



**Recreation and Park Commission  
Davis Senior Center Activity Room, 646 A Street  
Thursday, September 18, 2014  
MINUTES**

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

Commission Members Absent: Francis Resta

Council Liaison Present: None

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

Public Present: Numerous residents – see meeting sign-in sheet for a listing of attendees

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

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by C. Greenwald and seconded by C. Russell to approve the agenda. It was approved by consensus.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Travie Westlund and seconded by Katerina Robinson to approve the minutes with amendments from the meeting held on July 17, 2014. The suggested motion was to change the wording from “loving” to either “like” or “appreciate”. The motion was approved by consensus.

**3. Public Comments**

None.

**4. Written Communications**

Superintendent Helweg provided the Commission with three recent articles that appeared in the Davis Enterprise related to off-leash dogs and increased aggression in parks and public spaces.

**5. Aspen Greenbelt Dog Exercise Area Proposal**

Christine Helweg, Community Services Superintendent, provided an overview and background of the Aspen Greenbelt Dog Exercise Area Proposal. She also presented the Commission with some additional correspondence from neighboring residents expressing concern about the fencing proposal. One of the email correspondences also included the withdrawal of the original fencing proposal from Mr. Wendin requesting that the Commission consider an alternate location as identified in the staff report.

Public Comments:

D. Wendin – URC resident, Mr. Wendin stated that the URC residents would consider funding the alternative site, as he believes that fencing would still be needed at the alternative site. He also requested that the staff consider the Shasta Drive location also.

B. McMullen – felt shrubbery removal was a bad idea, suggested possible shrubbery installation along bike path to help curb negative interactions.

W. Corral – 17 year resident, expressed similar concerns to those expressed by B. McMullen.

R. Whitmore – headlights lead right into in her living room now that the Redwoods and shrubbery have been removed, this is the only greenbelt used as dog exercise areas. It has become a more formalized dog/play area now than what was originally designed. Requests shrubbery be replaced on north end.

M. Bush – felt it is a great facility for small dogs, felt it is a matter of training and control of pets by owners.

R. Grabow – 12 year resident, medium sized dogs, visits two times per day, similar concerns as expressed by previous speakers.

J. Gutstein – 2 German Shepards, visits four to five times per week, more interested in having additional dog exercise areas, felt new or alternative space for small dogs is a good idea.

L. Wilhoff – endorsed previous comments, improve signage about area, keep area open, it works well for neighbors, grow vegetation back, would accept a fence on the north end.

A. Martin – successful area, felt more areas are needed, improve signage for bicyclists, request water access, suggested possibly replacing faucet by playground.

C. Hinshaw – had similar concerns as expressed by previous speakers.

C. Leonard – dense shrubbery should be returned on the north end of the dog exercise area.

Marilyn ? – this is an important area for neighbors to socialize.

Commissioner Comments:

D. Einwalter – desirable for mixed use area, potential alternative site seems feasible.

T. Westlund – fencing does not need to proceed further (at north end only), standards need to be approved and adopted by City Council before considering the alternative site.

K. Robinson – great to hear such positive comments about the space, great to hear more community interest for additional spaces, validates current Commission work on dog standards for quality and consistency, suggest modifying the shrubbery at north end instead of fencing to maintain access and improve signage for bicyclists and dog owners.

M. Truscott – felt that all dog exercise areas should be fenced, but this site could be used as a case study with continued monitoring, improve signage both for cyclists and dog owners, keep monitoring the site, supports a small fenced area, water, bench.

C. Russell – felt the pruning does come back nicely, general fencing makes sense as applicable, do need more dog areas, thoughtfully considered alternative sites, had similar concerns about neighbors surrounding the alternative site.

C. Greenwald – pleased that neighbors are able to come to possible solutions, asked if we really want our greenbelt fenced with shrubbery barrier on north end, good signage for bicyclists, outreach to cyclist groups, felt we need to value the open spaces and avoid fencing when needed.

I. Bray – agreed with everything that had been previously said by Commissioners.

A motion was made by M. Truscott to leave the Aspen Greenbelt off-leash dog area open and “as is” with the addition of bicycle signage at entry areas. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion was made by C. Greenwald, seconded by T. Westlund, to keep the Aspen Greenbelt off-leash dog area “as is”, with the addition of multilingual bicycle signage, shrubbery on the north end, and water.

A substitute motion was made by C. Russell, seconded by I. Bray, to request staff to examine the proposal at a future meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Another motion was made by K. Robinson, seconded by T. Westlund, to keep the Aspen Greenbelt off-leash area unfenced and to bring back signage and shrubbery options for the Commission to consider at a future meeting. The motion passed with 6 ayes and 1 no.

A substitute motion was made by C. Greenwald to include water to the area, but was later withdrawn.

## **6. Review and Discussion on Cedar & N Street Parks**

Christine Helweg, Community Services Superintendent, provided an overview and background of some of the recent concerns and issues that the City and neighboring residents of Cedar Park have been experiencing. Assistant Police Chief, Darren Pytel, also commented that many of the transient related issues are due to the proximity to 7-Eleven and Aggie Liquor, and that the removal of park amenities are intended to change the use of the park. There are also ongoing concerns due to the fact that Aggie Liquor is anticipated to expand the store space, taking over the adjacent bike shop area.

### Public Comments:

T. & G. Cooper – 63 year residents, bench removal has improved the area, no verbal comments now, no transients, more families and children using it now, no public urination, transients have moved elsewhere, asked that we please do not replace amenities.

T. Hoban – resident since 1983, seen a lot of changes, particularly in the last decade, has seen a decrease in the criminal activity since the amenities have been removed, feels it is the behavior

not the persons, requests that bathrooms not be installed because of sight lines, signs posted tending to loitering “dawn to dusk” (1 hour), applauds tables, shrubbery and BBQ pit removals, would like to see the Korean Church monitor their own parking lot, irrigation scheduling should be modified to discourage attendance at night, horseshoe pit should be remove entirely - do not encourage any games in the park in the horseshoe pit area.

M. Lindquist – 16 year resident, residents pick up the trash, open container law improved the area as well as the addition of the Korean Church, wants it to be a better, safe place. Feels that it will always needs more PD attention, would like to see more of a balance, bring back some amenities but change the locations, work with neighbors for locations, he considers this “the park that time forgot” and would like to see the City put more contemporary amenities back into the space.

M. Henley – grew up in the park, disappointed to what has happened to it, suggests closing the park from dawn to dusk.

Commissioner Comments:

C. Greenwald – friends have experienced vulgarity, intoxication, drugs, and gang activity at this location as well, the City should consider doing inexpensive activities at the park to encourage ownership of the park, reluctant to replace BBQ pit and benches, like the new suggested park hours, recommend proceeding cautiously.

C. Russell – hours for park closures are flexible here, supports community events, bigger issues are needing to be addressed so the problem is not just pushed to other locations within the City.

M. Truscott – supports the removal of amenities and support amenities being added at a later date.

K. Robinson – would support holding neighborhood events there.

T. Westlund – perimeter fencing does not belong to City, shrubbery removal good, light pole in center of trees till a concern, bring amenities back one at a time, remove the whole horseshoe pit area.

D. Einwalter – beautiful shade trees but are full of mistletoe, remove the horseshoe pit.

I. Bray – agreed with T. Westlund’s comments, cautious about bringing amenities back, Korean Church – arbors not really a problem.

Commissioned recommended that the new hours “one-half hour prior to sunrise and one-half hour after sunset” be implemented as a pilot program for other potential park and greenbelt sites. The Commission further recommended that the existing bench remain in the park, and reconsider the addition of other amenities in either late spring or early summer.

Due to the late hour and other agenda items still to be discussed, the N Street Park review was deferred to the next meeting.

**7. Update on CIP #8269 – Playfields Rehabilitation/Concrete Flatwork**  
Informational item only.

Parks Manager, David Luckscheider, and RJM Consultant Representative gave a brief overview of the Playfields Concrete work that will begin in a couple of months. Large sections of the concrete are being reworked in the core area due to soil setting and tree roots raising, will be replacing panel by panel, trying to re-use existing materials as much as possible, replacing galvanized handrails, removing two stumps but keeping large trees, selective removal near soccer fields, re-compact soil, leave larger cut-outs with decomposed granite, more soft scope less concrete, and improve irrigation batting cages will also have some areas to be replaced.

**8. Appoint Subcommittee for Upcoming 2015 Teen Services Grant Process**

T. Westlund, C. Greenwald, and I. Bray were selected as the 2015 subcommittee.

**9. Commissioner Announcements/Comments**

T. Westlund – requested an update related to the Civic Pool water leak. More information is being prepared and is anticipated to be presented to the City Council on either their October 7 or 21 meeting.

C. Russell – announced that his commission term is expiring this month, and that he is not seeking renewal. He has been on the commission for a very long time, and he is going to spend more time with his business and travelling with his family. All the Commissioners and staff expressed their appreciation to his many years of service, and sadness for his departure from the Commission.

I. Bray – announced that Elk Grove is in the process of building a \$17 million Aquatic complex.

**10. Liaison Reports**

City Council Liaison – no report.

Open Space & Habitat Commission – no report.

Finance and Budget Commission – no report.

**11. Staff Reports/Updates**

Superintendent Helweg announced that the deadline for submitting Commission applications is on September 25, 2014, with appointments to be made by the City Council most likely either at their October 7 or 21 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg  
Community Services Superintendent