

FINANCE & PHYSICAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, November 7, 2006 - 8:00 a.m.
Board Room - County Administration Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dan Koorndyk; Commissioners Jack Boelema, Gary Rolls, Tom Postmus, Art Tanis, Richard VanderMolen, James Vaughn, Harold Voorhees, and Fritz Wahlfield.

ALSO PRESENT: County Administrator Daryl Delabbio; Assistant Administrators Mary Swanson and Wayman Britt; Executive Assistant to the Board Jim Day; Chair of the Board Roger Morgan; County Commissioners Nadine Klein and Dick Bulkowski; Civil Counsel Sherry Batzer; Legal Analyst Sangeeta Ghosh; Management Analysts Jennifer DeHaan, Darwin Baas, and Matthew VanZetten; Purchasing Manager Jon Denhof; Fiscal Services Director Bob White; Deputy Director of Fiscal Services Stephen Duarte; Facilities Management Director Bob Mihos; Human Resources Director Donald Clack; Human Resources Deputy Director Gail Glocheski; Director of Information Technology Craig Paull; Administrator for Circuit Court Jack Roedema; Director of John Ball Zoo Bert Vescolani; Director of the Parks Department Roger Sabine; Director of the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention and Visitors' Bureau Steve Wilson; Chair of the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention and Visitors' Board Joe Tomaselli; Member of Millennium Park Architectural Advisory Board Vern Ohlman; Director of the Legal Assistance Center Kristin Hanratty; Director of the Department of Human Services Andy Zylstra; Chief Deputy at the Sheriff Department Tom Hillen; Chair of the Senior Millage Review Committee Nancy Nielsen; General Manager of Grand Rapids Hilton Larry Chesner; Attorney for Dickinson Wright Dick Wendt; and Senior Administrative Specialist Sandra Winchester.

NEWS MEDIA: Rick Wilson, Grand Rapids Press.

Mr. Koorndyk called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

II. THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Bob White, Fiscal Services Director, reviewed with the Committee the third quarter financial report, which provided an overview of the revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the General Operating, Major Special Revenue, Enterprise and Internal Service Funds of the County. A copy of the report is on file in the Board of Commissioners' Office.

Mr. Koorndyk thanked Mr. White for his report.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of October 17, 2006
- b) Auditing of Checks and Purchase Order Activity – See Attachment A
Road Commission - \$1,830,595.71

Warrants - #43674 - #43892 for period ending November 1, 2006

c) Various - Bid Awards

Mr. VanderMolen moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Supported by Mr. Postmus.

Motion carried.

IV. ADMINISTRATOR'S – SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATIONS FOR 2007

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners the allocation of \$6,100,000 in Senior Millage funds for 2007 as recommended by Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc. (AAAWM). This item is proposed to go to the Board on November 16, 2006. A summary of the request follows.

- AAAWM holds three-year contracts with more than 25 agencies to provide services with funding from the Kent County Senior Millage. Under the terms of the contracts, the funding level is evaluated annually based on new program proposals, current year operations and available funding.
- In early October 2006, the Kent County Senior Millage Review Committee reviewed 2007 funding requests and made recommendations regarding funding for each service. These recommendations were forwarded to the AAAWM Executive Committee on October 23, 2006, which is now recommending them to the County for approval. See Attachment B for a copy of the recommendations.
- In addition to the annual contracts, Senior Millage funds will also be used to provide in-home services and prescription assistance to seniors through purchase of service arrangements. Amounts to be allocated through this process have been included on the bid tabulation and recommendation sheet.
- Medication management service and flu vaccinations were not proposed by any agency in this current process. Funding is set aside and AAAWM will seek out providers of these services to address these health issues of the older adult.

The cost is \$6,100,000 and funds are available in the Senior Millage Fund.

Mr. Postmus moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the allocation of \$6,100,000 in Senior Millage funds for 2007 as recommended by Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc.

Supported by Mr. Rolls.

Mr. Postmus thanked Area Agency on Aging for increasing the funding for home delivered meals and services.

Mr. Koorndyk explained that the increase in funding came from the recommendation of the Senior Millage subcommittee who reviewed all of the requests.

Mr. Tanis thanked all who served on the subcommittee for the fine job and hard work they did on reviewing the requests and recommending the allocation of funds.

Motion carried.

V. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – 2007 CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU TOURISM PROMOTION PLAN AND BUDGET

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to accept the proposed 2007 Tourism Promotion Plan and 2007 Budget as submitted by the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau. This item is proposed to go to the Board on November 16, 2007. A summary of the request follows.

- The Board of Commissioners has historically committed an allocation of the Lodging Excise (Hotel/Motel) Tax revenues to convention and tourism promotion through an agreement with the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB).
- The CVB has submitted its proposed 2007 Tourism Promotion Plan and 2007 Budget, which includes a request for \$914,165 of Lodging Excise (Hotel/Motes) Tax Revenues.
- Pursuant to the agreement entered into with the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention Visitor's Bureau, dated September 26, 2002, paragraph 5, the County is required to accept or reject the plan/budget on or before November 15 of each year.
- Under terms of the agreement, the County will pay the Convention and Visitor's Bureau a total of \$914,165 from calendar year 2007 collected Lodging Excise Taxes. This amount is equal to a 7.1% increase over anticipated payments in the current (FY2006) Fiscal Year.

The cost is \$914,165. It was noted that the original budget provided an appropriation of \$853,383. This action will authorize an additional appropriation of \$60,782 from the Fund Balance of the Lodging Excise Tax Fund.

Mr. Postmus moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to accept the proposed 2007 Tourism Promotion Plan and 2007 Budget as submitted by the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Supported by Mr. VanderMolen.

Mr. Wahlfield noted the 2007 Marketing Plan and asked if it stays consistent.

Mr. Steve Wilson, Director of the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, explained that the marketing plan is based on both tourism and conventions. He added that they have also developed a suburban marketing plan as well as a sports marketing strategy. Conventions and tourism is about 50 percent of the market and this is where they make an impact.

Mr. Joe Tomaselli, Chair of the Convention & Visitors' Bureau Board, stated that the partnership with the County has been tremendous over the years, and the County's support is very much appreciated. The Bureau is pleased to see the increase in occupancy taxes this past year, and they believe the trends will continue into 2007. Mr. Tomaselli added that the Convention & Visitors' Bureau would like to continue to generate business throughout the entire community.

On a percentage basis, Mr. Wahlfield asked how much of the Convention Center is booked on a yearly basis.

Mr. Tomaselli explained that they do not look at occupancy rate at the Convention Center. Instead, they measure the impact by the revenues generated at DeVos Place and also the hotel occupancy rates.

Mr. Wahlfield asked Mr. Wilson if he anticipates a time when there will be a waiting list to book the Convention Center.

Mr. Wilson noted that their peak times are May and October, and there have been instances where they have to push groups into another year because dates in those months are booked.

Mr. Tomaselli added that the four toughest months for booking conventions are January, February, July and August. They try and put businesses into these four months which helps the occupancy rates.

Motion carried.

VI. CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY DIVISION/DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES –
CHILD CARE FUND ANNUAL PLAN APPROVAL

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners the Child Care Fund Annual Plan for FY07, to appropriate an additional \$612,258 to the FY07 Child Care Fund Budget, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the document. This item is proposed to go to the Board on November 16, 2006. A summary of the request follows.

- Each year the Kent County Circuit Court – Family Division and the Kent County Department of Human Services (DHS) are required to prepare a plan showing how the Child Care Fund dollars will be spent by each agency.

- The plan encompasses in-home and out-of-home placement costs (e.g., foster care, detention, etc.) for children at risk of abuse or neglect as well as children determined to be delinquent.
- The law provides that each county will receive a reimbursement from the State of 50 percent of the annual net expenditures for certain costs related to placement and efforts to reduce placement. Since the plan document for the State is finalized after preparation of the County Budget, certain estimates used in preparing the budget require revision and an additional appropriation, specifically:
 - Cost of Health Insurance and “Other Post Employment Benefits” increased over that which was provided for in the budget and will require an additional appropriation of \$292,744 of which the State Grant will reimburse 50 percent.
 - It was recently determined that the Sheriff’s Department transport of juveniles was a grant-eligible expenditure. The cost of this transport service will be transferred from the General Fund to the Child Care Fund in the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget. The cost of the transport program is estimated to be \$190,360 of which the State grant will reimburse 50 percent.
 - Additional in-home programming to be provided through D.A. Blodgett has been added, requiring an additional \$250,000; of which the State Grant will pay 50 percent and Network 180 will pay 50 percent.
 - Final internal cost allocation billings for the Child Care Fund were reduced by \$120,846 with corresponding 50 percent reductions each in General Fund contribution and reimbursement under the State Grant.

The total cost is \$33,076,679 and the funding recommendation is as follows: Grant Funds: \$15,071,746; General Fund: \$17,325,433; Other Revenues: \$679,500. Funding of \$3,246,421 was included in the FY07 Child Care Fund Budget; appropriate an additional \$306,129 in State Grant funding, \$125,000 in other revenues, and transfer \$181,129 from the Undesignated General Fund Balance to the Child Care Fund. Current Undesignated General Fund Balance is \$24,328,808.

Mr. Voorhees moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the Child Care Fund Annual Plan for FY07, to appropriate an additional \$612,258 to the FY07 Child Care Fund Budget, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the document.

Supported by Mr. Tanis.

Mr. Rolls questioned if the County tends to have problems budgeting for the Child Care Fund and asked if there is a way to get a better handle on expenditures.

Mr. Delabbio stated that the appropriation requested today is for next year’s budget. He believed Mr. Rolls was referring to what happened in 2004 or 2005 and that is not the case in this instance.

Motion carried.

VII. FISCAL SERVICES – LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTER CONTRACT

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to authorize a contract with the Legal Assistance Center to provide operating support in the amount of \$40,000 to underwrite its services. This item is proposed to go to the Board on November 16, 2006. A summary of the request follows.

- The Legal Assistance Center provides a centralized location where citizens of Kent County can receive assistance in educating themselves on civil matters, find information on area nonprofit agencies and other community agencies, lawyer referral services as well as materials designed to allow the pro se litigants to file their own civil cases.
- The center has served over 10,000 individuals annually since its inception in 2002. The Board of Directors of the Legal Assistance Center has requested that the County provide operating support to partially underwrite the services provided by the center.
- The County has leased space in the Courthouse building to the Center since January 2002 through a separate lease agreement for the sum of \$1 per annum.
- Corporate Counsel has approved the agreement as to form.

The cost is \$40,000 and funds are available in the FY 2007 Budget.

Mr. Tanis moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to authorize a contract with the Legal Assistance Center to provide operating support in the amount of \$40,000 to underwrite its services.

Supported by Mr. Vaughn.

Mr. VanderMolen questioned if the \$40,000 contribution has remained steady over the years.

Mr. Delabbio stated this is the first year for this request.

Mr. Vaughn asked if the center generates any funds.

Ms. Kristin Hanratty, Director of the Legal Assistance Center, explained that the Center is a non-profit organization. The majority of the funding comes from law firms, the community, and grant monies. This year they are hoping to team up with Cooley Law School to provide assistance from law students.

Motion carried.

VIII. FISCAL SERVICES – CITY OF CEDAR SPRINGS DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) PROPOSED DISTRICT
AMENDMENT

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to exempt Kent County from tax increment capture in the City of Cedar Springs DDA Proposed Amended District and direct the Administrator/Controller to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Cedar Springs City Clerk. This item is proposed to go to the Board on November 16, 2006. A summary of the request follows.

- At some date prior to calendar year 1996, the City of Cedar Springs established an original Downtown Development Authority District.
- In 1996, the City of Cedar Springs held a public meeting to consider expansion of the Downtown Development Authority District. At that time under Resolution 2-22-96-19, the Kent County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution whereby it exercised its option to exempt its tax levy from capture in the expanded Downtown Development Authority – Tax Increment Finance District.
- On October 12, 2006, the City of Cedar Springs held a public hearing for the purpose of again revising its Downtown Development Authority District. This district amendment includes deletion of certain areas previously incorporated within the boundary and addition of other new areas. The original Tax Increment District for which Kent County remains subject to property tax capture is comprised of an area bounded by Maple on the North, First Street on the East, Beech Street on the South and Second Street on the West.
- Kent County annually contributes over \$6,000,000 of its tax levy in the form either tax abatement or tax capture by tax increment authority districts to support economic development initiatives. The exemption/capture of this tax levy is about 5.8% of the entire County tax levy. Failure to exempt Kent County's tax levy from capture in the expanded district will subject all growth in tax levy to capture for an indefinite time period.
- Approval of the resolution will declare the County's intent to exempt itself from property tax capture in the proposed amended tax increment district. Under current state statute, the County is obliged to take this action in order to preserve its right to control the amount of County tax levy, which would be subject to capture by the Authority. This resolution will take effect upon filing with the Clerk of the City of Cedar Springs.
- The current Downtown Development Authority Act under Section 14(4) does provide the County with the ability to enter into an agreement with a Tax Increment Authority to "...share a portion of the captured assessed value of the district." Should the County choose to opt out of tax increment capture in the newly constituted Cedar Springs Downtown Development Authority, it does retain the right to thereafter enter into an agreement with the Tax Increment Finance Authority to allow the capture of a "portion" of the tax increment.

Mr. Wahlfield moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to exempt Kent County from tax increment capture in the City of Cedar Springs DDA Proposed Amended District and direct the Administrator/Controller to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Cedar Springs City Clerk.

Supported by Mr. Boelema.

Mr. Boelema asked how many cities within the County have DDA's.

Mr. Delabbio stated there are 12-13 DDA's throughout the County.

Mr. Boelema asked if the County has a policy on opting out of DDA's.

Mr. Delabbio explained that when the law changed a few years ago, the County has opted out of DDA's whenever possible. He added, however, that the County cannot opt out of tax increment authorities.

Mr. VanderMolen stated he would like to see the law changed so the County can opt out of all tax increments. He noted that by the County opting out of the Cedar Springs' DDA, it affects Cedar Springs more than the County.

Mr. Delabbio stated there has been dialogue with Cedar Springs regarding some type of tax sharing.

Mr. VanderMolen questioned if the County is opting out of the senior millage and correctional facility millage also.

Mr. Delabbio said yes, they are.

Motion carried.

IX. FISCAL SERVICES – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A LEASE CONTRACT WITH THE KENT COUNTY BUILDING AUTHORITY

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners authorization of the form of Lease Contract, publication of "Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds" and provide for an advance (s) to the Authority for certain preliminary expenses to be reimbursed from bond proceeds, all related to the construction of a Human Services facility to be located at 121 Franklin Street S.E. This item is proposed to go to the Board on November 16, 2006. A summary of the request follows.

- On July 27, 2006, the Board authorized execution of an option agreement with the City of Grand Rapids for the purchase of certain properties located at 121 Franklin Street S.E., 801 Jefferson Avenue and 811 Jefferson Avenue as the site for a proposed new Human Services Facility.
- On October 26, 2006, the Board authorized a Sublease Agreement with the State of Michigan for occupancy of a portion of the new Human Services Facility to be constructed at 121 Franklin Street S.E.

- This resolution authorizes all of the initial steps required to begin the financing phase of the proposed project as follows:
 - Approval, in form, of the Lease Contract between the County and the Kent County Building Authority.
 - Authorizing a pledge of the “Limited Full Faith and Credit of the County” in the Lease Contract.
 - Publication of a “Notice of Intent” allows a 45-day “Right of Referendum” period to run before the Lease Contract can take effect.
 - Declaration of the County’s intent to reimburse itself from bond proceeds for costs incurred prior to issuance of the bonds.
 - Authorizes an advance from the General Fund of the County to the Authority in an amount (s) up to \$2.46 million, to cover initial project cost, with the General Fund of the County to be reimbursed after closing on the proposed bond issuance.
- Sale of the bonds will be scheduled to coincide with construction bid opening/award which is presently estimated will occur in January 2008.

There is no current year General Funds required. Financing of the estimated land acquisition and improvement costs will be financed through the issuance of bonds in 2008.

Mr. VanderMolen moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the authorization of the form of Lease Contract, publication of “Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds” and provide for an advance (s) to the Authority for certain preliminary expenses to be reimbursed from bond proceeds, all related to the construction of a Human Services facility to be located at 121 Franklin Street S.E.

Supported by Mr. Tanis.

Mr. Voorhees asked if currently vacant facilities have been looked at, for example, Rogers Department Store in Wyoming.

Mr. Wayman Britt, Assistant Administrator, explained that the County has done a very thorough job in looking at all available facilities throughout the area. An analysis was done and it was determined that 70 percent of the clients being served are in the area of the proposed new DHS facility. Also, the Governor’s Office feels the facility should be in relative close proximity of the downtown area where other services are provided.

Mr. Vaughn asked how many parking spaces will be available.

Mr. Britt answered 465.

Mr. Vaughn questioned if that will be enough.

Mr. Britt said yes. Facilities Management did a study on the number of spaces needed and they feel 465 should be sufficient. The study took into consideration all of the employees as well as the clients of the building's occupants.

Mr. Tanis asked if a public hearing is needed for this action.

Mr. Delabbio answered no, it is not.

Mr. Wahlfield questioned if these are callable bonds.

Mr. Bob White, Fiscal Services Director, replied that these typically will be 20 year bonds and are callable after 10 years.

Motion carried.

X. JUVENILE DETENTION/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT – SALLY PORT EXPANSION AT JUVENILE DETENTION

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to appropriate an additional \$51,700 to the FY 2006 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund Budget, for the Sally Port Expansion at Juvenile Detention, from the Undesignated General Fund Reserves. This item is proposed to go to the Board on November 16, 2006. A summary of the request follows.

- The Juvenile Detention Center, located on Cedar Street NE, includes a “sally port” which is intended to allow for secure transfer from the facility to a transportation van in a secure (enclosed) environment.
- The transport vans currently being utilized by law enforcement agencies are longer in length than the dimensions of the existing sally port.
- On August 15, 2006, the Finance and Physical Resources Committee approved a budget line item transfer in the Childcare Fund in the amount of \$30,000 to provide for the sally port expansion. The project was not initiated in time to be included in the FY 2006 Childcare budget and the appropriation has lapsed.
- The sally port expansion project has since been sent out for bid, the revised cost of expanding the sally port is estimated at \$51,700.
- Facilities Management is requesting an additional \$51,700 be appropriated to the FY 2006 CIP Fund from the Undesignated General Fund Reserves.

The cost is \$51,700 and the funding recommendation is to transfer \$51,700 to the FY 2006 CIP Fund Budget from the Undesignated General Fund Reserves. The current Undesignated General Fund Balance is \$24,328,808.

Mr. Vaughn moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to appropriate an additional \$51,700 to the FY 2006 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund Budget, for the Sally Port Expansion at Juvenile Detention, from the Undesignated General Fund Reserves.

Supported by Mr. Voorhees.

Mr. Rolls asked if a performance bond is required for this project.

Mr. Denhof stated the County is not requiring a performance bond.

Mr. VanderMolen asked why this project wasn't included in the CIP.

Mr. Bob Mihos, Facilities Management Director, explained that because of timing issues it was not included in the 2007 CIP. He added that 2007 CIP's are requested in February 2006, and this project did not become apparent until May.

Mr. Vaughn asked when performance bonds are required.

Mr. Denhof replied that bonds are typically required at \$40,000, and it was anticipated this project would come in under \$40,000 so a bond was not requested. He added that performance bonds usually add a 1-2 percent increase to the cost.

Motion carried.

XI. SHERIFF/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT – SHERIFF'S DEPT. BUDGET AMENDMENT – SPECTRUM HEALTH/KENT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BILLINGS

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to appropriate an additional \$28,614 in FY06 and FY07, to the Sheriff's Department Budget of the General Fund from Undesignated Fund Balance. This item is proposed to go to the Board on November 16, 2006. A summary of the request follows.

- In January 1997, the County turned over operating/maintenance responsibilities for the Kent Community Hospital to Spectrum Health Services. As a component of this transaction, all utility accounts were also transferred to the name of Spectrum Health.
- The water/sewer billing accounts for the County's Community Reentry Center at 1300 Bradford N.E. were unknowingly also transferred to the account of Spectrum Health as a part of this transaction. During the period from September 1999 through and including December 2005, Spectrum Health received and paid the water/sewer billings on behalf of Kent County's - Community Reentry Center. In total Spectrum Health incurred and paid for \$85,841 of billings which were more properly assignable to Kent County.

- During a recent hospital internal audit, this discrepancy was uncovered. Spectrum Health is requesting reimbursement from the County for the cost incurred during the time period noted above. Spectrum is proposing, in consideration of the significant dollar value of their request, a deferred installment payment plan. The first one-third or \$28,614 would be due December 1, 2006, with subsequent annual installments of \$28,614 each due on December 1, 2007, and December 1, 2008.
- The staff in the Sheriff's Department and Facilities Management office has reviewed the documentation submitted by Spectrum Health and acknowledges the liability of the County for water/sewer services received by the Community Reentry Center at 1300 Bradford N.E.

The funding recommendation is to transfer \$57,228 from Undesignated General Fund Reserves to the Sheriff Department FY2006 (\$28,614) and FY2007 (\$28,614) Budgets. Include an additional appropriation of \$28,614, in the budget for Fiscal Year 2008. The current Undesignated General Fund balance is \$24,328,808.

Mr. VanderMolen moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to appropriate an additional \$28,614 in FY06 and FY07, to the Sheriff's Department Budget of the General Fund from Undesignated Fund Balance.

Supported by Mr. Wahlfield.

Motion carried.

XII. PARKS – MILLENNIUM PARK MASTER PLAN 2006 UPDATE

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve the Millennium Park Master Plan 2006 Update. This item is proposed to go to the Board on November 16, 2006. A summary of the request follows.

- With a majority of Millennium Park property acquired and the first phase construction of the Recreational Core complete, it became necessary to review the original 2001 Millennium Park Master Plan.
- In April 2006, the Parks Department initiated a process to update the Millennium Park Master Plan. The County engaged the services of Conservation Design Forum and their team of local planning, engineering, and design firms.
- During this process input was received from park users and community stakeholders, as well as members of the Millennium Park Community Committee and the Architectural Advisory Review Board. On September 7, 2006, the Parks Department hosted a community open house to receive input on draft concepts of the master plan update.
- The Master Plan 2006 Update will provide a common vision and guide to evaluate and implement specific development plans and environmental restoration and management strategies.

- The plan identifies suitable areas for development, trails, amenities, phasing, remediation, and habitat restoration.

Mr. Tanis moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the Millennium Park Master Plan 2006 Update as presented.

Supported by Mr. Rolls.

Mr. Roger Sabine, Director of the Parks Department, stated that the Master Plan is a guidebook and vision for the future of Millennium Park. He recognized Mr. Vern Ohlman, a member of Millennium Park Architectural Advisory Committee, for all of his help and input on the Committee and on the Master Plan. Mr. Sabine then introduced Mr. David Yaka, of Conservation Design Forum, who reviewed with the Committee the Master Plan for Millennium Park. A copy of the Master Plan and related power point presentation are on file in the Board of Commissioners' Office.

Mr. Boelema thanked Mr. Yaka for the informative presentation. He asked if Lake Leota is accessible yet.

Mr. Sabine answered no, it is not. The boating system cannot be built until the house is unoccupied, and added that the homeowner of the house has a life lease.

Chair of the Board Morgan stated this is a very comprehensive master plan, and what strikes him is the amount of green space. He also thanked Mr. Ohlman for his hard work on the Master Plan.

Mr. Postmus stated he is very proud of Millennium Park and what is available to the residents of Kent County. One of the things he would like to see happen near/in Millennium Park is an upscale RV park. He feels that such a park, in the proper spot, would enhance what is already at Millennium Park. Individuals staying at the RV park could take their bikes to various parts of Grand Rapids. He added this concept could be incorporated into the tourism promotions of Kent County.

Mr. Voorhees stated he feels there should be a more natural tie from Millennium Park to John Ball Park.

Mr. Yaka noted there are a number of things in the Master Plan they consider and allow this to happen.

Mr. Tanis stated that being a resident of Walker, he is aware that parts of Millennium Park are a flood plane and the river does come into the park at times. He noted they have had water as high as the second step of the bathhouse.

Mr. Sabine stated that the flooding occurred in the spring when the snow was melting, and he feels that was possibly a 50-year flood; he does not anticipate it happening again in the near future.

Mr. Koorndyk thanked Mr. Yaka for his presentation.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business for discussion, Mr. Koorndyk declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL FOR DISTRIBUTION _____

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