

Park authority offers plan for waterpark development

BY CAROLYN WALKER
STAFF WRITER

Indian Springs Metropolitan Park Authority, the Huron/Clinch Metropolitan Authority, plan to move forward in a cooperative effort with Springfield Township to iron out differences over a proposed \$10 million family aquatic center.

One by one, the seven planning commissioners told representatives of the HCMA why they feel a 41-acre Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning of park property — for the development of the proposed center — is inappropriate. Overwhelmingly, the commissioners agreed that a water park and parking lot for 540 vehicles would result in a too-intensive use for the site, which is currently zoned resource conservation.

Their comments came after HCMA Director Frank Sudek and Chief Planner Dan Duncan presented a PUD concept that would include a wave pool, lazy river ride, a 30-foot water slide, bath house and children's pool. Indian Springs Metro Park is a 2,500-acre, HCMA-run park that spans portions of Springfield and White Lake townships. It includes the sensitive 245-acre Timberland Sanctuary within its borders.

The water park is proposed for about 20 of 41 acres under consideration for PUD rezoning in the Springfield portion. The remaining 21 acres would be kept for open space, Duncan said.

The commission agreed to appoint a subcommittee that will

consist of three of their members, and possibly a township board member, to seek some reasonable alternatives with the HCMA.

Earlier this month, a representative of the HCMA said the authority is seeking a PUD to speed up the development process, which is being delayed by a pending hearing in Oakland County Circuit Court. While Circuit Judge Nancy Grant ruled in June that the HCMA has to abide by township zoning ordinances, the HCMA and township still await a hearing on two related matters.

Those matters are the HCMA's contention that it was not properly notified when zoning of its property was changed and that the HCMA has a prior, existing, non-conforming use that is not subject to the zoning ordinance.

Planned Unit Development zoning is a provision in the zoning ordinance that allows a broader flexibility in development.

Like the board officials before them, the commissioners objected to the intensity of the proposed use, potential traffic congestion and the impact the aquatic center might have on its natural surroundings.

"I don't see that it's a justifiable use in this area," said commissioner Jeffrey Labruzy. "If it's not appropriate, it's not appropriate."

On Tuesday, Sudek reflected on the meeting during a telephone interview. "We were a little disappointed that they didn't approve the PUD concept," he

said, adding that while the HCMA might be agreeable to some changes, they do not want to overly compromise their proposal.

The HCMA, which is made up of representatives of five counties and which governs several metropolitan parks as a state mandate, wants to put a water park at Indian Springs because there are no other bathing facilities available there. Indian Springs is located southwest of Big Lake and Andersonville roads.

While the commissioners were opposed to the concept, at least two audience members were opposed as well.

Melissa Sortman, whose home backs up to the park, said, "We would drive 10 miles if we really wanted the aquatic experience." She was referring to the proximity of Waterford Oaks County Park, which has a wave pool, to Springfield Township.

Duncan told the commission that the water park could present some pluses for the community, including the creation of local jobs.

"The creation of the family aquatic center will provide a safe area for the community," he said. "The proposed development will abide by all state and local requirements. Our experience has shown that residential property surrounding metro parks are very desirable places to live."

"(We're) here to explore very reasonable alternatives, to find a common ground."

Oakland Digest provides a summary of headline stories from around the county during the week leading up to Jan. 22.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
Seeking reimbursement from Kevorkian: Bloomfield Township is seeking \$3,000 in attorney fees and costs for a lawsuit Dr. Jack Kevorkian dropped against the community and its police department for allegedly damaging equipment seized as evidence. The evidence was collected in 1996 at the Quality Inn on Telegraph Road. Kevorkian filed his lawsuit last summer. A hearing to determine whether Bloomfield Township will be reimbursed for legal fees is set for Feb. 4.

CLARKSTON
Commercialism entices school district: According to the Clarkston School District's director of administrative and personnel services, several giant companies, including Nike, Adidas, Pepsi and Coca-Cola, are interested in placing commercial logos at visible sites in the district's new high school. In exchange, the companies would give the district money or equipment.

FARMINGTON HILLS
Police seek 911 change: Farmington Hills' police chief is among the public officials asking Oakland County to upgrade its outdated 911 system. Members of the Oakland County Commission Board plan to study the system's equipment before making changes. One solution involves assessing telephone customers a 4-percent charge on their basic phone line to pay for a countywide upgrade. Results from the county study are expected in the spring.

LAKE ORION
Student art graces capital: The artwork of students from Pine Tree Elementary School in Lake Orion recently went on display in the Lansing office of State Sen. Mat Dunakiss. The display is part of Dunakiss' Art in the Capitol program, which features art from Oakland County students throughout the school year. For information about the program, call (888) 263-1246.

OAKLAND DIGEST

SOUTHFIELD
Spaceman visits local school: Tony England, one of the astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger during a 1985 mission, recently spoke to students at Schoenhals Elementary School in Southfield. England is now an associate graduate dean at the University of Michigan. He joined the NASA program almost 20 years ago and, at age 23, became NASA's youngest astronaut.

OXFORD
Schools review health policy: Beginning next fall, Oxford students in the seventh and ninth grades will have the option of taking a comprehensive reproductive health course under a program tentatively approved by the district's school board. Some of the material to be presented in the 10-lesson course will have been introduced in fifth and sixth grade health classes. While school officials are confident the material is appropriate, parents will have the option of exempting their children from the course.

ROCHESTER HILLS
Breakfast benefit: A pancake breakfast being held from 8 a.m. to noon Jan. 24 at the Rochester Elks Lodge at 600 E. University Drive in Rochester will help cover the medical expenses of Alisha Clements, a 2-year-old

leukemia patient. Donations may be sent to: 339 Walnut, Rochester, Mich. 48307. Make checks payable to Alisha's father, Richard Clements.

TROY
Boy saves neighbor: The quick thinking of 12-year-old Daryl Savage, of Troy, helped save the life of a neighbor who lost consciousness while shoveling snow Jan. 15. Savage noticed that the neighbor had fallen to the ground while walking to a school bus stop. The boy ran home, and his mother called 911. The neighbor's name and the nature of his illness is being held by request.

Compiled by staff reporter
Nicole Stafford

MOVADO

MUSEUM OLYMPIAN™
The renowned dot dial teamed with a bold new sculpted sport link bracelet. Crafted of solid brushed stainless steel with polished 18 karat gold micron finish accents. Swiss quartz movement. Sapphire crystal. Water resistant to 99 feet. His or hers.



GREENSTONE'S
CREATORS OF FINE JEWELRY SINCE 1925

528 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham, MI
4 Bks. North of Maple
248-642-2650
Monday-Friday 10-5:30, Thursday until 7:00, Saturday until 5:00

DNR offers Arbor Day grants

To mark the 1998 celebration of Arbor Day on April 24, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is now accepting applications from schools and municipalities for Arbor Day mini-grants of up to \$200.

Goal of the grant program is to highlight Arbor Day, the value of forests, and to recognize the importance of improving the environment and the quality of life.

Applications are due Feb. 3. Seventy-five grants will be awarded. Groups who have not yet received an application form can obtain one by calling Cara Boucher, Urban and Community

Forester, DNR Forest Management Division, at (517) 335-3354. Arbor Day information packets are also available from Boucher for anyone who wants to learn more about Arbor Day and trees.

Grants may be used for planting trees on school grounds, staging Arbor Day celebrations, or purchasing forestry-related materials for school libraries. Applicants may request up to \$200, but the amount requested must be "matched" with equal funding and/or staff time. Projects must be completed by June 30, 1998.

Furs by Arpin
OF WINDSOR

-71 YEARS OF-

- Glamour & Elegance
- Quality Craftsmanship
- Exceptional Service

Come In and View Arpin's 97-98 Collection of Luxuriously Designed Furs

No Duty, No Sales Tax
• Full Premiums on U.S. Funds

'97-'98 collection NOW ON SALE

Furs by Arpin
— DOWNTOWN —
481 Pellissier, Windsor 1-519-251-5612
OPEN MON. THROUGH SAT. 9-5:15

A Quality Life

THE Lake Land CENTER

Our Geriatric program provides 24 hour basic nursing care. Our staff includes RNs, LPNs, CENAs, a full-time recreational therapist and activity coordinators as well as volunteers.

- Cheerful semi-private rooms
- Meals prepared by chef (kosher meals available)
- Barber/beauty shop
- Respite and extended stays
- 24 hour physician coverage
- Restorative nursing program
- Recreational programs

To schedule a tour, or for more information, call Sherry Samson at (810) 350-8070.

26900 Franklin Rd. • Southfield
(810) 350-8070

Men: Are you having difficulty urinating?

Do you suffer from the following symptoms:

- Hesitancy with urination?
- Slow or intermittent urinary stream?
- Frequent urination, or getting out of bed often to urinate?
- Feeling like the bladder does not empty well?

If you are, we currently are seeking participants for a study to look at the effectiveness of several different treatments for Benign Prostate Hyperplasia (enlarged prostate).

To qualify, you must meet certain criteria: you must be over age 50, have had no prior surgery or medications for an enlarged prostate, have not been diagnosed with prostate cancer and have not suffered a stroke or heart attack within the past six months.

Volunteers will be asked to participate in the study for five years. All study medication, laboratory tests, X-rays and office visits are provided at no charge for qualified participants.

For more information, call Henry Ford Hospital's Department of Urology at (313) 523-2722.

Participants will be accepted through January 31, 1998.

Beaumont
Williams Beaumont Hospital
Department of Urology

Tax Biter

5.75% APY 12-Month Tax-Deferred CD

Pay No Taxes Until 2000

With our 12-month Tax-Deferred CD, your accountant can put the pencil aside until year after next. No taxes are due until you file your tax return in 2000, because interest is paid only at the end of the term, in 1999. But hurry to get this high rate, plus the added benefit of tax deferral. Consult your tax advisor regarding reporting your income. Minimum of \$500 to open account and obtain the APY.

FIRST FEDERAL OF MICHIGAN
FDIC Insured Ask Us. We Can Do It.™

Branch offices throughout metropolitan Detroit, Chicago, Kalamazoo, Okemos, Durand, Chevasse and Okemos. Extended hours weekdays and full service Saturdays at most branches.

Annual percentage yield (APY) assumes all interest remains on deposit for the full term. Substantial penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Offer subject to change without notice. Business or brokered accounts not eligible. APY accurate as of January 14, 1998.

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL
Like no vacation on earth!

Cruise Specials!

To take advantage of these specials and many others, call or visit your nearest AAA Travel Agency this week!

BAHAMAS CRUISE for selected sailings from Miami	3 nts. fr. \$319 4 nts. fr. \$379
SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN for selected sailings from San Juan	3 nts. fr. \$369 4 nts. fr. \$809
ALASKA for selected sailings in 1998	7 nts. fr. \$1,229

Prices are quoted only per person, based on double occupancy and subject to change and availability. Port charges are included. Other restrictions apply. See registry Norway and web site.

Call or Stop in to Make an Appointment!

275 S. Hunter in Birmingham 248-433-8211
26026 Southfield Road in Lathrup Village 248-443-6569
25 E. Long Lake Road in Troy/Rochester 248-879-5804

AAA Travel
www.aaa.com