



Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Senior Center Valente Room, 646 A Street
Thursday, September 17, 2015
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: Rob Davis and Matt Williams

Staff Present: Christine Helweg, Martin Jones, Kerry Daane-Loux and Heidi Tschudin – Contract Project Manager

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

Superintendent Helweg added one item under Written Communications, which included a public notice for the upcoming recruitment for City Advisory Commissions. A motion was made by E. Griswold, seconded by C. Greenwald, to approve the agenda as amended, and was approved unanimously.

Superintendent Helweg introduced the new Parks Manager, Martin Jones.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2015.

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

Cecilia Greenwald spoke on behalf of her daughter, Jasmine, who would like to request Parks staff to consider the installation or replacement of school-age swings in lieu of the tot swings currently located in the El Macero greenbelt area.

4. Written Communications

- a. Resignation Letter by Commissioner Einwalter
- b. Public Notice for Recruitment for City Advisory Commissions
- c. Thank You Card from former Parks Manager David Luckscheider to Commission

5. Review and Provide Comments on Draft EIR for the Mace Ranch Innovation Center

Contract Project Manager Heidi Tschudin presented information related to the content of the draft EIR for the Mace Ranch Innovation Center, including an overview of the project description, specific components addressing park amenities and/or negative impacts to the proposed project,

and specific Chapters in which the Recreation and Park Commission would most likely have the most interest and concern (i.e. Chapters 2, 3 and 4.13 – 4). H. Tschudin also suggested that the Commission also review Table 3.3 on page 3-31 and Table 3.4 on page 3-37.

General questions in need of further clarification:

1. How is the construction of the parks and public spaces going to be phased as compared to the proposed phasing of the project?
2. Are there any existing parks or open space areas in Davis, or in the region, that are privately owned and maintained? (same maintenance levels as other City parks, hours of operation, access to restroom facilities, liability for users)
3. How or would the City be able to control pesticide use and maintenance methods consistent with the City's IPM policy if privately maintained?
4. What uses are proposed for the oval space and other public green spaces, both for residents of Davis and employees of the project? What is the vision behind the design?
5. If the parks and public spaces are privately owned and maintained, then the property should be subject to the Park Maintenance Tax? How is this being addressed?

Public Comments:

Matt Williams – In his personal opinion and not that of a member of the Finance and Budget Commission, the draft EIR for the MRIC does not clearly define the impacts of the “no project” alternative, including the lack of revenue generation and its associated fiscal impacts to the City should the project not move forward.

Commission Comments:

W. Arnold – Views this project as favorable as it assists the City in diversifying its revenues - potentially allows or eases some of the financial constraints for the City; would like to see more definition of what areas are specifically being proposed to be maintained by the private property owner and that in which the City will be maintaining; would like to see same level of care/maintenance standard and public accessibility as any other City park or greenbelt; interested in reviewing more detail and clarity in later design phases. Lends the idea of being more dense and more creative with parking- can't we squeeze down the parking and potentially add more green park space, gravel path around perimeter; parking dominates footprint.

C. Greenwald – needs further clarification of proposed private parks – how are the private spaces to be used by public? Hours of operation? Standards of service or level of maintenance care? Would like to see more detail on proposed bike lanes and alternative fuel vehicles (i.e. electric vehicles); potential partnership with UCD for Research & Development or housing; promote uses for start-up companies; the potential work/live scenario needs to be balanced adequately so as to provide ease and accessibility to the arts, music, restaurants, coffee shops, theatre or other night life.

E. Griswold – interested in learning more about the concept of privately owned and maintained property; how to ensure public access; wants same level of care as other City parks and

greenbelts; the amount of proposed parking surface is dramatic and would like to see alternative design that reduces that footprint. Confirmed that this is a conceptual plan and if the project were to become more dense, then it would require further review and approval.

T. Westlund – would like to defer providing official comments until the next meeting in October so that these concepts can be further discussed amongst Commission members. Would like to suggest that the Commission formalize their comments at the October meeting so that everyone has more time to formulate their thoughts and ideas.

I. Bray – supports the income generator to assist in supporting parks and recreation services in the community. Believes that there are some flaws in the Master Plan calculations as it does not take into account the density of a development (refer to NRPA standards); would like to see more detail on public use standards and conditions for after hour use and access; who carries the liability for privately owned/maintained spaces for public use; park designs need maximum flexibility and adaptability and should not be created for a specific sport or interest; would like to look at other examples of Innovation Centers (i.e. Palo Alto), and bring back the discussion in October.

The Commission agreed by consensus to formalize comments at their next meeting in October.

6. Consider Proposed Park Names and Community Outreach for Cannery

Superintendent Helweg provided a brief background on the City's past practices as it relates to naming parks and major facilities. In addition, information was provided to the Commission as to the City's current method for street naming for new development projects. The Cannery has proposed four separate park names based upon "historic direction" but do not appear to represent the unique history of the past and future site use.

Commission Comments:

T. Westlund – not interested in doing a large-scale community outreach for naming of the parks. Would like to suggest keeping it simple, such as Cannery-North, Cannery-Central, Cannery-South and Cannery Dog Park.

C. Greenwald – agrees with Commissioner Westlund's suggestion to keep it as simple as possible.

W. Arnold – A larger community outreach has the potential of complicating the process and has the potential of taking on a life of its own, similar to what recently occurred with the street naming process; not comfortable with the process or names that Cannery has proposed.

I. Bray – likes the diversity of the HRMC vetted names.

E. Griswold – in the past, most of the park names are affiliated with the development project and/or the street names. Would suggest that the Commission not deviate from this historical naming convention and consider naming the parks after adjacent streets in the Cannery project.

The Commission requested that this item be brought back in October with a street plan so they can consider alternative names.

7. Appoint Subcommittee for Upcoming 2016 Teen Services Grant Process

Commissioners Arnold, Greenwald and Griswold volunteered to participate in the application review for the upcoming grant cycle.

8. Commissioner Announcements

T. Westlund – Sycamore dog exercise area signage has improved significantly, and inquired about status of portable restroom facility.

E. Griswold – a group of interested residents are forming and may be proposing future parklets in residential neighborhoods.

I. Bray – Recently the City Council was discussing public urination in the downtown and may be considering portable restroom facilities at G Street. The Commission may want to monitor the situation and future discussions. Palo Alto recently conducted a random public survey on restrooms as one of the top needs in parks.

Requested that staff inquire as to our existing Landscape Contracts to determine if the 7 days of mandatory sick leave is contained within our existing contract language.

9. Liaison Reports

a. City Council Liaison – no report

b. Finance & Budget Commission – T. Westlund stated that the FBC had received a similar presentation on the draft EIR for the Mace Ranch Innovation Center, which also included the Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis information that Project Manager Tschuden had described earlier.

c. Open Space & Habitat Commission – no report this month due to the resignation of liaison, Commissioner C. Greenwald agreed to attend future meetings when available until such time that a new liaison is appointed.

10. Staff Reports & Updates

a. Superintendent Helweg announced that Carrie Dyer, Community Engagement & Cultural Services Coordinator, is currently seeking judges to assist with the selection of award winners for the City's annual photo contest. The time commitment is dependent on the number of submissions but has generally ranged in the 1-2 hour timeframe. If interested, Commissioners should contact Carrie Dyer in the City Manager's Office.

b. Superintendent Helweg provided the Commission a brief update on the recruitment process for the Parks & Community Services Director position and also announced the recent resignation submitted by Superintendent Wallace as of October 4, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m. by consensus

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg
Parks & Community Services Superintendent