



# Minutes City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

Cynthia Cooke  
Leo Lujan  
George Raya

Sheila DeBlonk  
Patrick Lynn  
David Tamayo

John Deglow  
Bruce Pomer  
Brett Williams

Virginia Guadiana  
Deidre Price

## CITY STAFF

*Jim Combs, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Marcy Tierce, Administrative Analyst*

*Lori Harder, Support Services Manager*

**Historic City Hall, Historic Hearing Room  
915 I Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**February 7, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.**

*The Parks and Recreation Commission is a commission of the City Council that provides recommendations and advise on policies, projects and other matters pertaining to parks, recreation, trees, and human services affecting the City of Sacramento.*

## **NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

You are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this meeting. Public comment is taken **(3 minutes maximum)** on items listed on the agenda when they are called. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting as noted on the agenda. Comments on controversial items may be limited and large groups are encouraged to select 3-5 speakers to represent the opinion of the group.

**Notice to Lobbyists:** When addressing the Commission you must identify yourself as a lobbyist and announce the client/business/organization you are representing (City Code 2.15.160). **Speaker slips are located in the lobby of the hearing room and should be completed and submitted to the Commission Secretary.**

*Government Code 54950 (The Brown Act) requires that a brief description of each item to be transacted or discussed be posted at least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting. The City posts Agendas at City Hall as well as offsite meeting locations.*

The order of agenda items is for reference only; agenda items may be taken in any order deemed appropriate by the Commission. The agenda provides a general description and staff recommendations; however, the Commission may take action other than what is recommended. The agenda is available for public review on the **Monday** prior to the meeting. Hard copies of the agenda, minutes, and staff reports are available from the Parks and Recreation Department at 915 I Street, New City Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor (25 cents per page). Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance to participate in the meeting, notify the Parks and Recreation Department at (916) 808-5200 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

# MINUTES

All items listed are heard and acted upon by the Parks and Recreation Commission unless otherwise noted.

## **Call to Order – 6:43 p.m.**

**Roll Call** – A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Cooke at 6:43 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2008 at the Sacramento City Council Chamber. All members present except Commissioners DeBlonk and Lynn. Commissioner Williams arrived at 7:00 p.m.

## **Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda**

1. None.

## **Public Hearings**

Public hearings may be reordered by the Chair at the discretion of the Commission

2. **Appeal of a Decision of the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to Grant a Heritage Tree Removal Request**

**Location:** St. Mary's Church at 1338 – 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Council District 3

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Parks and Recreation Commission hear this item de-novo.

**Contact:** Joe Benassini, Urban Forest Manager, 808-6258

Commissioners Cooke and Deglow stated they had inspected the tree and surrounding property. Commissioner Raya stated he had received a call from the President of the McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association regarding the tree.

Mr. Benassini gave an overview of the item, and responded to questions from Commissioners about the Deodar Cedar's root system, possible root pruning measures, health and structure of the tree, and status of nearby pavement and marble steps, and whether or not the steps are considered a part of the main structure.

Mr. Dennis Berg, representing St. Mary's Church, spoke to the value and condition of the tree and marble steps, damage and safety concerns, and noted the current ordinance does not require tree root pruning.

Ms. Cecily Hastings, appellant, spoke to the item and noted the lack of professional engineering input to assess whether or not the tree or tree roots are causing damage to the building as opposed to normal settling and cracks due to age of the building.

Ms. Cindy Orteza with East Sacramento Preservation Task Force spoke in favor of saving the heritage tree.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to deny the applicant a permit to remove the Heritage Deodar Cedar tree. (Williams/Pomer; Ayes: Raya, Tamayo, Deglow, Williams, Pomer, Guadiana; Nays: Cooke, Lujan, Price; Absent: Lynn, DeBlonk)

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried the applicant did not establish any of the facts that would entitle it to a permit under Sacramento City Code section 12.64.050(C), and specifically, it did not establish that the tree or tree roots are causing, or threatening to cause, damage to any

main structure on the owner's property. (Raya/Williams; Ayes: Raya, Tamayo, Deglow, Williams, Pomer, Guadiana; Nays: Cooke, Lujan, Price; Absent: Lynn, DeBlonk)

### **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.

**3. Approval of Minutes for January 3, 2008**

**Location:** (Citywide)

**Recommendation:** Approve commission minutes for January 3, 2008.

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

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes with the following correction: to state under Commissioner Questions and Ideas that Commissioner Williams requested the Chair issue a letter to the City Manager on behalf of the Commission to expedite review of the Sacramento Heritage Tree Ordinance. (Williams/Guadiana; Ayes: Raya, Tamayo, Deglow, Williams, Pomer, Guadiana; Cooke, Lujan, Price; Absent: Lynn, DeBlonk)

**4. 2008 Proposed Park Development Work Program**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Receive and File

**Contact:** Gary Hyden, Supervising Landscape Architect

**Action:** Received and filed.

**5. Parks and Recreation Programming Guide (PRPG) Process – 2008 Update**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Receive and File

**Contact:** J.P. Tindell, Park Development Services Manager, 808-1955

Staff to respond back to Commissioner Price regarding use of cell tower lease revenue for Northgate Park. Chair Cooke requested the rehabilitation of restrooms at William Land Park be considered.

**Action:** Received and filed.

**6. Proposed Name Change from Verano Creek Park to Five Star Park**

**Location:** 307 Doolittle Street, Council District 2

**Recommendation:** Support renaming Verano Creek Park to Five Star Park

**Contact:** J.P. Tindell, Park Development Services Manager, 808-1955

Commissioners and staff discussed staff time and supply cost when parks are renamed, the appropriateness of renaming parks, and discussed this particular park, neighborhood history, meetings and processes. Staff stated there is no sign at the park site now, so cost is not an issue in renaming this park. Commissioner Tamayo requested staff confirm whether or not street names are for five star generals prior to taking this item to City Council. Commissioner Price commented youth in the neighborhood may not make the connection to the names of the streets.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to support the proposed name change from Verano Creek Park to Five Star Park. (Raya/Guadiana; Ayes: Raya, Tamayo, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Guadiana; Abstentions: Cooke, Williams, Price; Absent: Lynn, DeBlonk)

**7. Proposed Name Change from Oakbrook Park to Friendship Park**

**Location:** 3341 Soda Way, Council District 1

**Recommendation:** Support renaming Oakbrook Park to Friendship Park

**Contact:** J.P. Tindell, Park Development Services Manager, 808-1955

Commissioners stated they do not support the name change given the nonprofit organization *Loaves and Fishes* has a park named "Friendship Park" which is also in Council District 1. Ms. Tindell responded the Councilmember for District 1 would support the park retain its current name.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried not to support the proposed name change from Oakbrook Park to Friendship Park. (Cooke/Price; Ayes: Raya, Tamayo, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Cooke, Williams, Price, Guadiana; Absent: Lynn, DeBlonk)

**Discussion/Action Reports**

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

**8. Recommended Naming of Robert T. Matsui Waterfront Park**

**Location:** Jibboom Street and Sacramento River, Council District 1

**Recommendation:** Support naming of the park known as Jibboom Street Park to Robert T. Matsui Waterfront Park

**Contact:** Patti Bisharat, City Manager's Office, 808-8197

Ms. Bisharat reviewed the item and community support for the naming of both the Sacramento Water Intake Structure and surrounding park after Congressman Robert Matsui.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to support naming of the park known as Jibboom Street Park to Robert T. Matsui Waterfront Park. (Pomer/Raya; Ayes: Raya, Tamayo, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Price; Cooke, Williams, Price, Guadiana; Absent: Lynn, DeBlonk)

**9. City Sustainability Master Plan Project Update**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and comment

**Contact:** J.P. Tindell, Park Development Services Manager, 808-1955

Ms. Tindell reviewed the item, which will be heard by City Council on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Williams acknowledged the work of the Commission's Ad Hoc Committee and inquired about how urban forest and golf courses are addressed in the plan. Commissioner Tamayo recommended integrated pest management practices be included in the plan.

**Action:** Received and commented

10. **“Youth Friendly” Park and Facility Design**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review, comment and support proposed process for developing facility service level goals and policies related to making parks and recreation facilities “youth friendly”.

**Contact:** Janet Baker, Operations Manager, 808-8234

Commissioners recommended staff ensure middle school aged youth are addressed, and that sports activities can decline after age 13, especially for girls. Be mindful of gender equity issues. Use language appropriate to this age group in outreach efforts. Offer refreshments and/or extra credit to students to give incentive for their involvement. Engage the Sacramento Youth Commission and have them meet jointly with the Parks and Recreation Commission on this matter, and bring in the expertise of the professor at UC Davis that has specialized in this subject area. Address the need for safe jogging areas and other means to help combat youth obesity and inactivity.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to support the proposed process for developing facility service level goals and policies related to making parks and recreation facilities “youth friendly”. (Pomer/Tamayo; Ayes: Raya, Tamayo, Deglow, Pomer, Lujan, Price; Cooke, Williams, Price, Guadiana; Absent: Lynn, DeBlonk)

11. **Parks and Recreation Director Report out on January 2008/February 2008 Events and Highlights, Current Topics/Issues, and Follow Up Items from last month’s Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting (Oral Report)**

**Location:** (Citywide)

**Recommendation:** Receive and comment

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

Director Combs updated the Commission on park and recreation program and facility highlights, on the City’s budget situation, and the response by Urban Forest Service to severe damage caused by storms in January.

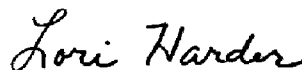
**Action:** Received and commented.

**Questions, Ideas, and Announcements of Commission Members**

12. Commissioner Pomer requested City staff review the content of tonight’s meeting to ensure compliance with the Brown Act and report back to the Commission. Chair Cooke requested a report back on the lifting of parking restrictions in William Land Park. Commissioner Pomer added a representative from Los Rios Community College would attend the discussion.

**Adjournment – 9:35 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:



Lori Harder, Support Services Manager  
Department of Parks and Recreation