



**Recreation and Park Commission  
Davis Senior Center Activity Room, 646 A Street  
Thursday, October 16, 2014  
MINUTES**

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

Commission Members Absent: Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald and Charlie Russell

Council Liaison Present: None

Staff Present: Christine Helweg, Katherine Hess, David Luckscheider and Samantha Wallace

Public Present: Cathy Alexander, Fred Buderer, Emily Griswold, Shelli Ramos and Josh Zeldner

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

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Francis Resta and seconded by Katerina Robinson to approve the agenda. It was approved by consensus.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes with amendments to page 3 – M. Truscott “all off-leash dog areas should be fenced, but this site would be a good case study.” It was approved by unanimously.

**3. Public Comments**

Emily Griswold – an applicant for RPC, hopes to join the Commission soon, also Central Park Gardens Volunteer Coordinator.

Cathy Alexander and Shelli Ramos – Toad Hollow Dog Park, at least 51 visitors per evening, would like to have Commission consider resolving ongoing flooding closures and lighting concerns at the park. Item was referred to staff for future discussion.

**4. Written Communications**

- a. Horticulture Pest Control Flyer
- b. Presentation of Sample Irrigation Hotline Vehicle Magnet

**5. Project Introduction Presentation- Proposed Nishi/Gateway Project**

Katherine Hess, Community Development Administrator, provided background and a conceptual review of proposed amenities for the Nishi/Gateway Project.

Commissioner Comments

D. Einwalter – with the level of density, the rooftops should be considered for open space such as Community Gardens which is large enough to be usable space; the Food Research Center LED platinum facility is an excellent landscaping model to continue into this development; shade needs to be more prevalent.

K. Robinson – same interest in Community Gardens, native plants pallets, concerned about lack of public space and to prevent too much overflow into Arboretum, would like to ensure residents and businesses have other options for available public spaces, including trails and bike paths, likes the basketball court or other sport courts for pick-up games.

F. Resta – would like to see greenbelts continued, and would like to see the project planning begin with the park first; concerned with the railroad and continuing to ship crude oil through town.

T. Westlund – ownership of property?, there is some early discussions about potential business park ownership for the city but still has yet to be decided; Community Gardens and other amenities could be incorporated into the private development; environmental concerns for housing and quality of life for residents; concerned with access and increased vehicle use; wonders how all the pending development projects impact one another, if this is the best site for residential housing and how can the parks mitigate some of the same issues identified already.

M. Truscott – potential housing for university staff, employees of tech businesses, some large, central green space with strong linkages/greenbelt, support urban dog park, strongly discourage accepting storm drain as park space, park space must be away from the freeway, need maximum flexibility for park space, informal use vs. reserveable space.

I. Bray – concerned about how the parkland calculation was arrived at, the formula does not work for high density projects; should be more like 12-15 acres of parkland or open space; higher density development projects need a higher ratio of park space; what is the target population-structurally 3-6 stories, one half apartments, one half townhomes approximately 1,000 square feet, no single family homes anticipated; would like to see varying height features or variations instead of flat spaces (aesthetic and sound) with parks and greenbelts; dense planting of trees along freeway, likes that concept also with the railroad.

Public Comments

Josh Zeldner – lack of clarity on target population and question the emphasis on higher density housing, possibly using natural building materials, flow of natural materials with existing landscape.

Emily Griswold – concerns about the railroad easement separating the parkway; 2020 University Initiative will require more need for housing for 2,000 grad students, faculty, and 5,000 undergraduate students.

**6. Quarterly Update on Slacklining Pilot Program**

Parks & Community Services Superintendent Christine Helweg provide an overview of the current status of the slacklining pilot program. Although there is no evident damage in any of the

approved areas, staff is experiencing some difficulties with slackliners still conducting the activity in unapproved areas despite the community outreach that has been done.

## **7. Review and Discussion of N Street Park**

Ira Bray provided a brief slide show on the N Street Park.

### Commissioner Comments

F. Resta – not up to the same standard as other City parks, has a generally poor appearance with the lawn turning brown and littered with leaves; bench at playground badly needs painting; picnic table at barbeque is full of graffiti; barbeque stand unstable and wonders if it is ever used; broken glass behind shrubbery near picnic table (little one's attraction); large seed pods in lawn at picnic table end of park, if the volleyball net were put to use, someone would seriously hurt feet or ankles, that kind of tree should not be in park; if there is not to be any more volleyball, the metal post hole should be removed before someone trips on it; the path leading to the City log dump could be improved since people walking in the park use it; feels park should have more attention to the maintenance.

M. Truscott – residents often check playground for needles before allowing children to play, investigating a "No Parking" sign adjacent to the park in the frontage space, this is the only green space, visible access to the park, opportunities to improve safety, shrubs blocking visual corridors, possible purchase of adjacent lot address safety concerns, neighbors love the mural.

T. Westlund – needs community to get involved in the care of the space, the neighborhood is going to have to get involved, great for Adopt-A-Park; hard to find this park; has potential but needs some TLC.

K. Robinson – beautiful mural, makes it a very whimsical space, very secluded space.

D. Einwalter – visibility is awful, visible trash and broken glass, possible removal of wood fence, maybe add a more permeable fence.

I. Bray – people sleeping on grass with adjacent bike carts, adjacent neighbor not concerned with homeless.

### Public Comments

Josh Zeldner – lives down from park for about three years, weekly drum circle and exercise area, intimate gathering space; definitely issues with safety and drug paraphernalia; picnic and barbeque area occupied by drug users; possibly relocate table; pathway from park to garden area, remove excess shrubbery and add possible fruit trees; clean up adjacent stump area near Community Gardens.

Invited everyone to the N Street County Fair on Sunday from 11:00-6:00pm. The annual event has bands, activities and hay rides.

Fred Buderer – neighbor of the park; Davis Neighbors Night Out discussed similar concerns; Davis Manor Council Listserv; maintenance of pathway exclusively by residents; great connection with garden area; volleyball net is installed by neighborhood association; placement of amenities is not

the best design, need to make it more visible, not having slats in fencing to open the space; think there would be interest in Adopt-A-Park program; Alcohol Container Ordinance resolved many issues; possible widening of pathway, possibly modifying corporation yard footprint.

Emily Griswold – disparity of amenities in this park; there is a very involved neighborhood surrounding this park; playground safety, hot playground, outdated equipment. Mural is part of the City's Public Art inventory and is a little disappointed that the artist has more control or interest over the mural than the neighborhood.

Staff to follow up with Public Works staff about a future presentation on the proposed well project between N Street park and the Community Gardens. Would there possibly be funding from the project that could assist in the mitigation of some of the related park issues?

Sycamore Park to be discussed at the November 2014 meeting, and Toad Hollow Dog Park to be discussed at the January 2015 meeting.

**8. Commissioner Announcements/Comments**

I. Bray – announced the upcoming California Park & Recreation Society's annual conference to be held in March 2015 in Sacramento.

T. Westlund – was wondering what the construction equipment near Dave Pelz overcrossing was for? No projects currently going on.

Chair I. Bray requested that we have a ceremonial recognition of outgoing Commission members at one of the next few Commission meetings.

**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 by consensus at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg  
Parks & Community Services Superintendent