



**Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Senior Center Valente Room, 646 A Street
Thursday, March 19, 2015
MINUTES**

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

Commission Members Absent: Francis Resta, Katerina Robinson and Will Arnold

Council Liaison Present: None

Staff Present: Melissa Chaney, Christine Helweg, David Luckscheider and Samantha Wallace

Public Present: Lars Anderson and Lani Fulcher

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

Superintendent Helweg modified the agenda with a correction to the Vice Chairperson as Cecilia Greenwald instead of Dawn Einwalter. The corrected agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2015

A motion was made by T. Westlund, seconded by D. Einwalter, to approve the minutes from February 19, 2015. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Written Communications

- a. Flyer on upcoming Warm Remembrance Family Play Area Dedication Ceremony at Redwood Park on Saturday, April 4, 2015 from 1:30-3:30 pm.
- b. Updated Summer Camp 2015 flyer for the Explorit Science Center
- c. Updated Organizational Chart for the Parks & Community Services Department

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

Parks & Community Services Director, Melissa Chaney, provided an overview and history of the existing Park Amenity Donation Policy, in addition to presenting proposed modifications to the policy based upon previous community input.

E. Griswold – would like to see additional language clarifying the role of Tree Davis in the memorial tree plantings. Also would like to see additional language in the policy that the City reserves the right to the final design of the plaque (#4d).

D. Einwalter – the size of the plaque is specified in the policy, but not any materials. Prefer only 1 type of design.

C. Greenwald – wants to ensure consistency with the design of the plaque.

T. Westlund – concerned about the level of maintenance and personalization of public spaces that will be result with the proposed installation of memorial tree plaques. This type of memorial should be done on private property, not public parks. He cannot support this program as proposed.

I. Bray – in regards to Item f-iii – wants to ensure interested parties are aware of unauthorized memorial items and their potential removal.

A motion was made by D. Einwalter to approve the Parks Amenity & Memorial Tree Donation Policy as suggested with the amending language as noted above.

The motion passed 4-1. (Bray, Einwalter, Greenwald and Griswold – Ayes, Westlund – No)

6. 2014 Annual Report from Explorit Science Center

Parks & Community Services Superintendent, C. Helweg, provided an overview of the City's past and current relationship with the Explorit Science Center, specifically as a tenant of the community building located at Mace Ranch Park.

President, Lars Anderson, of the Explorit Science Center, provided the Commission with a summary of the center's 2014 activities, and provided update information about the non-profit's financial situation. Mr. Anderson provided a brief list of some of the center's ongoing concerns:

- Seeking ongoing City sponsorship similar to the \$20,000 that was approved previously by the City Council in fall 2013
- In need of \$10,000 to retrofit existing vans
- Continuing needs for facility maintenance and renovation upgrades

T. Westlund – pleased to see the positive improvements in the program and the facility, inquired with City staff regarding annual facility inspections

C. Greenwald – pleased with variety of programming options also

D. Einwalter – just noted that the trees along the adjacent pathway are overgrown, and confirmed that the trees are not included as part of the center's ongoing maintenance agreement

E. Griswold – nice to see the mutual relationship with the City, ESC may also want to consider including a fiscal report as part of any future annual operating reports to the City

I. Bray – concerned about the maintenance of a City building and the ongoing costs for deferred maintenance, reiterated the need for regular City inspections and facility needs, may want to consider possible collaboration with the new Discover Center in West Sacramento

A motion was made by T. Westlund, seconded by E. Griswold to accept the 2014 Annual Report from the Explorit Science Center.

7. Review of Proposed 5-year CIP Plan

Parks & Community Services Superintendent, C. Helweg, provided the Commission with an overview of the list of Capital Improvement projects that had been initially established as part of the 2012 Update to the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, the status of CIP projects that are underway during this current fiscal year, and those which are being proposed for FY15-16.

Chairperson Bray also would like to see a plan for use of the dedicated Oxford Circle Park capital funds for FY16-17, and for staff to consider partnering with UCD Housing Office to determine best use and/or improvements to that park.

8. Designate Commission Representatives to Serve as Liaison to the Finance and Budget Commission for 2015 Calendar Term

No Commissioners expressed interest in serving as liaison to the Finance & Budget Commission, therefore the item was deferred until the April 2015 meeting when other commissioners are present.

9. Review and Discussion of Oak Grove Park & Greenbelt

The Commission reviewed a brief slide show of park photos that were taken by Chairperson I. Bray prior to open discussion.

E. Griswold – happy about the general good health of the trees, a lot of mulch with minimal weeds, would like to possibly introduce some understory shrubs and other plant material, bridge condition was poor, needed some clean-up of swale, greenbelt does have turf that could be removed, add low ground cover.

D. Einwalter – a lot amenities, well served site, not a lot of public use during her visit, paint picnic shade structure.

C. Greenwald – consider a possible public art project for shade structure.

T. Westlund – well attended Adopt A Park event last fall, possibly look into the history of why there is so many small greenbelts in the adjacent area, overall a well maintained park.

I. Bray – noticed a lack of available parking, some of the wisteria plants were missing from around the shade structure of the picnic area, light pole (rusted and electrical showing), port-a-potty serviced weekly on a year-round basis.

10. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

C. Greenwald – discussed the need to stock more ample supplies of toilet paper in Central Park restrooms, check stall door in women's restroom that does not close properly, recently visited a dog park in the Calistoga area which was rich with amenities and aesthetically pleasing for visitors

I. Bray discussed the recent Arbor Day presentation by Councilmember Frerichs, where he also met members of the Tree Commission and Tree Davis. Also expressed community feedback related to summer online registration problems.

D. Einwalter announced that the new Lake Solano Visitor Center is under construction and will be open soon.

11. Liaison Reports

None.

12. Staff Reports/Updates

Staff reviewed the upcoming work plan calendar.

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg
Parks & Community Services Superintendent