

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2009

*Historic City Hall, Hearing Room  
915 I Street*

Parks and Recreation Commission  
February 5, 2008

AGENDA ITEM 4

## Call to Order – 6:08 p.m.

**Roll Call** – A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Cooke at 6:08 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at Historic City Hall, Commission Hearing Room, located at 915 I Street. All members were present.

## Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda

1. None

## Public Hearings

2. **Appeal of a Decision of the Director of Transportation to Approve a Request to Remove a Heritage Bunya Bunya Tree**

**Location:** 39<sup>th</sup> and H Streets

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

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

Commissioners Deglow and Lynn recused themselves and did not attend the hearing. Commissioners in attendance stated they had been contacted by email or telephone regarding this agenda item, and confirmed they did not discuss the matter.

Mr. Benassini gave an overview of the item, followed by Mr. Lambeth, representing Mercy Hospital, the applicant. Mr. Lambeth reviewed the project, redesign process, soil testing processes and outcomes, and options, costs and risks involved in addressing soil testing findings. Mr. Lambeth also stated future health concerns of encapsulating or sealing contaminated soil on a school site. Ms. Cindy Ortiz, Mr. Will Green and Mr. Dave Edwards represented the appealant and spoke to the value of saving the tree, disagreed with some of the statements of the applicant, and asked the Commission to consider methods to encapsulate the soil surrounding the tree roots. Neighbors and parents of children that will attend the school spoke either for or against removal of the tree. The project architect, contractor, and arborist also spoke to the matter and responded to questions of the Commission.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to deny the appeal of Susan Z-Berg and to uphold the decision of the Director of Transportation to grant a permit for the removal of the Bunya Bunya and to support mitigation measures as determined by the Urban Forest Service Manager (Guadiana/Cooke; Ayes: Cooke, Tamayo, Pomer, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana; Nays: Raya; Absent: Lynn, Deglow)

## Special Oral Presentation

3. None

## Consent Calendar

All items listed under the Consent Calendar were approved by all in attendance upon one motion made by Commissioner Guadiana, seconded by Commissioner deBlonk.

4. **Approval of Minutes for December 4, 2008**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Approve commission minutes for December 4, 2008

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

**Action:** Approved as mailed

5. ***Parks and Recreation Safety Implementation Plan: Hagginwood Park Master Plan***

**Location:** 3271 Marysville Blvd., Council District 2

**Recommendation:** Support Hagginwood Park Master Plan

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

**Action:** New Master Plan Supported

6. ***Parks and Recreation Safety Implementation Plan: McClatchy Park Master Plan***

**Location:** 3500 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Council District 5

**Recommendation:** Support McClatchy Park Master Plan

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

Mr. Dustin LaTrelle stated he was involved in this project, stated it was a beautiful plan, and asked the Commission to support it.

**Action:** New Master Plan Supported

## Discussion/Action Reports

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

7. **Proposed Ordinance Amendments to City Code Relating to Appeals of Decisions on Tree Removals and Maintenance Permits**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and comment

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

Mr. Benassini reviewed the item. Commissioner Lujan stated the Urban Forest Committee supports the item. Commissioners strongly recommended that timeframes be clearly defined as to calendar or business days, and to clarify the deadline should it fall on a weekend or holiday. Commissioner Tamayo recommended that factors for conserving the value of heritage trees be added, and that the approach to amend the ordinance should be more comprehensive. Commissioner Pomer stated concerns with the process in that an ordinance with issues of vagueness and other difficulties, and the responsibility that goes with it, is being transferred to another government body.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to move the item forward with two recommendations: to clearly specify deadlines as calendar days, and that appeals related to trees in City parks continue to be heard by the Parks and Recreation Commission. (DeBlonk/Lujan: Ayes: Cooke, Lujan, Deglow, Price, DeBlonk, ; Nays: Raya, Lynn, Tamayo, Pomer; Abstain: Guadiana)

**8. Update on Integrated Pest Management Program**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and comment

**Contact:** Dan Giammona, Park Operations Manager, 808-4070

Mr. Giammona introduced Kyle Raphael, Park Superintendent, who reviewed the item, including the process to complete a written policy and plan with assistance from the Commission and other City departments. Commissioner Tamayo recommended the policy and plan address buildings and facilities in addition to open space and park land. A proposed pilot project in Council District 4 was discussed.

Chair Cooke approved that Commissioner Tamayo is to replace Commissioner Price on the Park Operations Committee to allow Commissioner Tamayo more input into the development of a written policy and plan at the committee level.

**9. Department of Parks and Recreation's Major Projects and Objectives for 2009**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and comment

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

Commissioners reviewed objectives in the report and discussed those related to sustainability, youth development and youth-friendly designs in the park system. Commissioner Price requested senior programming be formalized at community centers outside the Hart Senior Center and for staff to review senior programs with the Commission.

**10. Parks and Recreation Director Report (Oral): A. December 2008 department highlights; B. January 2009 department highlights**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and comment

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

Director Combs highlighted new teen centers and awards.

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

Commissioners asked about upcoming changes to the City's planning areas and how they will affect commission seats and the current appointment process. Commissioner Price asked about teen centers and the way they are managed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Harder, Support Services Manager  
Department of Parks and Recreation