

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2009

Historic City Hall Hearing Room
915 I Street

Call to Order – 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call – A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Cooke at 7:10 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2009 in Historic City Hall located at 915 I Street. All members were present except Commissioners Raya and Lynn.

Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda

1. Mr. Florentino Castellon thanked staff for reopening park restrooms and addressing citizen concerns regarding community garden management practices, and spoke to volunteer efforts to clean up Southside Park. Mr. Tony Lopez thanked commissioners and staff for addressing community garden issues.

Public Hearings

2. None

Special Oral Presentation

3. None

Consent Calendar

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered and acted upon by one motion. Anyone may request that an item be removed for separate consideration.

4. **Approval of Minutes for August 6, 2009**

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Approve commission minutes for August 6, 2009

Contact: Lori Harder, Support Services Manager, 808-5172

Action: Moved, seconded and carried to approve as mailed. (Guadiana/Deglow;
Ayes: Cooke, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Price, Tamayo, DeBlonk, Guadiana; **Absent:**
Raya, Lynn)

5. **Support the McKinley Park Rose Garden Master Plan Amendment**

Location: 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Planning Area 1, Council District 3

Recommendation: Staff recommends support for a master plan amendment to the McKinley Park Rose Garden

Contact: Dennis Day, Associate Landscape Architect, 808-7633

Action: Moved, seconded and carried to support the master plan amendment for the McKinley Park Rose Garden. (Guadiana/Deglow: Ayes: Cooke, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Price, Tamayo, DeBlonk, Guadiana; Absent: Raya, Lynn)

6. Support Master Plan for Jack Rea Park

Location: 355 Redwood Avenue, Planning Area 8, Council District 2

Recommendation: Staff recommends support for a master plan for Rea Park

Contact: Dennis Day, Associate Landscape Architect, 808-7633

Action: Moved, seconded and carried to support the master plan for Rea Park. (Guadiana/Deglow: Ayes: Cooke, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Price, Tamayo, DeBlonk, Guadiana; Absent: Raya, Lynn)

Discussion/Action Reports

Discussion/Action reports include oral presentations including those recommending review and comment

7. Report Back on Children's Park Designations

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and Comment

Contact: Alan Tomiyama, Recreation Manager, 808-8958

Alan Tomiyama, Recreation Manager, reviewed the item which focused on the process that was used to designate Muir Park as a children's park. Commissioner Tamayo questioned the threshold or criteria to make the policy decision to exclude adults without children, the affect the designation has had on overall usage, whether or not the designation was in response to illegal activity, and if staff could quantify the impact on adults in the area who could not visit the park without children. Mr. Marc Barandes commented on public fear and discrimination against the homeless and questioned enforcement of the designation. Mr. Tony Lopez shared his past observations of negative and illegal behaviors of adult males in the area. Commissioners spoke to the uniqueness of the site and how exceptions have been made to designate other park facilities for adults or for children, and how this designation creates a safe place for local families and children, including homeless children. Commissioner Pomer commented there was sufficient process with the surrounding community, commission and council office as contained in the staff report, and was satisfied the process weighed all the issues in determining the designation.

Action: Moved, seconded and carried to support the content of the staff report. (Pomer/Guadiana: Ayes: Cooke, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana; Noes: Tamayo; Absent: Raya, Lynn)

8. Process to Consider Removal of Park Furnishings

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and Comment

Contact: Gary Hyden, Supervising Landscape Architect, 808-1949, Greg Narramore, Recreation Superintendent, 808-6095

Gary Hyden, Supervising Landscape Architect, reviewed the item, including a process improvement to incorporate Park Safety review in park master plan development regarding the placement of park furnishings. Commissioners recommended public input be gathered prior to a decision to remove furnishings, that relocation was preferable to removal, to consider placing a sign on the furnishings warning of intent to remove when possible, and to clarify the process for how seating would be re-introduced after a substantial period of time and the problem behavior has been resolved. Mr. Marc Barandes voiced opposition to removal of park seating.

Action: Moved, seconded and carried to support the content of the staff report. (Guadiana/Deglow: Ayes: Cooke, Deglow, Pomer, Tamayo, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana; Absent: Raya, Lynn)

9. **Parks and Recreation Director Report (Oral): A. August 2009 department highlights; B. September 2009 department highlights**

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and comment

Contact: Jim Combs, Parks and Recreation Director, 808-8526

Jim Combs, Parks and Recreation Director, spoke to facility openings and that a vendor would be authorized to sell refreshments and merchandise near the skatepark and dog park in Granite Regional Park, with "black out" dates in order not to conflict with similar sales conducted as fundraisers by sports groups.

Questions, Ideas, and Announcements of Commission Members

Commissioner DeBlonk announced that 7,000 people attended a very successful Natomas Community Festival. Commissioner Tamayo spoke positively about the expanded Sim Community Center. Commissioner Deglow suggested that signage at dog parks be modified to direct people to nearby pet clinics and hospitals should a dog be injured.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Harder

Lori Harder, Support Services Manager

Department of Parks and Recreation