J-04b

At a Regular Meeting of the Royal Oak City Commission held on Monday, April 3, 2006, in City Hall, 211 Williams Street, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS Catalpa Park, park land property boarding the Oakland County Health Department's offices in Southfield, is owned by Oakland County; and

WHEREAS since 1964, the county has leased the land to Southfield for $1 per year; and

WHEREAS Catalpa Park is home to six soccer fields and two baseball diamonds that are regularly used by residents of southeastern Oakland County including the City of Royal Oak; and

WHEREAS Catalpa Park is 28 acres in size and receives an estimated 45,000 visitors a year from the area; and

WHEREAS due to the "built-out" nature of communities in southeast Oakland County, many communities using Catalpa Park are small suburbs with limited open green space for sports fields; and

WHEREAS Oakland County has indicated that if Southfield does not purchase the property at the end of the current 18 month lease Oakland County has with the city, it will go up for sale; and

WHEREAS like most municipalities in Oakland County, financial challenges prevent Southfield from affording the resources to purchase the property; and

WHEREAS the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission levy's a .25 mil property tax on all residents of Oakland County; and

WHEREAS the mission of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is to provide all residents of Oakland County with recreational, leisure and learning experiences; parks, open spaces, facilities; and professional staff and fiscal management, resulting in a comprehensive county park system that enhances the residents' quality of life; and

WHEREAS Red Oaks in Madison Heights is the only county operated park out of all 11 county parks in southeast Oakland County; and

WHEREAS should the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission acquire the Catalpa Park property it would further its mission and provide greater equity and fairness in the countywide park system; and

WHEREAS on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Committee voted against exploring purchasing the property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Royal Oak encourages the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission to reconsider their vote, and take steps to purchase Catalpa Park to add it to the county owned park system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Royal Oak encourages the Oakland County Board of Commissioners to take appropriate action to sell Catalpa Park to the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Royal Oak encourages the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission to explore additional ways to expand recreational opportunities in older, fully developed communities, and incorporate a park and recreations strategy for older, fully developed communities into the Commission's Master Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the communities in southeast Oakland County; Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson; the Oakland County Board of Commissioners; the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission; and all local media.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Royal Oak City Commission at a meeting held on April 3, 2006.

Mary Ellen Gleeson

City Clerk

RECEIVED

APR 06 2006

CITY OF TROY
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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