

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, December 13, 2001
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Steven R. Heacock.

Present: Commissioners Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Morren, Postmus, Sak, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 17.

Absent: Horton, Smoke – 2 (Excused).

Invocation: Commissioner Mast gave the invocation.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Michael Loxterman, 26 Valley NW, Grand Rapids – He suggested turning the current zoo into a zoo school and building another zoo somewhere else in Kent County.
- b. Brenda Stringer, 633 Parkwood Street NE, Grand Rapids – As Executive Director of the John Ball Zoological Society, she stated the John Ball Zoo is a world-class zoo and was the first accredited zoo in Michigan. The proposed plan is a compromised plan and she urged Commissioners to support it.
- c. Herbert Schafer, Resident of County Commission District 16, Grand Rapids – As a zoo volunteer, he represents the 140 Zoo Doers who unanimously favor the zoo expansion.
- d. Pam Sommer, 67 Richards NW, Grand Rapids – She asked what is more important, maintaining the central park of Grand Rapids or having an elephant exhibit? The zoo will not cease to be an educational facility if this plan does not pass. She feels like they are being pushed out of their homes.
- e. John Reinartz, 7859 Lena Rose Lane, Ada – As past president of the zoo society, he suggested that those opposed to the plan are a small neighborhood group that doesn't want other people in their area. The expansion is right for the entire county.
- f. John Wisniewski, 916 Carpenter Avenue NW, Grand Rapids – The hilltop location would provide a larger area for the elephants. He stated that the county asks people of Grand Rapids to be good stewards of parks and yet they are willing to destroy parkland. He said that if this plan passes, he would remember it at millage time.
- g. Brooke Shuff, 210 Houseman Avenue, Grand Rapids – She utilizes the park area and is excited about the improvements to the park and the zoo.

- h. Tami Orendorff, southeast Grand Rapids – She supports the master plan and believes that the professionals know what they are doing and have looked at the best places possible.
- i. Peter Carlberg, 71 Richards NW, Grand Rapids – John Ball Park Community Association – The use of more park land for the zoo only leaves scraps for the park. The elephants will be 300 feet away from the park and elephants do smell.
- j. Dan Molhoek, 6007 Grand River Drive NE, Ada – He was the chair of the Zoo Society when the County took over the zoo. Past history indicates that the zoo stayed on the northwest side with support of the community to stay and expand.
- k. Patricia Harris, Grand Rapids – Her husband worked with the elephant that was at the John Ball Zoo. She reiterated that elephants cost and eat a lot.
- l. Carol Hennessey, 715 Hill NW, Grand Rapids - She is a zoological member and believes that the neighborhoods are the strength of communities. She's not opposed to zoo expansion but expansion into the park. Professor Polakowski's plan was an inclusive process, a consensus and compromise and his plan has been thrown out. The proposed entrance will divide the park.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of November 19 Public Hearing & November 20, 2001 Meeting
- b) November 20 and December 4, 2001 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

12-13-01-174 – PROPOSED REORGANIZATION AND POSITION RECLASSIFICATION / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Administrator/Controller has prepared a proposed reorganization plan that address immediate, mid-term (2-3 years and long-term (5-7 years) needs of the County; and

WHEREAS, the plan recognizes the increased involvement of the Board of Commissioners in new areas (e.g. Prevention, Urban Sprawl, Millennium Park) and expanded role of the Administrator/Controller and the Administrator's Office staff in these and other areas (Health Officer supervision, Zoo expansion, Convention/Arena Authority, REGIS/GIS, etc.) over the past several years. The proposed final organizational chart groups together departments with similar needs and requirements into sub units, and creates a system with the necessary skills, experience and expertise to support the growing complexity of County government and to provide the type and level of support required by each sub-units; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator/Controller has requested conceptual approval of the plan so that the County can take advantage of natural transition points over the next several years to position itself to achieve the final structure. Specific changes required to

achieve the plan will be brought back to the Board with specific documentation and justification when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, as a first step in implementing the proposal, the Administrator/Controller has requested the reclassification of the Human/Community Services Coordinator position to an Assistant Administrator in order to 1) recognize the expanded scope and depth of the position since its creation and to place it in a more appropriate classification; 2) place the human services departments and human services issues interacting with the position on an equal standing with other County functions which report to or liaison with the Assistant Administrator; and 3) allow for greater flexibility in assignments within the office which require involvement by the Administrator/Controller or an Assistant Administrator.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Board of Commissioners approves, in concept, the proposed reorganization of the Administrator's Office and Administrative Services Departments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the reclassification of the Human/Community Services Coordinator Position (MPP Grade 27) to Assistant Administrator (MPP 32) effective January 1, 2002, and authorizes an amendment to the 2002 budget to provide the additional funding required.

12-13-01-175 – PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR MILLENNIUM PARK PROJECT

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HARABURDA / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the purchase of property for the Millennium Park Project is a priority of the Kent County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, one parcel is currently being offered for sale and the County has entered into a purchase agreement for the property contingent on Board approval per Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board has set funds aside for land acquisition and development of Millennium Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the purchase of the following property: Haraburda property for \$210,000, and authorizes Board Chair or designee to execute necessary documentation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the payment of the total purchase price of \$210,000 plus necessary transactional expenses and realtor's fee from the Millennium Park CIP Account.

12-13-01-176 – RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED GROWTH FOR KENT COUNTY PROJECT / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the United Growth for Kent County project seeks to contribute to the development of a vibrant and sustainable West Michigan region through the formation of a citizen-based coalition focused on promoting effective land use planning, urban redevelopment and the preservation of rural lands; and

WHEREAS, the long-term vision of the United Growth for Kent County project is that citizens and policy makers are prepared to develop and employ land use tools that enable the efficient and effective use of our land resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of

Commissioners does hereby approve commit its support toward the United Growth for Kent

County project mission and vision and will seek to partner and participate in project initiatives whenever possible.

12-13-01-177 – 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN REVISIONS / HUMAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 has been incorporated into the Kent County Deferred Compensation Program; and

WHEREAS, deferral limits, catch up provisions, and distributions will be indexed into future years in accordance with Federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, the amendment will allow individuals to transfer out of the Plan to all available rollover and transfer plans; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Deferred Compensation Plan will allow transfers into the plan from other eligible governmental 457 plans; and

WHEREAS, amendment of the plan will allow assets to be transferred into one account, more flexibility for employees, and it will assist as a recruitment tool.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the amended and restated Kent County Deferred Compensation Plan attached hereto is adopted effective January 1, 2002; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator/Controller is authorized and directed to execute the amended and restated plan and to inform eligible employees of the terms and conditions of the Plan.

12-13-01-178 – FY02 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO REFLECT MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH RATE CHANGES

WHEREAS, each year the Michigan Department of Community Health adjusts the rates paid to CMH agencies for services to clients in the various categories. This year the final rates were not available until after adoption of the 2002 budget by the County. Estimated figures were used in preparing the County budget; and

WHEREAS, following receipt of the final rates in mid-October, Kent CMH has adjusted its revenue and expenditure projections for the year, resulting in a net increase of \$2,329,552 to the overall CMH budget; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2000, the Board of Commissioners authorized CMH to use up to \$60,000 to fund a public inebriate shelter program during FY01. Due to a slower start up than expected, the funds have not yet been used and CMH has requested approval to spend them during the FY02 budget period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves an amendment to the Community Mental Health (CMH) Budget to reflect the final rate structure and resulting revenues and expenditures for FY02; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the use of \$60,000 in fund balance to fund a public inebriate shelter program.

12-13-01-179 – AMEND DRAIN COMMISSION BUDGET / DRAIN COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the 2001 adopted budget for the Drains At Large activity was \$75,000. The budget was amended for an additional \$60,900, per resolution 5-24-01-72, in May

of 2001 for a total amended budget of \$135,90; and

WHEREAS, there is an additional \$80,000 needed to pay the remainder of the 2001 County assessments; and

WHEREAS, this has been a particularly heavy construction year for the Drain Commission. The level of drain construction activity in FY01 has exceeded FY00 by \$677,861 or 167.6%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the transfer of \$80,000 from the Unreserved, Undesignated General Fund to the 2001 Drain Commission Budget - Drains At Large.

12-13-01-180 – AMEND THE 2001 CIP BUDGET FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM (PHIS) / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Resolution 9-28-00-146 approved the establishment of a CIP for the Public Health Information System (PHIS) at the Health Department at an estimated cost of \$850,000; and.

WHEREAS, the project has moved forward and is in the final stages of completion. It is estimated that \$300,000 is needed to complete the remainder of the PHIS Project. There remains in the budget approximately \$200,000 leaving the Project \$100,000 short; and

WHEREAS, the Health Fund during the period October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2001, has received approximately \$3,000,000 of revenues in excess of expenditures. According to Fiscal Policy these excess funds will be swept into the General Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the transfer of \$100,000 to the CIP Fund from the Unreserved, Undesignated General Fund Balance for the Public Health Information System Project.

12-13-01-181 – GRANT OF AN EASEMENT TO R. DEKUIPER / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Mr. Ryan M. DeKuiper, an adjacent land owner at Myers Lake has requested an easement in order to facilitate Courtland Township approval of his proposed building project; and

WHEREAS, Myers Park has irregular property lines; and

WHEREAS, approval of the easement request will not negatively impact Myers Park; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Commission approved this request at their November 13, 2001, meeting and recommended approval to the County Board of Commissioners.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the easement for Mr. Ryan M. DeKuiper with the following conditions:

- 1) Mr. DeKuiper landscapes the fence line to meet the specifications of the Parks Department.
 - 2) Storage buildings will be prohibited from the easement.
 - 3) Kent County has first right of refusal to purchase Mr. DeKuiper's in the future.
 - 4) Mr. DeKuiper will pay all costs associated with granting the easement;
- and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Chair Heacock or his designee to execute necessary documentation for granting of the easement.

12-13-01-182 – ASSET CAPITALIZATION POLICY / DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners adopted an Asset Capitalization Policy at their October 25, 2001, meeting; and

WHEREAS, the adopted policy exempted the Road Commission, Department of Public Works, and Department of Aeronautics; and

WHEREAS, the policy required that these departments submit their own policy to the Board of Commissioners for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has submitted their policy to the Administrators Office; staff has reviewed the policy and recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Department of Public Works Asset Capitalization Policy as attached.

12-13-01-183 – PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR MILLENNIUM PARK PROJECT

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ERICKSON AND WHITCOMB / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the purchase of property for the Millennium Park Project is a priority of the Kent County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, four parcels are currently being offered for sale and the County has entered into a purchase agreement for each property contingent on Board approval per Board Policy; and

WHEREAS, the agreement also provides the County the right of first refusal on other properties in the project area owned by Mr. & Mrs. Whitcomb; and

WHEREAS, the Board has set funds aside for land acquisition and development of Millennium Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the purchase of the following properties: Whitcomb property, \$125,800; Erickson property, \$125,000 and authorizes Chair Heacock or his designee to execute necessary documentation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the payment of the total purchase price of \$250,800 plus necessary transactional expenses and realtor's fee from the Millennium Park CIP Account.

Commissioner Koorndyk requested that resolution 12-13-01-179 be removed from the consent agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Mast, supported by Commissioner Kuhn, to approve the remaining consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Morren, Postmus, Sak, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 17.

Nays: 0.

12-13-01-179 – AMEND DRAIN COMMISSION BUDGET / DRAIN COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the 2001 adopted budget for the Drains At Large activity was \$75,000. The budget was amended for an additional \$60,900, per resolution 5-24-01-72, in May

of 2001 for a total amended budget of \$135,90; and

WHEREAS, there is an additional \$80,000 needed to pay the remainder of the 2001 County assessments; and

WHEREAS, this has been a particularly heavy construction year for the Drain Commission. The level of drain construction activity in FY01 has exceeded FY00 by \$677,861 or 167.6%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the transfer of \$80,000 from the Unreserved, Undesignated General Fund to the 2001 Drain Commission Budget - Drains At Large.

Motion by Commissioner Mast, supported by Commissioner Wahlfield, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Morren, Postmus, Sak, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 17.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

12-13-01-184 – PARKS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Chair Heacock established the Parks Subcommittee in May 2001 with the following mission and charge: To evaluate and recommend to the Board of Commissioners action relating to the governance of the County park system and the possibility of a dedicated millage to provide reliable and permanent funding for parks; and

WHEREAS, Subcommittee members spent considerable time gathering information regarding Parks Department funding, operations, and governance; and

WHEREAS, based on the information the Subcommittee developed the following recommendations:

- 1) Because land costs will only increase and land availability will only decrease, the County should take measures to acquire an additional 1,400 acres (over and above the 1,200 acres remaining to be purchased for Millennium Park) within the next seven to ten years,
preferably sooner.
- 2) The Board of Commissioners appoint a “Blue Ribbon Task Force” that includes a combination of public officials and private citizens to determine the best mechanism to provide ongoing permanent funding of the Parks Department.
- 3) The Parks Department should become part of the County organization and report directly to the Office of the County Administrator under the provisions of PA 156 of 1917, as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the report of the Parks Subcommittee and authorizes the Administrator/Controller to take measures necessary to establish a Parks Department pursuant to the provisions of PA 156 of 1917, as amended by July 1, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Chair be authorized to create a Blue Ribbon Task Force for the purpose of developing a recommendation for permanent funding for acquisition, development, and operation and maintenance of the County's Park system and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Administrator/Controller develop plans for the acquisition of parkland based upon the recommendations contained in the Blue Ribbon Task Force report.

Motion by Commissioner McGuire, supported by Commissioner Wahlfield, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried by voice vote.

12-13-01-185 – EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATOR / CONTROLLER / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners, on February 25, 1999, appointed Daryl Delabbio as County Administrator/Controller; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative and Human Resources Committee, pursuant to Resolution 2-25-99-20, developed and recommended approval of the Employment Agreement by and between the Board of Commissioners and Mr. Delabbio; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative and Human Resources Committee has developed proposed changes to said Employment Agreement and is recommending that the Board of Commissioners approve those changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Employment Agreement by and between the Kent County Board of Commissioners and Daryl Delabbio effective for the period January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Kent County Board of Commissioners, or Vice-Chair in his absence, is authorized to sign the Employment Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the agreement need not be included in the minutes as a copy is on file with the County Clerk.

Motion by Commissioner Postmus, supported by Commissioner Buege, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Morren, Postmus, Sak, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 17.

Nays: 0.

12-13-01-186 – PARTICIPATION IN KENT HEALTH PLAN AND ASSOCIATED BUDGET AMENDMENT / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, over the past year, State and local representatives have been working to develop a system to provide health insurance coverage to low-income (up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level) County residents. As a result, the Kent Health Plan, a private, non-profit corporation has been formed. Pursuant to an agreement with the State Department of

Community Health, the corporation will receive State and local funds, matched by federal funds, to provide primary care services for eligible County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department currently provides two services eligible for delivery through the Kent Health Plan: Maternal Support Services and Infant Support Services (MSS/ISS) and Child Health Screens. Transfer of the funding currently used to provide these services to the State for distribution through the Kent Health Plan allows them to be eligible for federal match and provides additional funding for indigent health care services within the County. Kent County Health Department would continue to provide these services as a contractor of the Kent Health Plan; and

WHEREAS, County Civil Counsel has reviewed the recommended structure and is satisfied with the proposed contractual relationships.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves participation in the Kent Health Plan by transferring current funding for eligible services to the State Department of Community Health for distribution through the Kent Health Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the Health Department's serving as a contract provider of the Kent Health Plan for maternal support services and infant support services, and child health screens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves an amendment to the Health Department budget to reflect the actual flow of funds.

Motion by Commissioner Koorndyk, supported by Commissioner Morgan, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Morren, Postmus, Sak, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 17.

Nays: 0.

12-13-01-187 – JOHN BALL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN MASTER PLAN / ZOO

WHEREAS, the John Ball Zoological Garden Master Plan has become a contentious issue since the first draft of an updated plan was released in May 2000; and

WHEREAS, the County has undertaken many efforts in order to find common ground with neighbors surrounding the park including participating in neighborhood meetings, allocation of \$250,000 for immediate maintenance updates and future capital improvements, appointment of the Park Task Force to study improvements to the park portion of the John Ball Zoological Garden, Zoo Director release of an October 2000 compromise plan, hiring Ken Polakowski to recommend a compromise solution, and redirecting Jones & Jones to create a final plan using the Zoo Task Force, Polakowski plan and October 2000 compromise plan in their deliberation; and

WHEREAS, compromise activity undertaken by the County has resulted in the reduction of the proposed future zoo footprint from 49 acres to 35 acres; and

WHEREAS, the current proposed plan retains exciting features of the Polakowski plan and recommendations of the Parks Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the John Ball Zoological Society Board, Zoo Advisory Board and Zoological Garden staff recommend adoption of the report; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners hosted a public hearing on the proposed John Ball Zoological Garden Master Plan at the Gerald R. Ford Museum on November 19, 2001.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the John Ball Zoological Garden Master Plan as proposed by Jones & Jones.

Motion by Commissioner Vaughn, supported by Commissioner McGuire, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion by Commissioner Hiddema, supported by Commissioner Mayhue, to call the question after extensive discussion.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion to adopt resolution carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Morren, Postmus, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 15.

Nays: Mast, Sak - 2.

(Vice Chair Morren left the meeting at this time.)

12-13-01-188 – MILLENNIUM PARK PROJECT FUNDING / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, development of the Millennium Park Project is a priority of the Kent County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Millennium Park Project has been added to the *Kent County Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Master Plan*; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has previously approved Resolutions 3-23-00-28 and 7-12-01-88, thereby allocating a total of \$6 million to the Millennium Park Project; and

WHEREAS, the Secchia Millennium Commission has raised nearly \$4 million and has committed to raise \$5 million for the Millennium Park Project; and

WHEREAS, grant approvals have been received in the total amount of \$5,749,000 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners is desirous of completing the funding allocation to meet the total projected expense for land acquisition, environmental, and construction of Millennium Park; and

WHEREAS, the Fund Balance Review Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners is recommending an additional allocation of \$8.5 million from the County's Unreserved, Undesignated General Funds for Millennium Park Project expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the transfer of \$8.5 million from the County's Unreserved,

Undesignated General Fund Balance to the Millennium Park Project Capital Improvement Plan Account for land acquisition, environmental, and development of Millennium Park.

Motion by Commissioner Koorndyk, supported by Commissioner McGuire, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Postmus, Sak, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 16.

Nays: 0.

12-13-01-189 – ALLOCATION TO WAHLFIELD PARK PROJECT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN ACCOUNT / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, development of Wahlfield Park is included in the *Kent County Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Master Plan*; and

WHEREAS, completion of Wahlfield Park is compatible with the goal of Kent County Parks to develop regional parks in high population growth areas; and

WHEREAS, the Fund Balance Review Subcommittee has met several times and recommends approval of \$1.5 million in additional funding for the Wahlfield Park Project Capital Improvement Plan account for land acquisition and development purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the transfer of \$1.5 million from the County's Unreserved, Undesignated, General Fund Balance to the Millennium Park Capital Improvement Plan Account for Wahlfield Park land acquisition and development.

(Commissioner Morgan graciously deferred and offered adoption of the resolution to Commissioner Wahlfield.)

Motion by Commissioner Wahlfield, supported by Commissioner McGuire, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Postmus, Sak, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 16.

Nays: 0.

12-13-01-190 – ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR WAHLFIELD PARK / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, development of Wahlfield Park is listed as a priority in the *Kent County Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Master Plan*; and

WHEREAS, two parcels are available which together are adjacent to Wahlfield Park; and

WHEREAS, one parcel of 88.5 acres is owned by Frances Ebers Rollert, Julie Ebers Neff, Gay Ebers Franckewiak, and Ellen Ebers Counihan and has a negotiated price of \$500,000 and the other parcel of 110 acres is owned by Carl F. Vogel and Harriet B. Vogel and has a negotiated price of \$700,000; and

WHEREAS, the parcels include rolling topography, woods and Mill Creek; and

WHEREAS, Wahlfield Park is located in a high growth area and completion of the proposed purchases will make Wahlfield Park a regional park in size.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the purchase of 88.5 acres of land owned by Frances Ebers Rollert, Julie Ebers Neff, Gay Ebers Franckewiak and Ellen Ebers Counihan for the price of \$500,000, and the purchase of 110 acres of land from Carl F. Vogel and Harriet B. Vogel for the price of \$700,000 with funds available from the Wahlfield Park CIP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chair Heacock or his designee are hereby authorized to execute necessary documentation to complete the purchase.

(Commissioner Koorndyk graciously deferred and offered adoption of the resolution to Commissioner Wahlfield.)

Motion by Commissioner Wahlfield, supported by Commissioner Koorndyk, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Postmus, Sak, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 16.

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

NACO Profile

Commissioner Vaughn announced that the National Association of Counties (NACO) recently profiled Commissioner Kuhn in its publication.

GVSU

Commissioner Morgan congratulated the Grand Valley Lakers for their successful football season.

Merry Christmas

Chair Heacock wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

(Commissioner Mast deferred adjournment to Commissioner Wahlfield.)

At 10:35 a.m., Commissioner Wahlfield moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Wednesday, January 2, 2002, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:00 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Kuhn. Motion carried.

Steven R. Heacock, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk