The City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield
Recreational Authority

400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 922-4480

December 16, 2009

Grand Traverse Commons Joint Planning Commission
c/o Ms. Carol Hale, Chairperson
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, MI 49684

Dear Ms. Hale:

Subject: Input Regarding Draft Master Plan for the Grand Traverse Commons

Congratulations on the draft Master Plan for the Grand Traverse Commons. Overall, this plan includes the many features of the South Campus Entrance Design Plan and ensures the vision of the City of Traverse City and Charter Township of Garfield Recreational Authority.

The following are concerns of the Recreational Authority Board as a result of the December 15, 2009 meeting:

1. A key element of the South Campus Entrance Road Plan was that "Final road design and location will depend upon field data and surveys, traffic engineering, and aesthetic and functional factors, including reasonable and prudent alternatives to minimize environmental effects, with the appropriate review and approvals as necessary by local, state, and federal agencies." As this was an integral part of the South Campus Entrance Design Plan and will ultimately affect the Historic Barns Park, we ask that this language be included in the Master Plan for the Grand Traverse Commons.

2. One of the plans at the Historic Barns Park is to cultivate a botanical garden over 20 acres of the property. Under the fourth objective "areas where the existing original historic elements of the landscape remain," the fourth strategy under this objective (page 43) states "adhere to the historical landscape standards." Although the goal for the botanical garden for the property is to use native species and the natural surroundings, there may be a need for the garden to include vegetation that may not adhere to the historical landscape standards. We would like to see this amended to include language that allows the botanical garden flexibility with standards.

3. Although there are maps included in the draft Master Plan, there is no clear delineation of where the roads are to be located. We suggest including a detailed map showing the proper positioning of the roads to make clear the circulation for vehicular transportation.

We will have a member of the Recreational Authority in attendance at tonight's public hearing to discuss the above concerns and address any questions you may have.

As always, please feel free to contact us at any time if we may be of further assistance or answer additional questions.

Most sincerely,

Ross Biederman /cb

Ross Biederman
Chair

rb/cb
E-Copy: Recreational Authority Board
Brad Kaye, Garfield Township Planning Director
Russ Soyring, City Planning Director