M subsidy of WCPARC operating costs.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, to receive and file the Recreation Reports for the month of November 2023. All ayes, 3 absent (Scribner, Joerg, Pratt), the motion was approved.

7. Old Business

A. Master Plan/Strategic Plan Presentation

Ms. Bonfiglio introduced Jayne Miller with PROS Consulting, the firm awarded contract for the update of WCPARC Parks Master Plan and strategic plan. Ms. Miller provided an overview of the consulting team, process, public engagement, timeline and outcomes for the master plan and strategic plan.

Commissioners asked that this be an ongoing update at the monthly meeting from staff.

Ms. McCollum and Ms. McKinney offered to connect with Ms. Miller to connect with community leaders for some underserved areas.

Commissioners also asked for a strategy to include more diversity in the consulting team to engage with all stakeholders in the community.

B. Other Old Business

None.

8. New Business

A. Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center – Natatorium contract

Ms. Leikam presented the project overview for renovations to the MLM natatorium. A grant was submitted for \$900,000 in September and we anticipated hearing about the grant in January 2024. In order to be ready for the renovations, construction documents are needed to prepare the Request for Proposals and receive bids for the project. JFR Architects have been the lead consultant on the project.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. McKinney, to authorize the expenditure in the amount of \$152,982 with JFR Architects to complete the set of construction documents for renovations to the MLM Recreation Center Natatorium as outlined in the memo. Roll call vote, 7 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent (Scribner, Joerg, Pratt). Motion carried.

B. NATAC Round 23 Priorities

Ms. Leikam presented the priorities for NATAC for Round 23. As background, Ms. Leikam also presented background on outreach efforts for NAPP, as requested previously by the Commission.

It was moved by Mr. Ezekiel, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to adopt the Round 23 NATAC priorities as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

C. ALPAC Round 23 Priorities

Ms. Leikam presented the Round 23 ALPAC priorities.

It was moved by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Ezekiel to adopt the Round 23 ALPAC priorities as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

D. B2B – DAA7 Construction Cost Sharing Agreement

Mr. Sanderson explained that WCPARC and the City of Ann Arbor have been collaborating on the planning, design, and construction of a portion of the Border to Border Trail (B2B Trail) that connects the north end of Bandemer Park to the parking lot at Barton Dam on the city's northwest side, also known as B2B Trail Segment DAA7. The City of Ann Arbor solicited bids for Phase I of the project, and bids were presented at the meeting. The recommended bid from Erie Construction is \$1,287,382. The agreement states that the City will pay for 1/3 of the construction cost and that WCPARC will pay for 2/3 of the construction costs. WCPARC has secured a commitment from the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI) to pay for 1/2 of WCPARC's share of the project – ultimately meaning that each of the three organizations will pay for 1/3 of the project (approximately \$429,127 each).

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to authorize the execution of the attached cost sharing agreement with the City of Ann Arbor for B2B Trail Segment DAA7 contingent upon final acceptance by legal counsel and the City of Ann Arbor. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, 0 nays, 4 (Scribner, Joerg, Pratt, Bobrin), the motion was approved.

E. Adoption of 2024 Annual Calendar

The 2024 calendar was presented by Ms. Bonfiglio. Meeting locations will rotate to different facilities and park locations.

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the 2024 calendar as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

F. Other New Business

None.

11. Commissioners / Directors Comments

At the November meeting, the Commission discussed forming a subcommittee to look at fees. Coy will send out via email to set up a meeting for the subcommittee. McKinney, Marans and either Bobrin or Ezekiel volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Last meeting on white paper and Greg Dill presented. Staff is working with Andrew DeLeeuw to target the Parks Millage renewal on the February Board of Commissioners meeting.

Staff is working with UM students from SEAS and business school to work on implementation of climate action plan to reduce carbon footprint of Parks. The project will define the current carbon footprint; look at national trends; outline where Parks can reduce impact and develop a dashboard to track where parks is moving the needle.

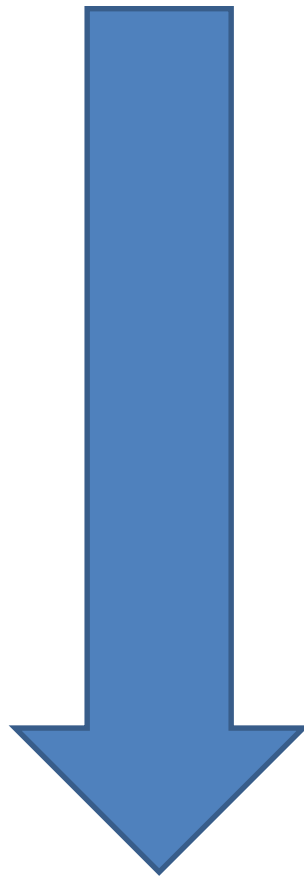
Update on the East Side Recreation Center, there are 3 acres of the project site that were originally presented to the commission that was determined to not be owned by schools. Attorneys are working to quit claim deed that portion to the county. Bids have been received to demo the school building.

12. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Marans, seconded by Ms. McCollum, to adjourn. All ayes, the motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 PM.

Communications, Projects & Activities



DECEMBER 2023 NEWS COVERAGE

mLive - Sale of vacant Ypsilanti-area school building for new \$30M rec center closer to a reality, 12/05/23 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2023/12/sale-of-vacant-ypsilanti-area-school-building-for-new-30m-rec-center-closer-to-a-reality.html>

WEMU 89.1 - Ann Arbor City Council to consider first part of pedestrian railway underpass project, 12/15/23 - <https://www.wemu.org/wemu-news/2023-12-15/ann-arbor-city-council-to-consider-first-part-of-pedestrian-railway-underpass-project>

The Manchester Mirror - New Year Birding Hike in the Leonard Preserve, 12/18/23 - <https://themanchestermirror.com/2023/12/18/new-year-birding-hike-in-the-leonard-preserve-2/>

mLive - Ann Arbor OKs \$1.4M project to pave path through Barton Nature Area, 12/19/23 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2023/12/ann-arbor-oks-14m-project-to-pave-path-through-barton-nature-area.html>



Digital Report - December 2023

This monthly report will highlight our social media outreach, website analytics, newsletters, items in the news, and recent snapshots around the parks.

Monthly comparisons will be used to track data and improve our outreach.

Useful definitions for this report

Impressions

A Facebook metric related to the visibility of our posts is referred to as impressions. Impressions measure the number of times our posts were seen. That includes if one post was seen multiple times by a single user.

Engagement

Engagement measures the number of times someone took action on our posts. That could mean clicking a link, sharing our post, making a reaction or leaving a comment.



Digital Report - December 2023

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

Followers, Impressions, Engagements

Reporting Period	41,405	96	43	99,872	7,110
Dec 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023	↗ 0.2%	↗ 74.5%	↘ 2.3%	↗ 58.3%	↗ 272.6%
Compare to	41,309	55	44	63,085	1,908
Nov 1, 2023 – Nov 30, 2023					
Blue Heron Bay	2,249	3	0	748	0
Independence Lake Co...	3,237	14	15	9,682	193
Meri Lou Murray Recre...	1,736	1	2	1,715	92
Pierce Lake Golf Course	1,224	-1	5	1,680	21
Rolling Hills County Park	23,211	5	9	76,855	6,343
Washtenaw County Par...	6,455	66	6	6,716	322

Instagram

Rolling Hills

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
1,324	1,320	987

Top Post - Project Reveal

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
25	21	31

Instagram

WCPARC

Total Followers

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
3,308	3,228	2,383

Top Post - Bird Hike

How many people reacted to posts

This Month	Last Month	Last Year
44	33	110



Digital Report - December 2023

Facebook/Instagram - Top Posts

Independence Lake Post



**Independence Lake County
Park**

...

Dec 11, 2023 · 🌐

Thank you to all who joined us for Yule Log making last Friday. It was a blast!

Interested in coming to one of our upcoming programs? Please visit parksonline.ewashtenaw.org



WCPARC Post



washtenawcountyparks

...



44 likes

washtenawcountyparks Winter Solstice Bird Hike



Saturday December 16

8 - 10 am

Whitmore Lake Preserve





Digital Report - December 2023

Website, Newsletter, News

Website Statistics

washtenaw.org/parks

Total Page Visits	This Month	Last Month	. Last Year
	11,849	10,256	20,418

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center Washtenaw County, MI https://www.washtenaw.org/497/Meri-Lou-Murray-Recreation-Center		6,169 27.5%	4,831 40.8%
Parks & Recreation Washtenaw County, MI https://www.washtenaw.org/288/Parks-Recreation		1,117 5.0%	901 7.6%
Building Schedules & Holiday Hours Washtenaw County, MI https://www.washtenaw.org/2553/Building-Schedules-Holiday-Hours		681 3.0%	597 5.0%
Rolling Hills Winter Park Washtenaw County, MI https://www.washtenaw.org/2281/Rolling-Hills-Winter-Park		659 2.9%	531 4.5%
Swim Lessons Washtenaw County, MI https://www.washtenaw.org/2815/Swim-Lessons		656 2.9%	584 4.9%

Monthly Newsletter

WCPARC 51% open rate

Newsletter via MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
15,616	8,238	924

Newsletter non MailChimp

Sent to	Opened	Clicks
1,203	N/A	

Photography



Program Highlights

Indy Winter
Solstice Hike

Thomas Power's
son Flynn
with Santa



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Coy P. Vaughn, Director
DATE: January 9, 2024
RE: Project and Activities Update – December 2023

Park Facility Events and Projects

Independence Lake

- 10 families registered in Yule Log making, they created festive centerpieces for the Holidays.
- Over 120 people came to the Solstice night hike. Hikers enjoyed over 100 luminaries along the path and lantern lit trail through Indy Woods. Treats and campfires along with a special guest from the North Pole greeted them upon their return to the Beach Center.
- 28 Volunteers for Stewardship at Indy totaled 74 hours worked in December.
- Staff met with the Consultants to review and finalize the Facility Condition Assessment Reports for both the Beach Center and Maintenance Building, as well as the Schematic designs for renovating the Beach Center, site amenities and improvements to the Maintenance Building.

Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center

- On December 9th, MLM held their first Who-Liday Movie Night. Forty-two members registered. Participants enjoyed face painting, games, and popcorn before watching the movie, The Grinch.
- On December 22, MLM delivered 153 Blessing Bags full of member-donated personal care items and small gifts to the Delonis Center.
- MLM members and guests donated food to fill four large barrels of food for Food Gathers.
- Holiday Camp registration began December 1 and filled quickly. Camp runs the first week of January.

Rolling Hills Park

- Shade canopies and pavilion structure colors and finishes have been selected and materials have been ordered for the Phase III work at the Concessions area. JFR consultant team is finalizing permit documents to be submitted next month.

Staebler Farm Park

- Staff continues to work closely with the architect and contractor to ensure that facility requirements are met in a timely manner and within budget. Remaining punchlist items are being addressed by the Contractor. Staff is working with the Contractor on improving the water quality.
- Consultants from The Collaborative have submitted Design Development plans for the Farmhouse Renovation project. Staff have conducted their review of the plans from a QA/QC perspective along with investigating methods of reducing costs. Finish selections are in progress as well as developing plans for permitting agencies.

Special Initiatives

Border to Border Trail (B2B)

- Segment DAA3 (Zeeb Road to Delhi Metropark) –The project is on seasonal shutdown but is anticipated to be completed this year.
- Segment CS2 (Wylie Road to Parker Road, in Lima Twp) –Work has begun to construct a short bridge over Mill Creek, which is the last major item of work before completing the trail in the spring.
- Segment CS3 (N. Territorial to Boyce Rd in Lyndon Twp) – Work has begun to install a concrete boardwalk, which is being done as a pilot project for WCPARC. The project is anticipated to be completed this year.
- Segment DAA7- Barton-Bandemer Tunnel and Trail:
 - o Engineering team is awaiting plan comments from Amtrak.
 - o A draft construction agreement has been provided by Amtrak and is being reviewed by Ann Arbor’s legal team.
 - o In partnership with the City of Ann Arbor, construction is anticipated to start soon on a segment of trail from Barton Dam, east, across the Barton Nature Area. Work is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2024.
- Engineering and permitting are in various stages for the following trail segments:
 - o Delhi Metropark to Wagner Road (Segment DAA4) – Permit review at Amtrak in process.
 - o Dexter-Chelsea (Segment CD3) Mill Creek Park in Dexter.

Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP)

Stewardship

- Invasive plant removal has occurred at Park Lyndon and mowing has occurred at Leonard Preserve and Sharon Mills County Park.
- An RFP has been released to determine contracting for the boardwalk and path construction at Highland Preserve.

Interpretive and Volunteer Programming

- 76 patrons attended nature programs.
- In December, 87 volunteers engaged in 224 hours of volunteer activity. The primary activity focus was on stewardship at County Farm Park, Independence Lake Park, and across multiple preserves.
- Of special note, for the first time, volunteers joined WCPARC staff for rotations at Park Lyndon, with 16 volunteers working with 6 staff members for a special stewardship experience in one of our region’s most valuable natural areas.

Other

- Staff began preparing the Annual Report, which is expected to be completed this winter.
- The master planning team held five focus group sessions and the first Public Forum. The My Social PinPoint custom planning website was launched. Staff is finalizing questions for the Community Needs Assessment.



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

December 2023 - Claims Report

PARK / FACILITY / FUNCTION	UTILITIES	DIRECT PURCHASES	OTHER	TOTAL
Administration	\$ 1,084.48	\$ 2,946.82	\$ 36,511.92	\$ 40,543.22
Recreation Center	21,379.29	3,360.01	21,302.22	46,041.52
Park Maintenance	1,640.22	8,657.92	50,182.92	60,481.06
Pierce Lake Golf Course	1,645.50	2,666.14	3,311.33	7,622.97
Independence Lake	2,854.29	2,716.67	38,325.38	43,896.34
Rolling Hills	4,065.07	7,837.55	23,319.19	35,221.81
Parker Mill	142.00	-	12,468.50	12,610.50
Sharon Mills	104.58	-	2,426.76	2,531.34
Staebler Farm	1,450.93	4,982.67	20,213.01	26,646.61
Swift Run Dog Park	-	-	2,130.00	2,130.00
Capital Improvement	-	-	354,501.57	354,501.57
Committed Funding Partnerships	-	-	-	-
Commission	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ 34,366.36	\$ 33,167.78	\$ 564,692.80	\$ 632,226.94
Road Millage Fund	-	-	637,055.71	637,055.71
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 637,055.71	\$ 637,055.71
Natural Areas Preservation Program				
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 263,206.12	\$ 263,206.12
Preserve Management	-	3,392.40	30,612.68	\$ 34,005.08
NATAC	-	-	-	\$ -
Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,564.00	\$ 1,564.00
Annual Monitoring	-	-	-	\$ -
ALPAC	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ 3,392.40	\$ 295,382.80	\$ 298,775.20
	34,366.36	33,167.78	1,201,748.51	1,269,282.65
TOTAL	\$ 34,366.36	\$ 36,560.18	\$ 1,497,131.31	\$ 1,568,057.85

It was moved by _____ and supported by _____
to approve payment of claims in the amount of..... **\$ 1,568,057.85**

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - DECEMBER 31, 2023

#6b

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/23)	14,586,961	100%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	9,130,705	9,388,245	103%	257,540
State Grant Funds	-	-		-
Fees & Services	3,635,000	4,749,309	131%	1,114,309
Interest Earnings	150,000	660,053	440%	510,053
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>545,315</u>	<u>321,916</u>	59%	<u>(223,400)</u>
Total Revenue	13,461,020	15,119,523	112%	1,658,503
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(6,960,950)	(7,487,705)	108%	(526,755)
Supplies & Other Services	(3,138,415)	(2,701,903)	86%	436,512
Internal Service Charges	(1,068,148)	(1,100,706)	103%	(32,558)
Capital				
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-
CIP/Development	(3,100,000)	(2,450,609)	79%	649,391
Contingency	(326,500)	(194,941)	60%	131,559
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(844,278)</u>	<u>(551,699)</u>	65%	<u>292,579</u>
Capital Subtotal	(4,270,778)	(3,197,249)	75%	1,073,529
Transfers Out	(1,490,830)	(1,483,924)		
Total Expense	<u>(16,929,121)</u>	<u>(15,971,487)</u>	94%	950,728
Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,468,101)	(851,964)		
Operating Reserve	(9,130,705)	(9,130,705)		
2023 Funding Commitments (Partnerships)	<u>(606,528)</u>	<u>(1,694,018)</u>		
	(9,737,233)	(10,824,723)		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/23)	<u>10,512,332</u>	<u>13,734,997</u>		

WASHTENAW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NATURAL AREAS PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FUND BALANCE STATEMENT - DECEMBER 31, 2023

Beginning Fund Balance (1/1/23)	6,865,636	100%	YTD % Budget	
Revenue (Budget)		Revenue (Actual)		Variance
Property Tax	4,861,064	4,993,152	103%	132,088
Federal Revenue	-	-		-
Interest Earnings	50,000	352,925	706%	302,925
Other Revenue & Reimb.	<u>5,000</u>	<u>11,350</u>	227%	<u>6,350</u>
Total Revenue	4,916,064	5,357,427	109%	441,363
Expense (Budget)		Expense (Actual)		Variance
Personnel Services	(661,045)	(773,527)	117%	(112,482)
Supplies & Other Services	(349,738)	(264,616)	76%	85,122
Internal Service Charges	(25,721)	(68,817)	268%	(43,096)
Capital				
Land Acquisition	(2,550,000)	(1,791,958)	70%	758,042
Land Development	-	-		-
Machinery & Equipment	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(18,475)</u>	370%	<u>(13,475)</u>
Capital Subtotal	(2,555,000)	(1,810,433)	71%	744,567
Total Expense	<u>(3,591,504)</u>	<u>(2,917,393)</u>	81%	674,111
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,324,560	2,440,034		
Projected Fund Balance (12/31/23)	<u>8,190,196</u>	<u>9,305,670</u>		

**ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
DECEMBER**

	GATE									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	1,487	1,273	2,225	2,240	2,030	\$ 40,770	\$ 38,190	\$ 66,750	\$ 67,200	\$ 60,900
NON-RESIDENT (ANNUAL)	178	106	216	294	301	6,840	4,770	9,720	13,230	13,545
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	12,744	4,129	9,513	13,370	11,985	76,464	24,774	57,078	80,218	71,911
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	18,904	1,621	8,777	21,399	20,833	189,040	16,210	87,770	213,986	208,333
SENIOR (DAILY)	900	240	546	724	701	2,700	720	1,638	2,172	2,103
SENIOR NON-RES. (DAILY)	624	32	267	527	566	3,744	192	1,602	3,162	3,396
BUSES (DAILY)	132	-	4	85	102	3,960	-	120	2,550	3,060
ANNUAL BUS	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	300	300
MINI BUS	44	1	4	15	62	660	15	60	465	930
ANNUAL MINI BUS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>35,013</u>	<u>7,402</u>	<u>21,552</u>	<u>38,655</u>	<u>36,582</u>	<u>\$ 324,178</u>	<u>\$ 84,871</u>	<u>\$ 224,738</u>	<u>\$ 383,283</u>	<u>\$ 364,478</u>
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:										
ANNUAL	10.69%	7.69%	8.85%	11.60%	12.91%					
DAILY	58.87%	27.45%	47.34%	60.87%	62.78%					

WATER PARK POOL ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAILY ENTRANCE	<u>123,418</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>38,778</u>	<u>107,570</u>	<u>99,890</u>	<u>\$ 1,040,014</u>	<u>\$ 48</u>	<u>\$ 402,006</u>	<u>\$ 1,211,024</u>	<u>\$ 1,173,657</u>
	123,418	4	38,778	107,570	99,890	\$ 1,040,014	\$ 48	\$ 402,006	\$ 1,211,024	\$ 1,173,657

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAYCAMP	1,941	-	1,759	2,940	159	\$ 52,405	\$ -	\$ 47,485	\$ 79,393	\$ 98,497
AQUATICS PROGRAMMING	726	-	1,453	-	-	2,731	-	4,952	-	-
RIVER WALKING	-	-	-	3,514	3,565	-	-	-	11,996	11,800
DISC GOLF	4,488	3,092	3,180	3,291	1,453	8,976	6,184	6,360	6,582	5,987
SPECIAL EVENTS	<u>3,481</u>	<u>866</u>	<u>1,755</u>	<u>2,168</u>	<u>761</u>	<u>43,242</u>	<u>11,052</u>	<u>22,241</u>	<u>20,584</u>	<u>24,301</u>
	10,636	3,978	8,147	11,913	5,938	\$ 107,354	\$ 17,236	\$ 81,038	\$ 118,554	\$ 140,585

**ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
DECEMBER**

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS (cont'd)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
FACILITY RENTALS										
WEEKDAYS	26	2	44	47	38	\$ 2,543	\$ 40	\$ 4,505	\$ 4,805	\$ 3,910
WEEKENDS	160	17	152	185	169	19,102	1,560	20,100	24,550	21,735
SOCCER FIELDS	5,289	192	192	592	3	15,200	550	550	1,700	7,340
DISC GOLF COURSE	-	-	475	14	15	-	-	950	1,300	1,550
	5,475	211	863	838	225	\$ 36,845	\$ 2,150	\$ 26,105	\$ 32,355	\$ 34,535
TOBOGGANS	229	-	760	689	202	\$ 687	\$ -	\$ 2,280	\$ 3,445	\$ 2,020
CROSS COUNTRY SKIS	177	-	936	512	258	531	-	2,808	2,560	2,580
MISC. RETAIL	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	15	-
	406	-	1,696	1,204	460	\$ 1,218	\$ -	\$ 5,088	\$ 6,020	\$ 4,600
LOCKERS	23,002	-	5,420	24,894	21,664	\$ 5,751	\$ -	\$ 1,355	\$ 6,224	\$ 5,416
FOOD CONCESSIONS	113,264	-	42,038	100,383	96,577	226,386	-	80,216	244,395	286,212
MISCELLANEOUS	596	-	299	1,242	1,419	3,198	-	1,738	14,069	20,271
GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	44	4	4	10	30	777	478	602	1,055	3,093
	136,906	4	47,761	126,529	119,690	\$ 236,111	\$ 478	\$ 83,911	\$ 265,742	\$ 314,992
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	311,854	11,599	118,796	286,710	262,785	\$ 1,745,720	\$ 104,783	\$ 822,886	\$ 2,016,979	\$ 2,032,847

**RECREATION CENTER
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
DECEMBER**

MEMBERSHIPS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	1,062	395	451	846	990	\$ 222,072	\$ 73,046	\$ 95,273	\$ 188,431	\$ 230,313
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	22	6	7	12	9	6,670	2,070	1,784	4,405	2,968
S/Y/D RESIDENT	1,539	483	544	852	1,114	252,971	81,080	92,497	160,533	208,534
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	4	3	1	6	7	1,050	788	278	1,606	1,966
FAMILY RESIDENT	313	139	129	205	255	121,300	45,269	42,076	78,849	111,622
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	2	1	1	1	1	1,480	735	767	882	882
FAMILY - ADDT'L MEMBER	20	9	4	3	6	1,268	607	214	145	450
SENIORS OVER 80	446	147	221	296	251	26,670	9,000	13,891	19,440	16,690
PERSONAL TRAINERS	19	1	4	3	4	6,235	550	1,075	1,325	1,925
MILITARY PASS	4	5	3	15	22	540	918	576	3,050	4,668
30-DAY PASS	816	480	809	549	607	35,517	19,764	37,662	31,430	35,757
SEASONAL PASS	126	-	-	-	-	9,920	-	-	-	-
REPLACEMENT PASS	-	37	9	8	5	-	37	9	8	5
SUB-TOTAL	4,373	1,706	2,183	2,796	3,271	\$ 685,692	\$ 233,864	\$ 286,102	\$ 490,103	\$ 615,780
PASS FACILITY USE	173,131	56,353	104,829	138,050	142,111					
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	0.95%	0.97%	0.79%	0.99%	0.72%					

DAILY ENTRIES

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT	9,277	2,552	639	3,442	5,484	\$ 74,216	\$ 20,416	\$ 5,665	\$ 33,738	\$ 54,840
INDIVIDUAL NON-RESIDENT	1,016	212	153	356	481	9,144	1,908	2,459	4,102	5,772
S/Y/D RESIDENT	8,149	2,122	709	3,042	4,972	48,894	12,732	4,782	24,371	38,335
S/Y/D NON-RESIDENT	364	105	41	959	199	2,548	735	296	6,894	1,675
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS RESIDENT	217	-	1	88	813	1,312	264	8	528	4,794
INDIVIDUAL FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	6	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-
SENIOR FITNESS RESIDENT	608	-	-	222	1,282	3,365	756	-	1,085	6,750
SENIOR FITNESS NON-RESIDENT	18	-	-	-	-	35	14	-	-	-
DAILY PASS/GIFT CERTIFICATE SALES	-	-	3	1	100	4,704	450	634	10	600
SUB-TOTAL	19,655	4,991	1,546	8,110	13,331	\$ 144,227	\$ 37,275	\$ 13,844	\$ 70,728	\$ 112,766
PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:	7.14%	6.35%	12.57%	16.22%	5.14%					

**RECREATION CENTER
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
DECEMBER**

		OTHER REVENUE									
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAYCAMP		3,299	23	13	2,851	154	\$ 89,077	\$ 630	\$ 360	\$ 76,980	\$ 82,011
RECREATION PROGRAMS		38,336	16,389	18,749	25,363	28,350	215,084	35,060	80,179	171,690	213,520
FACILITY RENTALS	POOL/STUDIO/GYM	280	106	100	-	-	6,712	2,554	2,400	-	-
	PARTY PAVILION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC. RETAIL		-	102	104	17	150	11,892	2,838	3,230	101	4,534
LOCKERS		33,102	9,068	5,600	10,992	12,764	8,276	2,267	1,400	2,748	3,191
VENDING		-	-	-	-	-	1,809	1,208	-	-	-
	SUB-TOTAL	<u>75,017</u>	<u>25,688</u>	<u>24,566</u>	<u>39,223</u>	<u>41,418</u>	<u>\$ 332,850</u>	<u>\$ 44,557</u>	<u>\$ 87,569</u>	<u>\$ 251,519</u>	<u>\$ 303,256</u>
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:		272,176	88,738	133,125	188,179	200,131	\$ 1,162,770	\$ 315,696	\$ 387,515	\$ 812,351	\$ 1,031,802

PIERCE LAKE GOLF COURSE
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
DECEMBER

GREEN FEES

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
WEEKDAYS										
REGULAR - 9	943	708	780	425	410	\$ 7,483	\$ 8,028	\$ 9,316	\$ 10,845	\$ 10,271
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	525	671	666	499	527	7,532	11,325	11,151	10,820	10,966
LEAGUES - 9	4,104	2,771	3,439	3,397	4,344	65,931	47,585	58,463	67,643	78,567
REGULAR - 18	2,163	3,995	3,436	9,407	10,592	64,694	120,367	117,536	195,785	213,226
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	4,379	3,481	4,645	4,477	4,071	88,380	83,348	109,134	99,922	110,191
TWI-LIGHT	1,948	2,140	1,512	928	862	32,318	42,495	29,025	19,388	19,463
WEEKENDS					-					-
REGULAR - 9	250	261	244	347	331	5,486	6,713	6,159	10,713	9,966
SR/JR/STUDENT - 9	39	38	12	43	54	624	722	228	875	1,237
REGULAR - 18	3,647	3,621	5,349	3,120	3,030	121,243	129,314	194,296	122,279	119,499
SR/JR/STUDENT - 18	289	252	496	953	583	7,514	7,288	14,532	28,375	21,451
TWI-LIGHT	1,295	1,390	819	25	455	29,665	35,440	20,666	11,260	13,255
EARLY BIRD - 9	58	36	35	13	13	928	684	665	299	299
MEMBERSHIPS					-					-
ULTIMATE PACKAGE	426	523	681	1,463	2,126	9,500	14,776	26,598	47,430	47,083
WEEKDAY PACKAGE	765	1,218	1,518	204	594	9,400	10,257	14,921	13,225	18,725
WEEKEND PACKAGE	139	-	183	15	25	750	-	800	1,650	1,650
TWI-LIGHT PACKAGE	355	320	284	70	58	5,525	3,850	4,575	8,225	5,450
OUTINGS (WEEKDAYS & WEEKENDS)	<u>1,176</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>788</u>	<u>1,278</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>35,911</u>	<u>2,668</u>	<u>28,810</u>	<u>47,512</u>	<u>58,064</u>
	22,501	21,517	24,887	26,664	29,660	\$ 492,885	\$ 524,860	\$ 646,875	\$ 696,245	\$ 739,361

PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CARTS	17,554	16,932	20,384	18,833	19,408	\$ 118,507	\$ 116,564	\$ 143,451	\$ 105,067	\$ 109,991
RENTALS	<u>66</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>280</u>
	17,620	16,960	20,423	18,850	19,436	\$ 119,167	\$ 116,844	\$ 143,841	\$ 105,237	\$ 110,271
FOOD & BEVERAGE	45,070	30,652	49,034	48,767	52,673	\$ 120,885	\$ 83,482	\$ 136,280	\$ 142,981	\$ 167,150
PRO SHOP	3,371	2,803	3,533	3,356	3,652	37,896	34,105	45,381	47,941	\$ 51,659
DISCOUNTS	-	-	-	-	3,843	(70,937)	(89,287)	(135,486)	-	(11,516)
VENDING	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>817</u>	<u>1,299</u>	<u>1,058</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	48,441	33,455	52,567	52,123	56,325	\$ 88,661	\$ 29,599	\$ 47,233	\$ 190,921	\$ 207,293
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE	88,562	71,932	97,877	97,637	105,421	\$ 700,713	\$ 671,303	\$ 837,950	\$ 992,404	\$ 1,056,925

**INDEPENDENCE LAKE COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
DECEMBER**

	GATE									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	996	1,060	1,345	1,137	1,028	\$ 28,920	\$ 31,800	\$ 40,350	\$ 34,110	\$ 30,854
NON-RESIDENTS (ANNUAL)	176	192	345	362	329	7,380	8,640	15,525	16,290	14,805
RESIDENTS (DAILY)	5,666	5,299	6,769	5,695	6,274	33,996	31,794	40,614	34,170	37,644
NON-RESIDENTS (DAILY)	4,920	4,565	6,848	6,264	6,692	49,200	45,650	68,480	62,640	66,920
SENIOR (DAILY)	581	524	769	639	702	1,743	1,572	2,307	1,917	2,106
SENIOR-NON RES. (DAILY)	323	262	401	474	562	1,938	1,572	2,406	2,844	3,372
BUSES (DAILY)	19	-	8	18	35	570	-	240	540	1,050
ANNUAL BUS	8	-	-	1	1	150	-	-	150	150
MINI BUS	20	3	10	35	54	300	45	150	525	810
ANNUAL MINI BUS	15	3	4	3	3	525	225	300	225	225
	12,724	11,908	16,499	14,628	15,680	\$ 124,722	\$ 121,298	\$ 170,372	\$ 153,411	\$ 157,936

PERCENT OF NON-RESIDENTS:

ANNUAL	15.0%	15.3%	20.4%	24.1%	24.2%
DAILY	45.6%	45.3%	49.0%	51.5%	51.0%

BLUE HERON BAY ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BHB ANNUAL PASSES	132	-	12	125	83	\$ 2,388	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 5,530	\$ 6,473
BHB DAILY ENTRANCE	12,725	-	6,723	15,246	21,237	47,212	-	27,372	67,236	75,991
	12,857	-	6,735	15,371	21,320	\$ 49,600	\$ -	\$ 27,672	\$ 72,766	\$ 82,464

BLUE HERON BAY RETAIL OPERATION

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
FACILITY RENTALS	4	-	25	48	75	\$ 80	\$ -	\$ 925	\$ 2,980	\$ 5,355
SPECIAL EVENTS	3	-	1	-	2	250	-	180	-	270
	7	-	26	48	77	\$ 330	\$ -	\$ 1,105	\$ 2,980	\$ 5,625
LOCKERS	143	-	-	172	41	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43	\$ 10
FOOD CONCESSIONS	10,229	118	7,361	15,702	13,792	21,434	125	15,755	37,397	46,845
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	39	2	31	34	14	55	50	83	56	28
	10,411	120	7,392	15,908	13,847	\$ 21,524	\$ 175	\$ 15,838	\$ 37,495	\$ 46,883

**INDEPENDENCE LAKE COUNTY PARK
YEAR-TO-DATE PARTICIPATION & REVENUE REPORT
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	PROGRAMMING & RETAIL OPERATIONS									
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DAYCAMP	1,490	6	1,960	2,149	94	\$ 40,217	\$ 150	\$ 52,910	\$ 58,036	\$ 60,906
DISC GOLF	333	4,871	5,408	3,057	2,213	666	9,742	10,816	6,114	7,630
SPECIAL EVENTS	362	349	835	771	302	6,602	6,104	10,892	9,532	9,563
	<u>2,185</u>	<u>5,226</u>	<u>8,203</u>	<u>5,977</u>	<u>2,609</u>	<u>\$ 47,485</u>	<u>\$ 15,996</u>	<u>\$ 74,618</u>	<u>\$ 73,682</u>	<u>\$ 78,099</u>
FACILITY RENTALS										
WEEKDAYS	73	9	22	1	26	\$ 4,725	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,170	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,150
WEEKENDS	86	34	97	-	112	10,175	4,100	10,340	11,460	13,185
	<u>159</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>\$ 14,900</u>	<u>\$ 5,100</u>	<u>\$ 12,510</u>	<u>\$ 15,960</u>	<u>\$ 16,335</u>
ROW BOATS-HOURLY	144	-	136	113	96	\$ 720	\$ -	\$ 680	\$ 565	\$ 480
ROW BOATS-DAILY	32	-	39	25	33	640	-	780	500	660
PADDLE BOATS-1 HOUR	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	434
PADDLE BOATS-1/2 HOUR	449	0	589	346	289	3,143	-	4,123	2,422	2,023
SINGLE KAYAK-2 HOURS	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	160
DOUBLE KAYAK-2 HOURS	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	360
	<u>625</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>764</u>	<u>484</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>\$ 4,503</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,583</u>	<u>\$ 3,487</u>	<u>\$ 4,117</u>
FOOD CONCESSIONS	6,972	5,287	6,536	5,181	4,704	\$ 11,876	\$ 10,739	\$ 14,910	\$ 10,704	\$ 14,983
ACCESSORIES/MISC.	33	21	15	18	17	130	112	102	28	25
	<u>7,005</u>	<u>5,308</u>	<u>6,551</u>	<u>5,199</u>	<u>4,721</u>	<u>\$ 12,006</u>	<u>\$ 10,851</u>	<u>\$ 15,012</u>	<u>\$ 10,731</u>	<u>\$ 15,008</u>
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
YTD TOTAL PARTICIPATION & REVENUE:	45,973	22,605	46,289	57,616	58,861	\$ 275,070	\$ 153,420	\$ 322,709	\$ 370,512	\$ 406,467



Policy for naming or renaming parks, preserves or facilities, including memorial/honorarium features.

The Policy

Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC) parks and facilities are generally named for a geographic area or a natural/historic feature. Parks and facilities may also be named to reflect a person of historic or outstanding civic service and/or where appropriate, naming may also recognize significant historic, material, and/or financial contributions to WCPARC. Markers may be placed in parks and on recreational facilities honoring or memorializing individuals and organizations.

Procedure for Requesting Permission

Anyone wishing to name or rename a WCPARC park or facility or erect a memorial/honorarium in a park or within a facility, must submit his or her request in writing to the Director of WCPARC with a sufficient explanation of the proposal to enable the director to make a determination that the naming or memorial is justified. The factors to be taken into consideration by the director will include, but not limited to the following:

1. The reason for the naming or renaming or erection of a memorial/honorarium.
2. The contribution or other factors for which the person is being memorialized/honored, or the park or facility named;
3. Whether and to what extent the facility or park has been financed by the person being honored or by the persons wishing to honor him/her;
4. Whether and to what extent the appropriate and/or impacted communities support the proposal;
5. Any other factors, which would support the request.

Naming/Renaming

1. The Director's considerations regarding the naming or renaming of parks, natural areas or facilities, shall be guided by the following considerations:
 - o Recognized geographic names;
 - o Natural historic features;
 - o Significant historic contributions;
 - o Significant material contributions;
 - o Significant financial contributions;
 - o Persons of historic service to WCPARC or Washtenaw County;
 - o Persons of outstanding civic service to the County;
 - o Documented community support.

2. If the naming request meets the required criteria, the Director will prepare a recommendation and schedule the proposal for a Commission meeting agenda. The requesting person(s) or organization(s) may present their request to the Commission at the meeting.
3. The Commission will review the request and the Director's recommendation and will take final action on the proposal.
4. The requestor will be notified via letter of the Commission's decision. The letter will outline, if applicable, those areas that did not meet the criteria.

Questions?

Petitioner Name: Daniel Ezekiel

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What is proposed (naming, renaming or erection of a memorial/honorarium) and what is the purpose?

I hereby petition the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to name the recently acquired parcel along the Huron River in Scio Township as follows:

JOHN S. RUSSELL NATURE PRESERVE

2. What are significant contributions or other factors for which the person is being memorialized/honored or the park or facility named?

This land was bought from the estate of Mr. Russell who owned it since about 1960, extensively documented and improved the mix of species, and allowed many people, including his students, to appreciate and enjoy nature there.

Mr. Russell was a long-term Conservation teacher at the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Among many other achievements, he was instrumental in organizing the first Earth Day celebration in Ann Arbor, which was the first ever held in the world, in 1970. This celebration led to the passage of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and much other important environmental legislation.

Mr. Russell also originated and maintained the Pioneer Prairie, at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School, including extensively introducing students to controlled burns to maintain the prairie.

Mr. Russell was a former member of NATAC.

Mr. Russell sold a conservation easement on the farm where he lived, in Lodi Twp., to ALPAC.

Here is the text of a letter from a former student of Mr. Russell, Grace Rother:

Remembering John Russell

My path first crossed with John's my freshman year of high school: he was Mr. Russell to me then, my biology teacher. John's classroom fulfilled my every expectation of how learning science should look and then some. Each available surface was crammed with slightly pungent specimens, variously preserved, carefully curated to aid in our understanding of the world around us. There were bundles of dead plants and tanks of live creatures. Hanging in a place of pride was a blue and white plaque reading: GIVE EARTH A CHANCE. John's teaching methods matched the decor. Students with high test scores were awarded the privilege of feeding "steak" (roadkill) to a tank of

piranhas. Those unfortunates caught chewing gum in class were forced to spit it into a special jar, a veritable cesspool of student DNA clinging to layers of pastel wads. It was a hard class and John's expectations of us were high. From bell to bell he delivered knowledge verbally and it was all on the test. I never got to feed the piranhas, not even the leeches. Luckily my enthusiastic engagement in our outdoor adventures and a lack of squeamishness with dissections (sometimes also roadkill) made up for my abysmal test scores. This meant that come spring I got to don a metal backpack full of water and help burn the Pioneer Prairie while most of my classmates were dodging fleeing rodents along the perimeter.

My last semester of high school I took a community resource class with John (by then reluctantly retired) called K.I.D.S.G.O.N.E.W.I.L.D. Yes, that is an acronym. John couldn't resist them, and he was particularly pleased with that one. It stands for: Kids Invested in Developing Strategies for Gaining and Organizing the Nuclear Experiences from Wilderness through Independence, Learning, and Decisioning. Every week four of us students met up at John's pole barn, or by the river, or at the gravel pit. In those settings John shone as an educator. He taught us how to walk in the woods. How to butcher a deer. How to harvest honey. Each lesson plan was grounded in science and delivered to us like magic. In addition to our lessons we had the privilege of witnessing John in his natural habitats. We rattled around the farm in his Land Rover and chatted with his neighbors. We spent a blissful few hours grinding rocks in his best friend's garage. We met his ecologist peers and walked their land with a particular kind of respect. I came away from that class with a new set of eyes and a wider perspective on how life could be lived.

I stayed in Ann Arbor after high school and ran with a nature loving crowd, so our social circles overlapped and I often heard about John from friends. We kept in touch sporadically, in that way that students and teachers who like each other sometimes do. I told him about my various plans and projects, he kept me apprised of new developments with his interspecies adoptee, Tiny Bear, and his conservation battles with local government. Over the years our communication increased and became more regular. For the last few years we chatted monthly. I can't speak for John, but I just found that I wanted more of him in my life as I got older and my world expanded. It is a special thing, to be friends with someone half a century your senior. John's insights gave me the power to glimpse the future as well as peer into the past. When I moved away from our shared county he kept me connected to the beloved land where I was born and nurtured my sense of belonging. In John's stories the land and its non-human inhabitants were frequent characters. He loved to gossip about his neighbors in their apartments- geese who had built their nests on top of muskrat dens in the pond. His closest companion was undoubtedly a raccoon. But his human relationships were important too, and he knew which of his people were also my people and kept me well informed on everyone's goings on. He modeled chosen family beautifully.

John was an educator to his core. When the pandemic began he explained the science of testing and vaccines to me with a biology teacher's patience. If our conversations lagged I would tell him about the trees I could see from my apartment window and he would tell me everything he knew about them, starting with science and ending with a personal anecdote. At some point John became my friend as well as my teacher. When Tavi and I got married he sent us a beautiful card, stuffed with Tiny Bear's fur. I understood the sentiment completely! He checked in when I wrote

from a place of grief or sadness, his voice full of the same concern he expressed at raccoons crossing a busy road. He collected stories to tell me and I did the same for him. We swapped book titles and discussed squash varieties. In a recent phone call we talked about the delight of long friendship; what a joy it is to be known by someone in that particular way that only time can provide. It's true what they say: it takes a long time to make an old friend. John watched me grow up and I watched him grow old. What an incredible privilege it was.

Mr. Russell died in June of 2023. Here is his obituary:

John Stanley Russell of Saline, Michigan, passed away peacefully at Trinity Health, at the age of 81. Mr. Russell grew up in Livingston, NJ, graduating from Livingston High School where he was an accomplished track and cross-country competitor. He then earned his graduate degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, going on to pursue his post-graduate degree from the University of Michigan, working towards his doctorate in biology and environmental studies.

Mr. Russell began his career as a teacher at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, MI, in order to pass along his concerns for the environment and the issues surrounding the perils facing the earth. During this time, he was featured in National Geographic magazine for his work in environmental studies, their impact on climate change, as well as being contracted by the U.S. Army to research the aquifers in Surinam. Mr. Russell also taught mountain climbing and canoeing in a nature preserve in upstate Montana.

Mr. Russell was a primary contributor in the formation of the ENACT Teach-In at the University of Michigan in 1970, and served as committee liaison with the Ann Arbor public schools in biology and conservation. He was an integral part of the activities leading up to the birth of Earth Day in April, 1970.

Even after retiring from his teaching position, Mr. Russell continued to maintain contact with many of his students, several of whom became teachers themselves, as well as running clinics and activities to include not only young people but involving the community as a whole. John Russell took pride in the farm on which he lived outside of Ann Arbor, inviting many people to observe the conservancy of the property.

Mr. Russell leaves behind his sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Howard Schweizer of Denville, NJ; sister, Judi Cosgrove also of Denville, NJ; nieces and nephews, Robert, Laurie, Michael, Jennifer, Patrick, and Erin; as well as many dear friends, neighbors, and students. He was predeceased by his parents, Katherine and Jack Russell.

"All things, by immortal power, near or far, to each other linked are, that thou canst not stir a flower without the troubling of a star" Francis Thompson

In memoriam, please view a mountain, a lake, or a stream through his eyes so he knows he made a difference. The Earth will miss him.

3. To what extent has the facility or park has been financed by the person being honored or by the persons wishing to honor him/her?

N/A

4. To what extent is there support for this proposal from the appropriate and/or impacted communities?

See letter from student, above. Will Weber, an expert birder and a neighbor to the property, has extensively documented its bird life, and his report was included in the NATAC report on the property.

5. Are there other factors to be considered that would support this request?

Mr. Russell never married and never had children, so he doesn't have descendants to press this case. He was my supervising teacher when I was a student teacher, and I knew him for over 40 years. He was a proud man, who cared about getting recognition for the work he did, and I think he would be intensely proud to know that a nature preserve on this land, which he deeply loved and cherished, was named for him.