

# Handling of plan riles panel

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were shown the various sites — 12 altogether, including MDOT and Heritage Park — where wetlands could be replaced.

Heritage Park was out as a possibility, MDOT represented a solution that wouldn't require the city to buy additional land, Costick said. At a Nov. 11 closed session, the council was shown the conceptual plan for replacing wetlands on MDOT.

The council also authorized city administrators to discuss the issue with the ad hoc committee. The plan, Costick said, is not cast in stone and the city has until Feb. 1 to change the plan without threatening the progress of the 12 Mile construction project.

What irks ad hoc members is that while they meet to discuss plans for the Peltz-MDOT land, city adminis-

trators were making plans to replace wetlands on the flat part of MDOT.

"I never knew about this until after I was off the council," said Fox, who completed her four-year term at the Oct. 28 meeting. Fox was out of town during the Oct. 21 meeting. "The only one I missed in four years," she added.

COSTICK DENIED any attempt to thwart the Open Meetings Act. "Our motivation and intention wasn't to pull anything," he said.

The city manager said he was surprised by members' reaction because he believed wetlands on MDOT would further ensure that the land remain in its natural state.

"I felt there were some procedural problems in this that affect the way government comes across to the public," Fox said. "This is no longer

the pristine land promised in this vote (parks and recreation special millage). We (city council) was aware of (wetland) mitigation. Never were we aware it would be on Peltz-MDOT."

Committee members said it's obvious city officials were aware of the need to replace the wetlands — most likely on MDOT — about 6-8 months ago before the April parks and recreation millage vote when residents were promised that for at least eight years Peltz-MDOT would remain for the most part untouched.

When ad hoc member Lindhardt asked why the issue wasn't presented to the committee, Costick replied, "It wasn't ready."

Fox remained concerned. "I just don't think something like this comes about that quickly," she said, referring to comments that the MDOT plan was drafted recently.

Fox also spoke of the city's appointment of the 15 member committee as a means of involving the public. "Yet they didn't know about this. And I have a problem with that. That's not a way to conduct government."

An equally angered Costick responded. "Nobody is trying to do anything (secretly)."

Councilman Ben Marks came to Costick's aid. "The city council did not violate the Open Meetings Act. We have a mayor (Aldo Vagnotti) who is a watchdog on the Open Meetings Act."

Marks said talk about MDOT came as an aside while discussing other property that would have to be bought for wetlands replacement. The council, he said, told administrators to run the plan by the ad hoc committee and report back to the council.

# Parents object to video promos

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Those who aren't sensitive should be, local law enforcement officials said.

In Farmington, police said it is illegal for video store owners and employees — or anyone else — to subject minor children to such vulgar, either from screens or speakers.

"Our ordinance is very specific,"

said Gary Goss, deputy public safety director. "My concern is that stores are inadvertently showing these videos to children. That's wrong and it's against the law."

GOSS SAID he had visited other stores in Farmington and found no problems.

He does not consider the issue one of censorship. They are not telling the stores what to rent or sell, just

what they can display especially to minor children.

There is a community standard here," added Goss, who was contacted by Claridge and subsequently researched the Farmington incident.

In Farmington Hills, Police Chief William Dwyer said he does not believe such problems are widespread, but said he would issue a warning if there was a problem.

Dwyer said, after talking with the Oakland County Prosecutor's office, he does not believe there is anything illegal in profanity from videotape, especially in light of what can be seen on television today.

"I certainly understand her concerns and sympathize," he said. "If there's nothing enforceable, I would certainly go into the stores and warn them if it became a problem."

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