

ADAMS WOODS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of first meeting, February 16, 1972

The first meeting of the Adams Woods Advisory Council was called to order at 8:15 P.M. on Wednesday, February 16, 1972, at the Bloomfield Township hall, by Marjorie Walker, temporary chairman.

Members present were: Keith R. Kleckner, Eugene L. Johnson, Robert Bryan, Edwin W. Wichert, Dr. Charles L. Bowers, Elizabeth Benjamin, Maurice B. Allen, Nancy P. Johnson, Donna Hartwig, James A. Lahde, Marjorie M. Walker, Erwin Bud Wittus, and Local & Regional Affairs Committee representative Joseph L. Barakat.

Also present were: Gabor M. Zovanyi and Ted Lerchen of the Oakland County Planning Commission.

Nancy Johnson was requested by the chair to act as temporary secretary.

Copies of letters of February 8 sent to Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission and to Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees, by Mr. Barakat, requesting those groups to name a representative to this council, were presented to the temporary secretary to be placed on file.

The chairman introduced all members and guests present. She then presented a brief resume of the recent history and status of the land called Adams Woods:

The Green Brothers, owners of the north portion of the woods, petitioned Bloomfield Township for rezoning of that land for multiple housing in 1970. This appeal was denied by the Township and was then taken by the owners to County Circuit Court, where it remained without further action until the fall of 1971.

Paul Robertson took an option on the south portion of the woods, owned by the Beardslee estate, in the Spring of 1971, and later obtained an option from the Green Brothers on the north portion in the fall of 1971. At that time he approached the township and the court with a request for multiple zoning. The court instructed the township to come to an agreement with Mr. Robertson on the use of the land in an out-of-court settlement.

Oakland County Commissioner Joseph L. Barakat presented a resolution to the commission in December, 1971, requesting the County Parks and Recreation Commission to acquire Adams Woods. This resolution was referred to the Local and Regional Affairs Committee and the Planning and Building Committee for study. In January the full commission voted 20-2 to pass the resolution.

The Adams Woods Natural Area Council, on January 21st, 1972, made a second presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission (the first having been in January 1971). The Awnac described the woods and the importance of preserving it, and representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and of Nature Conservancy also spoke on its value and possible methods of acquisition. Later in January the Parks and Recreation Commission resolved to seek ways to acquire the property.

On February 14, 1972, Bloomfield Township passed a resolution to allow a consent judgment to be given by the court to Mr. Robertson permitting multiple zoning on the property. This was done on February 15th.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is in the process of acquiring an appraisal of the value of the property at the present time.

Mrs. Walker explained the proposed operation of the Adams Woods Advisory Council. Three subcommittees were recommended and approved, with chairmen, as follows:

1. Site development and programming: Edwin Wichert, chairman
2. Community events and public relations: Donna Hartwig, chairman
3. Funding: Bud Wittus, chairman

The first committee will proceed immediately, but the other two will not be able to move forward until the status of the land is known. The members of these subcommittees will be chosen by the chairmen. Suggested names of prospective members were presented to the chairmen and further names were solicited from the council members.

The following resources available to the subcommittees were listed by the chairman:

- County coordinator of federal funds, Gordon Hobbs (advice on grants)
- Maps previously obtained by Awnac from various sources
- Background information report prepared by the County Planning Comm.
- Brief descriptive report on Adams Woods by Dr. Jeffrey Greenhouse of Oakland University