



**Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Senior Center Activity Room, 646 A Street
Thursday, July 17, 2014
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present: Ira Bray (Chair), Katerina Robinson, Dawn Einwalter, Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald, Francis Resta, Travie Westlund and Marq Truscott

Commission Members Absent: Charlie Russell

Council Liaison Present: None

Staff Present: Christine Helweg, David Luckscheider, Samantha Wallace, Darren Pytel, Melissa Chaney and Zoe Mirabile

Public Present: None

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

The amended agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by T. Westlund, seconded by K. Robinson to approve the minutes for June 19, 2014. Motion was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Written Communications

The Commission received an email correspondence from Maureen Carson which commented on the bicycle polo group using the converted tennis courts at West Manor Park. She felt this was a good re-purpose by this club.

5. Volunteer Program Update

Darren Pytel, Assistant Police Chief, provided a short history on the volunteer program, current methods to solicit City volunteers, and types of volunteer opportunities available, such as graffiti abatement and downtown core ambassadors. Pytel stated that graffiti abatement is the number one issue right now.

Pytel explained that volunteers provide support for community events, code enforcement areas, administrative hearing officers, abandoned bicycles and cars, and data and record management, just to name a few.

In regards to the Adopt-A-Park program, he stated that three parks have been visited to date (Slide Hill, Whaleback and West Manor parks). The goal of the Adopt-A-Park program is to assist the Parks and Open Space Division with routine care of neighborhood parks. He mentioned waiting for cooler weather prior to soliciting additional park sites. Pytel is planning on visiting Chestnut Park on 9/4, Arroyo Park on 9/18, Oak Grove Park on 10/2, and Walnut Park on 10/16 to assist in the solicitation of additional Adopt-A-Park volunteers.

One of the other goals for the volunteer program is to have 3-4 large scale clean-up days per year. Possibly one in April and the other dates to be determined.

No action was required by the Commission, but additional recommendations/suggestions included:

- Possibly soliciting schools for classes requiring community service hours
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) would like to sponsor a “Volunteer of the Year Award” similar to their current “Officer of the Year” award
- Volunteer signage need to be posted in the parks. A more permanent sign to promote events and site specific activities
- Purchase “Parks Make Life Better” t-shirts and safety vests

6. Parks & Open Space Division – Major Projects Update

Christine Helweg, Parks & Community Services Superintendent, provided the Commission with additional updates on several of the major projects that the Parks & Open Space division is currently working on, including the Aspen Greenbelt Dog Exercise Area, the Central Park Certificate of Recognition by the California State Senate, and the Rainbow City Playground Renovation. No action was required.

7. Review and Discussion of West Manor Park

I. Bray – presented the Commission with a photo slide show of West Manor Park. He spoke of loving the winding slide, the large amount of shade is appreciated, and dog owners that do not clean up after themselves. He questioned if there were any commonalities amongst the other City parks visited thus far that could be (or needed to be) turned in to an operational policy.

D. Einwalter – No comments

F. Resta – Stated the drinking fountain is non-operable, there is trash around courts, 2x10 wood around courts highly damaged, the northwest fence is broken, there are asphalt cracks, loose metal strapping, men’s restroom graffiti inside it, the soap dispenser was empty, “no dogs allowed” in play area but was located in the eating area, trash in sand area, and the volleyball posts blend in with the environment.

K. Robinson – Said it was a lesser maintained park but heavily used by neighboring residents and college students, nursery schools, sports teams use field space, and large parties and BBQs.

C. Escamilla-Greenwald – Expressed there is diverse population use at this park. Also stated it is a prime location to solicit Adopt-A-Park volunteers, to possibly solicit students to help with maintenance.

T. Westlund – Enjoys the playground structure and has no major issues.

M. Truscott – Thinks visual access is limited and is poorly lit at night. Loves the walkway around the pathway.

The Commission selected Cedar Park and N Street Parks to discuss in September.

8. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

- Superintendents Helweg and Wallace provided the deadline date to the Commission and reminded those commissioners whose term expire on September 30, 2014 to contact the City Clerk's office if they want to continue on with the Commission.

9. Liaison Reports

City Council Liaison – no report.

Open Space & Habitat Commission – no report.

Finance and Budget Commission – no report.

10. Staff Reports/Updates

No report.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. by consensus.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg
Community Services Superintendent