



**Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Senior Center Valente Room, 646 A Street
Thursday, July 16, 2015
MINUTES**

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

Commission Members Absent: None

Council Liaison Present: None

Public Present: Patrick Li, Fran Rockwell, Guy Turner, Dan and Ellie Wendin

Staff Present: Christine Helweg

Chair Ira Bray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Superintendent Helweg added one item under Written Communications, which included the resignation of Commissioner Robinson. A motion was made by T. Westlund, seconded by C. Greenwald, to approve the agenda as amended, and was approved by consensus.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2015.

A motion was made by K. Robinson, seconded by W. Arnold, to approve the meeting minutes as presented by staff. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comments

None

4. Written Communications

- a. Resignation Letter by Commissioner Resta
- b. Resignation Letter by Commissioner Robinson

5. Evergreen Greenbelt Off-Leash Do Exercise Area Proposal

Superintendent Helweg provided a historical overview related to the current proposal from residents of the University Retirement Community to fence in a small area within the Evergreen Greenbelt, and their former proposal to fence a small area in the Aspen Greenbelt area. Included with the overview was a summary of resident comments resulting from the community meeting held on June 25, 2015, and those received after the community meeting.

Public Comments:

Dan Wendin – Mr. Wendin spoke on behalf of several URC residents who are interested in developing the small area, located between Pinnacles Place and the URC cottages, as a small dog off-leash area. He feels that the area would have minimal impacts to the existing uses of the space, and suggested even the implementation of a permit process for scheduling neighborhood parties or other uses of the designated area.

Patrick Li – Mr. Li stated his opposition to the proposal due to the close proximity to the adjacent homes on Pinnacles Place, and the fact that the buffer zone does not meet the Commission's most recently adopted standards for dog exercise areas. As an alternative, Mr. Li suggested that designated hours be posted at the Aspen Greenbelt off-leash area so as to reduce the conflicts between the larger and smaller animals.

Guy Turner – Mr. Turner also stated his opposition to the proposal due to the fencing requirement and that it would detract from the open spaces in that particular area of the greenbelt. He further stated his concerns related to the close proximity of the proposed area to the back fence lines of homes along Pinnacles Place.

Commission Comments:

W. Arnold – considers fencing a definite need, does not necessarily agree that the fencing would be an eye sore or reduce the availability of space for picnics and neighborhood parties, the proximity standard does give him pause, but overall, he is inclined to support the proposal.

K. Robinson – agree with many of W. Arnold's comments, inquired as to why the area just north of the proposed location was not further evaluated? This northern area has even less clearance from the adjacent properties than the currently proposed site.

C. Greenwald – torn between the neighbor's comments, suggested possibly having a mediator come in to assist with a community discussion similar to what is done by the Police Department (Judith McBryon), would like to see the URC management be a more active partner in finding a long term solution to this issue.

T. Westlund – unfortunately he cannot support the current proposal due to the fact that so many of the adjoining neighbors are in opposition of the proposal.

E. Griswold – concerned with the lack of available parking, this neighborhood is already impacted with parking for the memorial tree grove, is interested in exploring alternative locations at a much larger park or facility such as Arroyo Park.

D. Einwalter – many of the URC residents use this area as a picnic area and gathering space, it is a well-designed greenbelt, and the current proposal would significantly change the look and feel of this space, parking will definitely become an issue for the neighborhood along Pinnacles Place, need to respect the Commission's standards for dog exercise areas and be careful as to not set future precedents, would be interested in developing two possible areas to not only serve the URC residents but also that of the larger community.

I. Bray – looking at this issue from a larger perspective, the overall design for this neighborhood does not take into account the density of the area, there appears to be a disparity of service in this

area, URC residents have equivalent entitlements to City services and amenities. He suggested possibly modifying the drainage channel for the dog exercise area, but it would most likely require significant grading and construction costs.

A motion was made by T. Westlund, seconded by D. Einwalter, to reject the proposal for an off-leash dog exercise area in the Evergreen greenbelt as described in recommended actions #2. The motion failed. Ayes: 2 Nays: 5

C. Greenwald provided a motion to send this item back to City staff to coordinate with community members, URC residents, and interested individuals to identify a couple of locations in West Davis that could accommodate an off-leash dog exercise area. The motion was later withdrawn.

A motion was made by W. Arnold, seconded by T. Westlund, to table the discussion on this item until the next available meeting and have staff provide recommendations on how to move forward with the intent of including a small dog exercise area in West Davis. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioners also suggested enhancing the community notification process by noticing the site a couple of weeks prior to the meeting date, and provide larger content on the direct mail postcards. Also suggested including multiple walking tours of the proposed sites prior to any community decision making process.

6. Commissioner Announcements

None.

7. Liaison Reports

Finance & Budget – T. Westlund reported that the FBC had their meeting this past Monday evening, and the primary agenda topic was a review of the Mace Ranch Innovation Center analysis and a formal proposal on anticipated tax revenues for the project.

OSHC – D. Einwalter stated that the Commission did not have a meeting in July and are scheduled to meet again in August.

The Commission requested that no discussion on a specific park be included on the meeting agenda for September 2015 due to other large agenda topics anticipated for this upcoming month.

8. Staff Reports/Updates

Superintendent Helweg provided an update on Parks Manager recruitment, and announced that the City's new web site will be going live as of Friday, July 17, 2015. Commissioners are encouraged to explore the site and provide any feedback to staff as to any missing information or corrections needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m. with a motion by K. Robinson, seconded by T. Westlund. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg, Parks & Community Services Superintendent