



Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Joint Unified School District, East Conference Room
526 B Street
Thursday, May 21, 2009
MINUTES

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

Commission Members Absent: Michael Bartolic and Lorraine Hwang

Council Liaison Present: Lamar Heystek

Staff Present: Lisa Buckman, Anne Brunette, Sandy Dietrich, Elvia Garcia-Ayala, Donna Silva and Christine Helweg

Public Present: Megan Contreras, Rich Healy, Pamela Mainini, Barry and Laura McClure, Norm VanBrocklin, and Lou Ziskind

Vice Chair S. Sabatier called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Approved by consensus

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of April 16, 2009 were approved by consensus.

3. Public Communications

None.

4. Written Communications

None.

5. Request by Girl Scouts of Davis to Use Slide Hill Park for Annual Girl Scout Camp

A motion was made by S. Sabatier, seconded by N. Leachman to approve the request by the Girl Scouts of Davis to Use Slide Hill Park for annual Girl Scout Camp in August 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Yolo Hospice Commemorative Grove Renovation

Sandy Dietrich, Parks Supervisor, provided the Commission with a brief summary and historical review of the project, outlining all the various steps that the Commission and city staff had incorporated into the overall process for this particular project proposal. Staff indicated that they considered it unfortunate that Yolo Hospice felt the need to withdraw the

project from further consideration by the Commission or City Council because the project did appear to complement the proposed site location. No further action was taken by the Commission due to the withdrawal of the project by the applicant.

Resident, Norm VanBrocklin, spoke complimentary of city staff member, Sandy Dietrich, and her willingness to put in extra hours on this project while working to find solutions with the neighbors and the applicant.

Resident, Pamela Mainini, also spoke in support the proposed project by Yolo Hospice and requested information as to the City's project review process. Ms. Mainini also expressed concerns related to the poor condition of the memorial signage in the Commemorative Grove, the lack of irrigation to the memorial trees, and the overall poor maintenance of the site. Ms. Mainini requested more information from staff about how to proceed with trying to get the site better maintained. Parks and General Services Director, Donna Silva, stated that she would be in contact with Ms. Mainini and follow up on her requests. Council Liaison Lamar Heystek also indicated that he has some suggestions for Ms. Mainini, and would be following up with her also.

7. 2008 Annual Report from Explorit Science Center

Lou Ziskind, Rich Healey (Board Member), and Megan Contreras (Program Director) were in attendance to represent the Explorit Science Center. Ms. Contreras provided a brief overview of the annual report, indicating that approximately 80% of the participants at the Mace Ranch Branch for 2008 programming were residents of Davis.

The Commission requested that Explorit expand upon the data collection to include more information in the 2009 annual report to possibly include:

- # of Davis classrooms visiting the site vs. the # of schools
- Total # of students visiting the site
- Include more information on how Explorit promotes their programs in the Davis community

In light of the recent decision of the City Council to reuse the Third & B facility, the Commission also suggested that Explorit may wish to consider expanding their program offerings to include more pre-teen and teens by adding:

- Junior high summer programming
- Encourage more 8th or 9th grade science class field trips from local campuses
- Offer after school science and math homework support

8. Reservation Policy and Conditions of Use for Synthetic Turf Soccer Field

The Commission reviewed the second draft for the Synthetic Turf Soccer Field Reservation Policy and Conditions of Use at Playfields Park. Commissioner Beckman was particularly concerned about how the field reservations would be prioritized to ensure that community organizations that primarily serve Davis residents have priority use of the field over those organizations who serve outside members. The Commission also requested the following corrections to the Policy and Conditions of Use:

- Correction to the city's web site on page 6 of the Reservation policy
- Correction to the city's Inclement Weather enrollment list serve address on page 6 of the Reservation policy
- Consolidate the bullets of "no eating of shelled nuts" with the bullet on "no food, snacks and candy" on page 2 of the Conditions of Use
- Delete "there may be the potential for" and replace with "is" under bullet point related to bodily fluids on page 2 of the Conditions of Use

A motion was made by N. Leachman, seconded by N. Slaton to approve the Playfield Synthetic Turf Soccer Field Reservation Policy and Conditions of Use, with the recommended corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional comments included a "Save The Date" for June 15, 2009, for the opening dedication ceremony of the field. The Commission also requested that staff follow up with the members of the public who had previously requested that staff inquire about placing Lacrosse lines into the new field. As staff had previously thought, the construction process was to far underway to add the changes into the lines of the field without additional excess cost. The Commission could consider this request in the future as the field is replaced and/or receives major repairs to the synthetic material.

9. Formation of the Ad Hoc Youth Advisory Task Force (YATF)

Superintendent Helweg provided the Commission with an update on the recent actions of the City Council to re-use the Third and B Facility for the U.S. Bicycle Hall of Fame & Museum, and to direct staff to form a Youth Advisory Task Force to assist with future teen programming and facility needs.

The Commission recommended that the City Council representative be deleted from the Task Force membership, and to secure alternate positions for all student representative seats.

A motion was made by S. Sabatier, seconded by M. Beckman to approve the formation and composition of the Youth Advisory Task Force as amended above. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

Commissioner Slaton announced that there will be an informational meeting on June 1, 2009 related to the proposed addition of Electric Transmission Lines.

Commissioner Gambatese spoke briefly related to his desire to have continued discussions on the Guiding Principles that had been previously discussed by the Commission in February 2009.

11. Liaison/Staff Reports

- City Council Liaison report – Councilman Heystek identified that the Commission may be receiving a request to rename a park or area after the late Mayor Julie Partansky. Staff indicated that the item is tentatively scheduled to come before the Commission in June 2009.

Councilman Heystek also advised the Commission that at the last City Council meeting an amendment to the current Community Services Facility Cost Recovery

Policy had been recommended to the City Council by the UCD-Student Liaison Commission to allow all UCD student organizations eligibility for discounted facility rates regardless of their membership criteria. No action was taken by the City Council, and the item is scheduled to come back on June 2, 2009. It is staff's recommendation that the proposed policy amendment return to the Recreation and Park Commission where the policy originated.

- Finance & Budget Commission (FBC) – Commissioner Leachman stated that members of the FBC had been meeting frequently on budget issues, and is beginning to plan for an increase to \$4.5 million shortfall next year now that the statewide ballot measures failed. The next budget workshop will be on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at the City Council meeting.
- Open Space and Habitat Commission – Members of the Commission have decided not to determine a single definition of Open Space, but rather have categories that will be developed as part of their 2009 Work Plan.
- Upcoming Commission Meetings – Thursday, June 18, 2009

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair S. Sabatier at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg
Community Services Superintendent