



Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Joint Unified School District, East Conference Room
526 B Street
Thursday, March 19, 2009
MINUTES

Commission Members Present: Michael Bartolic, Roger Gambatese, Robert Glassburner, Nathaniel Leachman, Susan Sabatier (Vice-Chair) and Nicole Slaton

Commission Members Absent: Michael Beckman and Lorraine Hwang

Council Liaison Present: Lamar Heystek

Staff Present: Elvia Garcia-Ayala, Rob Cain and Christine Helweg

Public Present: Mark Lutkenhouse

Vice Chair S. Sabatier called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Approved by consensus

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of February 19, 2009 were approved by consensus, with the following correction: adding Doug Jena to the "Public Present" at the meeting.

3. Public Communications

Mark Lutkenhouse introduced himself to the Commission as a member of the Aquatics Masters. He also has interests in rugby and lacrosse.

4. Written Communications

None.

5. Presentation of \$2,000 Grant to the City of Davis by the Greater Sacramento Softball Association (GSSA)

This item was deferred until April 2009 due to a meeting conflict for the GSSA representative.

6. Mace Ranch Community Park Memorial Tree Grove Proposal

Rob Cain, Urban Forest Manager/City Arborist, reviewed preliminary design plans with the Commission for the proposed collaborative memorial tree grove with Tree Davis. Tree Davis will be the curator of the memorial grove, with five to six new trees being added per year.

There will also be a centralized memorial sign rather than individual donor plaques at each tree location.

Motion was made by S. Sabatier, seconded by M. Bartolic to approve the planting plan for a memorial tree grove in Mace Ranch Community Park. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission did not approve the display case design since it was not included in the staff report, and requested Parks & General Services staff to come back to the Commission with the kiosk design and its proposed location within the park.

7. Central Park Stage Reservation Policy

Superintendent Helweg reviewed the draft Central Park Stage Reservation policy and procedures with the Commission. The associated rental fees and deposit requirements were also reviewed in conjunction to the adjacent picnic area. A concern related to the proposed name of the Central Park stage arose in the Commission's discussion due to the fact that a dedication ceremony had already been implemented by the City, which included a plaque naming the amenity the "Rotary Stage." Staff recommended that the amenity possibly be named the Central Park Rotary Stage for the purposes of the reservation policy, however, the Commission did not approve this recommendation.

Motion was made by N. Leachman, seconded by R. Gambatese to recommend approval of the Central Park Stage Reservation policy and its proposed rental deposit and fees, with the following amendments:

1. Page 2 of policy – add language to clarify the Wednesday Farmer's Market use for children's activities
2. page 2 – separate bullet point about additional rental costs to be incurred for Saturday use by the Farmer's Market
3. page 2 – add language to clarify that the use of the stage by the Rotary organizations must be official club business and not events for or by individual Rotary members
4. page 2 – clarify language about two hour space requirement between each reservation
5. page 3 – clarify language concerning refund policy
6. page 3 – clarify language about inclement weather clause
7. page 3 – clarify language concerning the term "non-profit" so that it is comparable to that of the City's other facility rental policies

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission also requested that an additional statement be forwarded to the City Council relative to the naming of this park amenity, as follows:

"The Recreation and Park Commission did not have the opportunity to discuss, review or approve the design or naming of this public park amenity. The current policy for naming public park facilities and/or amenities was not followed."

8. Development of 2009 Work Plan for Recreation and Park Commission

Superintendent reviewed the proposed goals, work plan calendar and objectives for the Commission's 2009 Work Plan. The following additions/changes were suggested:

1. Item #3 Carryover/Continuing Goals – to move above to the policy area of Commission Operating standards
2. Adding – July as National Parks and Recreation Month Designation (ongoing) to Carryover/Continuing Goals

The Commission also expressed concerns about the lack of information being provided relative to the proposed sports park. The Commission requested that staff provided periodic updates on this project at the next Commission meeting.

The Commission and Councilmember Heystek were also concerned that the Commission had not been given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on proposed budget reductions that have been submitted by various city departments. Councilmember Heystek expressed that he believed the Council would be very interested in hearing suggestions and comments from the Commission relative to proposed program and/or facility closures.

The Commission requested that staff bring back a budget update, which included the full list of proposed reductions for both Community Services and the Parks and General Services Departments. The Commission is interested in providing feedback to staff and to Council relative to:

- Reviewing the ranking or order in which the Dept reductions are listed
- Identifying any alternative program, service or facility reductions that may not have been included on the reduction list
- Identifying any program, services or facility reduction that is currently on the list that the Commission feels should be removed

9. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

Commissioner Glassburner announced the new TV show focusing on parks and recreation to be aired later next month.

10. Liaison/Staff Reports

- City Council Liaison report – Councilmember Heystek reported that the Synthetic Turf Field Construction bid was awarded by the Council and construction should begin within the next few weeks.
- Finance & Budget Commission (FBC) – Commissioner Leachman had no report other than the commission members are continuing to work with the City Council on budget forecasts and strategies to assist in the balancing of the city's budget.
- Open Space and Habitat Commission – Commissioner Slaton reported that the commission has spent a significant amount of time evaluating the connectivity of the greenbelts and bike ways. Recommendations for maintenance and ongoing improvements will be developed.
- Superintendent Helweg announced that the Community Services Department has submitted a Letter of Intent to apply for a grant from the Kaiser Community Benefits Grants program in the amount of \$15,000.
- Upcoming Commission Meetings – Thursday, April 16, 2009

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The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair S. Sabatier at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg

Community Services Superintendent

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