



Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Senior Center Valente Room, 646 A Street
Thursday, March 17, 2016
MINUTES

Commission Members Present: Ira Bray (Chair), Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald (Vice Chair), Will Arnold, Emily Griswold, Lon Payne, Maurice Pitesky, Travie Westlund and Stephanie Koop (Alternate)

Commission Members Absent: None

Council Liaison Present: None

Public Present: Lars Anderson, David Fahy, Kerry Loux, Alan Pryor and Lena Wood

Staff Present: Martin Guerena, Christine Helweg, Martin Jones, and Dale Sumersille

Chair Ira Bray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced new Commissioners Lon Payne, Maurice Pitesky and Stephanie Koop.

1. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Travie Westlund, seconded by Cecilia Greenwald, to approve the agenda. The motion passed 8-0-0-0.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2016.

A motion was made by Cecilia Greenwald, seconded by Travie Westlund, to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed 8-0-0-0.

3. Public Comments

David Fahy – spoke regarding a recent letter that he had sent to the City Council about pesticide spraying during the presence of students at Mace Ranch Park.

Lena Wood – Would like to request that the City consider a larger, deeper sand play area at Northstar Park in addition to potentially a higher structure for older kids.

Julia -Would like to request that the City consider a taller, higher structure, that possibly has a large monkey bar set and expand the width of the current proposal, possibly add roller slides, and standalone rope climbers.

4. Written Communications

Upcoming City Hall at the Market Event – April 9, City Booth Volunteer schedule:

9:00-10:00 am Travie Westlund

10:00-11:00 am Ira Bray

11:00-12:00 noon Cecilia Greenwald

5. 2015 Explorit Science Center Annual Report

Executive Director, Lars Anderson, provided the Commission with an overview of the programming that the center provided over the past year, in addition to several grants that had been secured to assist in completing some necessary facility improvements and specialty programs. Mr. Anderson also spoke about upcoming goals for 2016-2017. The Commission was pleased to hear of the increased maintenance to the facility and the increasing sustainability of the programs offered by the center. No action was taken as this was an informational item.

6. City Building and Park Facilities Assessment

Parks & Community Services Director, Dale Summersille, provided an overview of the Facility Assessment and the draft Executive Summaries for both the Buildings and Park Facilities. Additional information will be brought back to the Commission in April regarding potential 5-year funding recommendations. No action was taken as this was an informational item.

Commissioner Bray expressed concern about the poor condition of the Explorit buildings as evaluated by the Kitchell report, despite maintenance efforts by the Explorit organization. He suggested review of the lease agreement with the City to clarify specific maintenance responsibilities going forward and the actual cost to the City of such lease agreements.

Commissioner Emily Griswold excused herself from the meeting at the conclusion of this agenda item as she was not feeling well.

7. 2013 Veterans Memorial Center Feasibility Study and Rehabilitation Proposal

Superintendent Christine Helweg provided a historical overview of the Veterans Memorial Center Feasibility Study and the previous recommendations that the Recreation and Park Commission had provided in January 2013.

Victor Burbank, Hibser Yamaguchi Architects, provided a more detailed summary of the specific recommendations that had resulted from the Feasibility Study, and their associated cost estimates. Mr. Burbank also provided information about the revised scope of work that is currently being considered by the City in lieu of the Feasibility Study.

The Commission expressed interest in continuing to seek ways to expand bicycle parking in and around the facility, and alternative uses of the interior courtyard. Commissioners Ira Bray and Tracie Westlund also expressed concern that the proposed funding sources should not be used for this specific project.

A motion was made by Cecilia Greenwald, seconded by Ira Bray, to receive the final Veterans Memorial Center Feasibility Study report prepared by HY Architects, and to approve a recommendation to the City Council to proceed with the Veterans Memorial Center renovation project consistent with the Phase I Rehabilitation Proposal by HY Architects dated October 2, 2016. Further moved that the City Council direct staff to continue exploring expanded teen programming at this location.

The motion passed 5-1-1-1.

Ayes: Ira Bray, Cecilia Greenwald, Will Arnold, Maurice Pitesky, Stephanie Koop

Noes: Tracie Westlund

Absent: Emily Griswold

Abstain: Lon Payne

A motion was made by Lon Payne, seconded by Cecilia Greenwald, to table the discussion of agenda items #8 and #9 in the interests of time. The motion passed 7-0-1-0.

Another motion was made by Will Arnold, seconded by Lon Payne, to allow public comment to occur on agenda item #8 since members of the public had been waiting to speak on this item. The motion passed 7-0-1-0.

8. 2015 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Annual Report

This agenda item was deferred for Commission discussion until April 2016. Public comment was approved to occur on this item as several public members had been waiting to speak on this item.

Alan Pryor – concerned about the extensive spraying of pesticides that is currently happening within the Parks division, would like to request that a Toxic subcommittee be formed and meet to discuss pesticide spraying policies and procedures.

Lars Anderson – has noticed an increase in spraying around Mace Ranch Park, may need to re-examine spraying practices.

9. Development and Approval of 2016 Work Plan

This agenda item was deferred for Commission discussion until April 2016.

10. Designate the Chair and Vice Chair Positions

A motion was made by Cecilia Greenwald, seconded by Travie Westlund, to nominate herself as Chair for the coming year. The motion passed 7-0-1-0.

Ayes: Ira Bray, Cecilia Greenwald, Will Arnold, Lon Payne, Maurice Pitesky, Stephanie Koop, and Travie Westlund

Noes: None

Absent: Emily Griswold

Abstain: None

A motion was made by Will Arnold, seconded by Cecilia Greenwald, to nominate Travie Westlund as Vice Chair for the coming year. The motion passed 7-0-1-0.

Ayes: Ira Bray, Cecilia Greenwald, Will Arnold, Lon Payne, Maurice Pitesky, Stephanie Koop, and Travie Westlund

Noes: None

Absent: Emily Griswold

Abstain: None

11. Designate Commission Representatives to Serve as Liaisons to the Finance & Budget Commission and the Open Space & Habitat Commission

A motion was made by Will Arnold, seconded by Stephanie Koop, to nominate Travie Westlund as the Liaison to the Finance & Budget Commission for the coming year. The motion passed 7-0-1-0.

Ayes: Ira Bray, Cecilia Greenwald, Will Arnold, Lon Payne, Maurice Pitesky, Stephanie Koop, and Travie Westlund

Noes: None

Absent: Emily Griswold
Abstain: None

A motion was made by Lon Payne, seconded by Cecilia Greenwald, to nominate himself as Liaison to the Open Space & Habitat Commission for the coming year. The motion passed 7-0-1-0.

Ayes: Ira Bray, Cecilia Greenwald, Will Arnold, Lon Payne, Maurice Pitesky, Stephanie Koop, and Travie Westlund

Noes: None

Absent: Emily Griswold

Abstain: None

12. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

Will Arnold reported that the Sports Complex Task Force recommendations are tentatively scheduled to go back to City Council in July.

8. Liaison Reports

City Council - no report

Finance & Budget Commission – Travie Westlund reported that the FBC received a similar presentation on the Building and Park Assessment Report.

Open Space & Habitat Commission – no report

A motion was made by Travie Westlund, seconded by Will Arnold to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 p.m. The motion passed 7-0-1-0.

Ayes: Ira Bray, Cecilia Greenwald, Will Arnold, Lon Payne, Maurice Pitesky, Stephanie Koop, and Travie Westlund

Noes: None

Absent: Emily Griswold

Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg, Community Services Superintendent