



**Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Senior Center Activity Room, 646 A Street
Thursday, November 20, 2014
MINUTES**

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

Commission Members Absent: None

Council Liaison Present: None

Staff Present: Christine Helweg and Anne Marquez

Public Present: Emily Henderson and student representatives (ACME Theatre Company) and Natalie Nelson (Pence Gallery)

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

1. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by F. Resta, seconded by C.Greenwald to approve the agenda and approved unanimously.

The Oath of Office was conducted for Emily Griswold and Will Arnold. E. Griswold and W. Arnold were recently appointed by the City Council in October 2014 to fill vacancies currently on the Commission. The Commission now has a full complement of members.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by F. Resta, seconded by T. Westlund, to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 16, 2014, were approved by consensus. C. Greenwald abstained since she was not present for the meeting on October 16, 2014.

3. Public Comments

None.

4. Written Communications

None.

5. Teen Services Grant Funding Recommendations

Anne Marquez, Community Services Supervisor, provided a historical perspective of the Teen Services Grant and an overview of the current grant cycle. The City of Davis received a total of three grant applications but is only recommending funding for two of the applicants, the ACME Theatre Company and the Pence Gallery. Representatives from the ACME Theatre Company and Pence Gallery were on hand to answer questions and to thank the Commission for considering their applications again this year.

A motion was made by C. Greenwald, seconded by K. Robinson, to approve staff's recommendation to allocate \$5,000 to the ACME Theatre Company and \$5,000 to the Pence Gallery for the 2015 Teen Services grant cycle, and was approved unanimously.

6. Appoint Commission Representative for 2015 Golden Heart Awards Selection Committee

C. Greenwald was appointed to participate as a member of the Golden Heart Awards Nominations Selection Committee.

7. Review and Discussion of Sycamore Park

The Commission recommended having a map of the parks for future discussions.

E. Griswold – interested in plant health; on the north side of the bike path, there are small sections of turf that could be converted to drought tolerant plants; felt the boundaries of the off-leash dog park area was unclear; also felt the park needed a drinking fountain

F. Resta – felt the park had a generally good appearance, lawn turning to weed in north west area (maybe 30% weeds); landscaping along north west area beautiful and maintained; playground areas beautiful with great education inclusions; there was a sign not far from the northeast corner of the school specifying that dogs can be off-leash only in signed areas, but didn't see any such signs; the northwest area of park fencing were missing many wood slats, wondered if that was City or resident responsibility; didn't see restrooms for the park, walked the perimeter of the park looking for some

C. Greenwald – large open space; suggested expanding Adopt-A-Park duties to include pet waste bags; fencing

K. Robinson – felt the park is well maintained but there are probably turf areas that could be converted, such as the built-in tree boxes in the play area

T. Westlund – there was burnt wood near pump station and transformer; felt that shrub heights need to be raised in several areas to increase visibility, including west area toward Highway 113; playground looks nice; possible swing replacement; restroom locations needs to be easily seen from street and not creating a safety issue; signage issue for dog exercise area; lots of evening use

D. Einwalter – reminded her of Whaleback Park, similar design and an emphasis on passive use versus active use for older children or adults; 1 picnic table, several missing light poles; fell into an irrigation hole near school side on Sycamore side of playground

W. Arnold – nice seating; dog exercise area is west of the sign; sand is hard near playground, suggested using fibar instead of pour-in-place for play surfacing

I. Bray – suggested improving or resurfacing the bike path that leads to Highway 113; also suggested increased pathway signage for pedestrian and bicyclists; irrigation in divot, light poles; water fountain with an added dog fountain feature

The Toad Hollow Dog Park discussion that was tentatively scheduled for January 2015 will be deferred until February 2015 due to the number of agenda topics anticipated for the next meeting.

8. Commissioner Announcements/Comments

W. Arnold – former Golden Heart Award winner, glad to be joining the Commission

D. Einwalter – going to Amsterdam, going to check out the parks

C. Greenwald – Cowell (near Pelz overcrossing), Willow Creek – fenced off area, thank you for lighting – playground area had been closed off due to weed eradication of Morning Glory and replacement of new fibar material.

F. Resta – seems like a lot of barking dogs recently

E. Griswold – working with Arboretum and Tree Davis, native plantings along the bike path; having difficulty with homeless encampments and loitering

9. Liaison Reports

City Council Liaison – Dirk Brazil, new City Manager, local resident, worked formerly with Yolo County.

Council Retreat – last Saturday, the goals of this retreat are:

1. Ensure fiscal resilience
2. Drive innovation and economic vitality
3. Pursue environmental sustainability
4. Build and promote a vibrant downtown
5. Promote community
6. Fund, maintain and improve infrastructure
7. Ensure a safe and healthy community
8. Foster positive workplace dynamics

Commission appointments – Congratulations to all new appointments, great mix of members, completed at least 60 interviews but felt the process was well worth the outcome.

Budget is improving and the surplus has been used to backfill the City's reserve.

Has requested a joint meeting with the City Council and RPC within the next six months.

Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting - December 4, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Open Space & Habitat Commission – no report.

Finance and Budget Commission – no report.

10. Staff Reports/Updates

Christine Helweg, Parks and Community Services Superintendent, reviewed the Commission's 2014 Work Plan for upcoming agenda topics and provided updates on some of the Department's major work projects.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg
Parks & Community Services Superintendent