



**Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Senior Center Valente Room, 646 A Street
Thursday, February 18, 2016
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present: Ira Bray (Chair), Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald (Vice Chair), Will Arnold, Emily Griswold and Travie Westlund

Commission Members Absent: None

Council Liaison Present: None

Public Present: Bill Wood, Lena Wood and Josh Zedler

Staff Present: Christine Helweg, Martin Jones, Dale Sumersille and Heidi Tschudin

Chair Ira Bray called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by T. Westlund, seconded by C. Greenwald, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 21 and February 1, 2016.

A motion was made by C. Greenwald, seconded by T. Westlund, to approve the meeting minutes as presented by staff. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comments

Bill Wood – spoke regarding his concerns related to the Northstar Playground Replacement. He is concerned that the City will be eliminating the sand around the existing playground, installing a new structure that consists of plastic. He would like to request that the City reconsider replacing this playground structure.

Lena Wood – She does not understand why the City is taking out a perfectly good structure and removing the sand that is one of the few remaining areas in the City.

Josh Zedler- Would like to the City try to keep more originality with the play structures throughout the City.

4. Written Communications

None

5. Discussion and Comments on Final EIR for the Mace Ranch Innovation Center

Heidi Tschudin, Project Manager reviewed the key components of the proposed project, provided an update on the Draft EIR public comments and reviewed project timeline.

Tier Project decisions are scheduled to go to Council tentatively in May. Each of three tier decision points were described with more detail for the Commission. The tiers are examples and specific items can be moved between tiers as needed.

H. Tschudin summarized the Council's Guiding Principles and highlighted those that were most relevant to Parks and to the Commission's purpose.

Project Applicant Presentation-Two Master Plan Concept Plans were distributed-the first being the original project plan and the second being a mixed use alternative incorporating a housing element.

Commissioner Questions

T. Westlund – none

C. Greenwald – Not really yet-please come back to her

E. Griswold- What type of retail is anticipated and how much square footage? Maximum of 100,000 sq ft. of supportive retail

W. Arnold - Eluded to the same park acreage for each concept? (10 acres more in the mixed use alternative) Eluded to the fact that there are different needs if there are people living there vs. only business park employees. Applicant confirmed that there will be public space regardless of which option is pursued.

I. Bray – 25 acres of City property, primarily in the upper northwest quadrant of the project. Community Gardens is an actual parcel on the land.

C. Greenwald - Confirming that no manufacturing will be near gardens or park spaces, concerned with the compatibility of public and private spaces, mixed uses are becoming more common due to more restrictive environmental regulations, public vs. private park spaces and maintenance standards and full public access assurances.

Public Comment

Robert Gambetese – Inquired about whether the amenities of the park are undecided at this time - would like to suggest bocce ball courts for senior and disabled residents.

Commission Comments

W. Arnold - #3a - Does feel the proposed project meets park needs, but the details need further discussion. Feels that the project is generally consistent with the Guiding Principles.

#3b - does not feel it is appropriate for the Commission to formally weigh in on the preferred alternative/concept plan given the proposed park space in each of those.

#3c - basketball court, activity and restrooms are definitely needed, wants to see active use areas not just passive spaces

E. Griswold - Project is consistent with City principles. Believe that the public spaces will be more utilized with the mixed use alternatives, but the details of plan will need to be further reviewed.

C. Greenwald - Concurs w/ similar comments and viewpoints already expressed by other Commissioners, mixed use preferred, how can it be attractive for the public use for after 5:00 pm. Need for public restroom near park spaces.

T. Westlund – is supportive of the project and the concepts seem to make sense, the mixed use concept makes most sense, need protection from north winds, and consider more options for shade in park spaces during peak summer months.

I. Bray - Generally agrees that the project is consistent with principles. Does not think that housing is a good idea due to the density, it's problematic, conflict with privatization of park spaces, the project will generate the need for housing but it should not be part of this project site. Staff should review the recommended density formula from the National Recreation and Park Association.

W. Arnold - The formula is driven by density thus can affect population numbers.

A motion was made by T. Westlund, seconded by W. Arnold that the project is generally consistent with the Guiding Principles for the proposed project. The motion was approved unanimously.

Supports Mixed Use Alternative - T. Westlund, E.Griswold

Cecilia undecided

Original Concept - Ira

Will cannot support any motion that leads the Commission to make a preferred alternative concept for the MRIC (abstaining)

E. Griswold- Is concerned and wonders whether residents are willing to pay an additional park tax if their parks are privately maintained? Or vice versa?

The Commission agreed by consensus that a summary of all their comments is their official response to staff's #3 recommendation in the staff report.

6. Northstar Pond Assessment and Management Proposal

I. Bray – similar situation to Spafford Lake

T. Westlund - Green waste uses?

E. Griswold – Aeration system appearance and sound volume, has the City considered a dredging option, plant low height aquatic plants as well as submersal plantings

Public Comments

Ed Whisler – inquired as to the toxicity of the yellow flag iris, concerned that some surrounding residents will not be aware and suggests the City do additional community outreach.

Alan Jackman - Circulation concerns, dredging, wants to see some portion of the cattails maintained as a stand for wildlife.

Jean Jackman - nest boxes for wood ducks, visual habitat desired

Ed Whisler - Boxes could be added later without any major disruption to the existing wildlife

Commission Comments

T. Westlund - Turbidity, circulation will be adequate

W. Arnold - Thank the consultants for all the work on this project-left meeting at 9:25 pm

C. Greenwald - Extensive wildlife list is amazing, thinks it's better to get started on this project as soon as possible.

E. Griswold - Makes sense and is consistent with the Blankinship & Associates report.

I. Bray – wondering if solar panels could be used as a power source, possibly using an UC Davis laboratory intern or other professor such as Jean Darby-Civil Engineer Water Quality

A motion was made by C. Greenwald, seconded by T. Westlund, to approve proceeding with the recommendation on the Northstar Pond Management proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

E. Griswold – The Central Park Gardens is planning their 10 year Anniversary Celebration for next year. The Memorandum of Understanding was first created in 2007 with the City.

T. Westlund - Mace Ranch Passive Recreation Area looks much better!! Wildhorse weeds sprouting with recent rains, no evidence of weed abatement, COS study stirred up concerns unnecessarily.

C. Greenwald - Pioneer park, restroom is not functioning properly.

I. Bray – Would like staff to follow up on the Asset Inventory Report or the Property Management Coordinator on the conditions existing at the Mace Ranch Facility that is currently being used by Explorit.

8. Liaison Reports

City Council - no report

Finance & Budget Commission – no report

Open Space & Habitat Commission – no report

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m. by consensus

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg, Community Services Superintendent