



# Meeting Minutes City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

George Azar  
Jonathan Rewers  
Jeff Harris

Cindy Cooke  
Malachi Smith  
Dave Tamayo

CD 7 Vacant  
Virginia Guadiana  
David Heitstuman

Jay Hansen  
Brandon Beaver

## CITY STAFF:

*Jim Combs, Director of Parks and Recreation*  
*Lori Harder, Support Services Manager*  
*Cynthia Ramsey, Administrative Assistant*

**March 3, 2011**

**Historic City Hall Meeting Room  
915 I Street**

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

### Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Rewers at 6:08 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2011. Commissioners Azar, Rewers, Harris, Cooke, Smith, Tamayo were present, Commissioners Hansen and Heitstuman arrived at 7:05 p.m., and Commissioners Guadiana and Beaver were absent.

### Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda

1. To be announced

### 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. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Approve Commission minutes for February 3, 2011

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

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to approve as mailed. (Cooke/Harris: Ayes: Azar, Rewers, Harris, Cooke, Smith, Tamayo; Absent: Hansen, Heitstuman, Guadiana and Beaver)

**5. Update on the Department of Parks and Recreation's Community Sponsorship Initiative**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Receive and File

**Contact:** Alan Tomiyama, Recreation Services Manager, 808-8958; Dave Mitchell, Operations Manager, 808-6076

Chair Rewers recommended staff further evaluate the cost/benefit of such initiatives in future as the initiative was significantly reduced in scope due to staffing reductions.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to receive and file. (Rewers/Azar: Ayes: Azar, Rewers, Harris, Cooke, Smith, Tamayo; Absent: Hansen, Heitstuman, Guadiana and Beaver)

**Discussion/Action Reports**

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

**6. Community Garden Management Guidelines Review and Update**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and Comment

**Contact:** Shannon Brown, Parks Maintenance Manager; 808-4070; Dave Mitchell, Operations Manager, 808-6076

Dave Mitchell, Operations Manager, reviewed the item. Community gardeners commented as follows: term limits not supported but rather do what is necessary to ensure all garden plots are actively used and waiting lists are addressed; written agreements with Parks and Recreation have worked well in giving guidance and confirming roles and responsibilities; community gardens have been a positive force for community building and safe and fun activities for all nearby residents including children; issues have been worked through with positive results including sharing plots to maximize use and sharing produce with those on any waiting lists, and support for an against expanding the existing community garden at J. Neely Johnson Park.

Commissioners commended gardeners and staff for working through concerns and issues; appreciated the work involved in developing a productive garden; encouraged gardeners to seek sponsors to help with events and various costs; encouraged community events to engage residents; encouraged self policing of gardens, and suggested to confirm citywide standards and procedures for community gardens.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to support the Community Garden Guidelines, consider including Muir Children's Park as a future community garden site and develop citywide standards for gardens, and to return in 18 to 24 months with an update. (Rewers/Azar: Ayes: Azar, Rewers, Harris, Cooke, Smith, Tamayo; Absent: Hansen, Heitstuman, Guadiana and Beaver)

## 7. Proposed Solar Photovoltaic Park at Sutter's Landing Park

**Location:** Council District 3

**Recommendation:** Review and Discuss

**Contact:** J.P. Tindell, Park Planning & Development Manager, 808-1955; Marty Strauss, Integrated Waste Planning Superintendent, 808-4934

City staff and representatives from Conergy reviewed the current status of the proposed project as outlined in the agenda packet. Area residents and representatives from Friends of the River Banks, Save the American River Association and Friends of Swainson's Hawk commented as follows: concerns were expressed about the effect on wildlife, including hawks that nest in the area, from covering open space and feeding areas with solar farm infrastructure and panels; concerns about potential obstruction of park and riverway views; project consistency with the American River Parkway Plan; recommend solar panels be focused in a way to reduce the impact on wildlife habitat; how to promote both green energy and parkway protection values; how this project may or may not affect landfill closure management plans; would the ground subside over time and damage the infrastructure and panels; the project is too massive; would the resulting energy be purchased by SMUD or other providers; mitigation could be costly; has the City identified alternative sites; and questions on fencing and security.

Commissioners inquired about the CEQA/environmental review process, timeline and assessment of biological and wildlife impacts, if paying prevailing wage would be required, how the City Council might allocate future lease revenues, the overall benefit to Sutter's Landing Park, and overall project timeline and decision points.

Commissioners discussed revenue streams, park and wildlife values, potential lease term, concerns that the City may continue to renew the lease beyond the first 20 years because of revenue generation, using parks for revenue generation that does not directly benefit them, type and construction of infrastructure that may reduce visual impacts in the park and riverway, and interest in the energy company providing public education.

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to request staff return to the Parks and Recreation Commission with information on key milestones and for further input prior to the City Council taking action on project scope, CEQA, and lease. (Hansen/Cooke: Ayes: Azar, Rewers, Harris, Cooke, Smith, Hansen, Heitstuman; Nays: Tamayo; Absent: Guadiana, Beaver)

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to recommend a solar farm project cost/benefit analysis be conducted, and that any lease revenue support the development of Sutter's Landing Park given there are minimal revenue streams for development of the City of Sacramento's regional park system. (Rewers/Cooke: Ayes: Azar, Rewers, Harris, Cooke, Smith, Tamayo, Hansen, Heitstuman; Absent: Guadiana and Beaver)

**Action:** Motion failed to recommend to City Council that prevailing wages be required for this project. (Hansen/Tamayo: Ayes: Hansen, Cooke, Tamayo, Smith; Nays: Azar, Harris, Rewers; Abstain: Heitstuman; Absent: Guadiana and Beaver)

**Action:** Moved, seconded and carried to recommend the final project approved by the City Council results in net enhancements to park values and wildlife habitat.

(Tamayo/Rewers: Ayes: Azar, Rewers, Harris, Cooke, Smith, Tamayo, Hansen, Heitstuman; Absent: Guadiana and Beaver)

**8. Update on Parks and Recreation Commission's Proposal for a Landscape and Lighting Assessment for Park Maintenance**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and Discuss

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

Director Combs reviewed the item which will return to the Commission next month for further action including establishing a committee to give input on the study and overall project.

**9. Swimming Pool Sponsorship Plan**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and Comment

**Contact:** Greg Narramore, 808-6095; Alan Tomiyama, Recreation Manager, 808-8958

Alan Tomiyama reviewed the report, and stated that, due to budget reductions, six swimming pools will be in operation this summer. Any contributions to expand public swim hours at pools will need to be known prior to the beginning of summer as trained Aquatics staffing will be limited and staff may not be able to cover additional hours.

Commissioners requested information at the next meeting on recreation related service reductions and how that has affected various communities within Sacramento.

**10. Parks and Recreation Director Report (Oral): Review Highlights of February and March, 2011**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Review and comment

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

Director Combs spoke to the upcoming California Park and Recreation Society training conference to be held at the Sacramento Convention Center, and the department's more recent participation in new City initiatives related to youth and education.

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

Chair Rewers requested that any fee changes the City Council would take action on be reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Commission for input. Chair Rewers stated he spoke to an item before the City Council that included the sale of property within Del

Paso Regional Park benefitting the City's general fund, and requested the matter of protecting City parkland be agendaized for the next Commission meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Harder, Support Services Manager  
Department of Parks and Recreation

Approved by:



Jonathan Rewers, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission