

## *Friends of Hunter Park*

*November 17, 2004*  
*Minutes*

The first Friends of Hunter Park meeting was held on November 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Allen Neighborhood Center.

Seventeen people attended the meeting: 10 neighbors and 7 professionals, such as staff from the Parks and Recreation Department, Capital Consultants, the City of Lansing, etc.

The meeting began with introductions, followed by a review of what occurred at the two Hunter Park Master Plan Update meetings earlier this year.

The group then discussed how the Friends of Hunter Park should be structured. It was decided that the purpose of the group is:

- To provide a space and time for neighbors to discuss park issues;
- Advocate for the park with decision-makers (City, Parks Department) and by educating voters about the park millage;
- Organize and facilitate activities in the park;
- Search for funding opportunities to finance proposed park improvements.

A list of priorities identified earlier this year was posted next to a graphic design of the proposed changes to the park. The top priority was the half mile perimeter path around the park. Although it was recognized that it would take a while to construct an asphalt path, there was consensus that the group would like the path painted as soon as possible and possibly outlined with something that identifies where the path will be when it is constructed. In this way people can start 'making' the path right away.

Participants also began brainstorming activities that could occur in the park in order to increase use by neighbors. Though a major event will be planned for spring, the group will begin immediately to plan smaller events and activities for this winter in order to begin pulling people into the park as soon as possible. Ideas for the coming year included:

- Spring/Summer International Festival-showcasing a variety of cultures and their traditions
- Art auction
- Walk-a-thon
- Plant exchange
- Winter festival with sled races, snowman building contests, etc.
- Soccer leagues
- Easter egg hunt and other holiday events (Halloween, etc.)
- Swim-a-thon
- Tennis league/lessons

In addition, major fundraising needs to occur in order to implement all of the proposed park improvements. Joe Wright of Capital Consultants provided rough estimates of the cost of each improvement, and indicated that the combined cost is approximately \$1.4 million. Bri Havens, the MSU Graduate Intern at ANC, committed to looking for funding opportunities to bring to the next meeting so that the grant writing and fundraising process can begin as soon as possible.

Finally, the group elected two co-chairs Francine Watts of Hunter Park East (aka HERO) and JulieAnn Jones of Hunter Park West. Bri Havens will be meeting with these two before the next meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Allen Neighborhood Center.

Minutes submitted by: Brianne Havens