



**Recreation and Park Commission  
Davis Senior Center Activity Room, 646 A Street  
Thursday, January 15, 2015  
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present: Ira Bray (Chair), Dawn Einwalter, Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald, Emily Griswold, and Will Arnold

Commission Members Absent: Katerina Robinson (Vice Chair), Francis Resta, and Travie Westlund

Council Liaison Present: None

Staff Present: Samantha Wallace, David Luckscheider, Melissa Chaney, and Bob Clarke

Chair Ira Bray called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by C. Escamilla-Greenwald, seconded by W. Arnold to approve the agenda and approved unanimously.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2014**

E. Griswold commented on page 2 of the minutes, under section 7. Review and Discussion of Sycamore Park, to note her comment should state *felt the boundaries of the off-leash dog park area was unclear*.

A motion was made by W. Arnold, seconded by C. Escamilla-Greenwald, to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 20, 2014, with the noted change by E. Griswold, were approved by consensus.

**3. Public Comments**

None.

**4. Written Communications**

Samantha Wallace stated copies of written communications sent by the public via email were handed out to each commissioner at the start of the meeting.

**5. Consider Recommendations to Approve Proposed Changes to the Park Amenity and Tree Donation Policy**

Melissa Chaney, Parks & Community Services Director, presented the proposed draft policy and provided background information on the policy. She stated the purpose of the agenda item was to have more discussion and receive feedback, and staff can return with additional revisions.

E. Griswold – inquired what type of damage was occurring with plaques, what are the types of signs, how are they being installed, and requested clarification on work done by Tree Davis versus the City.

C. Escamilla-Greenwald – requested information on the policies from other communities that have Tree Donation policies that are working.

W. Arnold – requested more information regarding the cost of installing and maintaining plaques.

### Public Comments

M. Henderson – felt there is a way to figure out a policy to allow for tree memorials and that the Memorial Grove does not serve the same purpose and that having a specific tree makes Davis unique and is a way to celebrate life.

S. Page – stated the memorial bench program is great and should be a model for a tree memorial program that could work.

S. Harrison – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques and the plaques could state what type of tree it is for educational purposes.

S. Blosch – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques.

K. Hamet – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques and likes idea of an online map with information on memorial benches and trees.

M. Liu – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques and suggested spacing requirements that trees with plaques be a certain distance from each other and to research other cities where programs like this are working.

L. Tell – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques and offered services of the UC Davis engineering students for assistance in design/placement of plaques.

D. Miramontes – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques and includes consistency of plaque design/placement and policies on how to renew plaques over a period of time and how to help pay for damaged plaques.

R. Borton – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques.

V. Borton – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques.

C. Ziegler – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques and important to come up with a policy.

A. Oide – supports a tree memorial program that allows plaques.

Additional Commissioner Comments

D. Einwalter – perhaps “memorial” is not right word, consider “Celebration of Life” and consider what overall point is and tweak policy in that direction, recognition that parks are a natural environment but also a social environment. For additional decorations, look into a “take-down period” and look at Caltrans’ policy.

E. Griswold - more consideration should be given to the policy and include policy language such as what happens if the tree needs to be removed in the future.

C. Escamilla-Greenwald – likes idea of plaques, perhaps low to the ground and durable, and including some type of educational component about the tree, work on policy language to have consistency, and what to do if plaque in future needs maintenance or repair.

W. Arnold – in policy better define what is a tribute tree, better define responsibilities between Tree Davis and City, and find a way to allow tree memorials with plaques with specific language in policy outlining terms of program such as cost, size/shape, material, spacing, and locations.

I. Bray – not opposed to plaques but concerned about additional decorations, remember health of tree is important, and define authority and responsibility.

Staff Comments

Melissa Chaney commented staff will return to the Commission in March with a revised draft of the policy.

**6. Project Presentation – Water Well #34 at the PW Corporation Yard**

Bob Clarke, Public Works Director, presented information on the well construction and how it relates to Community Garden.

Public Comments

J. Schafer-Kramer – asked about height of fencing during construction on how it might affect shading of community gardens and for staff to let her know so those plots could be moved. Driveway improvements are needed, lighting is needed.

G. Sandrock – inquired on the purity of the filtered water.

C. Blomberg – concerned about mitigation of noise during construction and inquired if there would be any noise once well is up and running, path lighting would be good, and the path surface has really deteriorated.

M. Park – do little impact on Community Garden as possible.

B. Balicks – would like to see more Community Gardens around town, stated there are unmet bathroom needs at the Community Gardens, and inquired if mulch will still be dropped off.

Commissioner Comments

C. Escamilla-Greenwald – add signage to please dispose of trash.

E. Griswold – expressed concern of removal of vegetation if path is paved, inquired about enhancing the landscaped garden border along 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

I. Bray – recommended installation of mirrors in blind corners on pathway.

**7. Commissioner Announcements/Introductions**

C. Escamilla-Greenwald – provided update on Golden Heart Awards.

W. Arnold – mentioned article in Davis Enterprise about the need for a Sports Needs Committee and would like staff to return to a future Commission meeting with an agenda item about this topic.

I. Bray – reminded the Commission about the annual California Parks & Recreation Society Conference in Sacramento March 10-13.

**8. Liaison Reports**

None.

**9. Staff Reports/Updates**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Samantha Wallace  
Parks & Community Services Superintendent