

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING  
August 2, 2007**

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

1. The Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Cooke at 6:35 p.m. on the above date at the Mims Hagginwood Community Center, 3721 Marysville Boulevard, Sacramento CA 95815.
2. Introduction of Commission Members, City Staff and Guests

MEMBER	PLANNING AREA	Present	Absent
George Raya	Planning Area 1- Central City	X	
Cindy Cooke	Planning Area 2- Land Park	X	
Patrick Lynn	Planning Area 3 – Pocket		X
Dave Tamayo	Planning Area 4- South Sacramento	X	
Brett Williams	Planning Area 5- East Broadway		X
John Deglow	Planning Area 6- East Sacramento	X	
Bruce Pomer	Planning Area 7- Arden/Arcade		X
Leo Lujan	Planning Area 8- North Sacramento	X	
Deirdre Price	Planning Area 9- South Natomas	X	
Sheila DeBlonk	Planning Area 10- North Natomas	X	
Virginia Guadiana	Planning Area 11- Airport/Meadowview	X	
TOTAL MEMBERS PRESENT- Quorum is 6 members		8	3

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 2007 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
The June 7, 2007 draft meeting minutes were approved as mailed.
4. CONFIRMATION OF ROLES, EXPECTATIONS AND SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

Staff will redraft the “Suggested Improvements” section and return to the Parks and Recreation Commission with an updated draft for review.

5. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Cindy Cooke was nominated for Chair, and Brett Williams and George Raya were nominated for Vice Chair. Elections are to take place at the next regular meeting.

6. PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

A resident requested the fill material in the Hagginwood Park Playground be replenished and smoothed out. Staff will follow up. The need for libraries in Del Paso Heights was also discussed, including the suggestion to convert the auditorium at Mims Hagginwood Center to a library. Chair Cooke recommended Mr. MacIntyre address his concerns with his City Councilmember and the Sacramento Public Library Authority.

**TREE APPEAL HEARING:**

7. APPEAL OF THE DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO DENY A PERMIT FOR THE REMOVAL OF TWO HERITAGE TREES LOCATED AT 5911 WYMORE WAY

Chair Cooke stated she had observed the property, and asked the Commissioners if they had any ex parte communications or had made a site visit to the property. Commissioners confirmed there had been none. Joe Benassini, Urban Forest Services Manager, gave a brief overview of the item. The Commission then heard testimony from the appellant, Barbara Christenson, property owner of 5911 Wymore Way; Julia Mason, Ms. Christenson’s niece, and City staff.

Ms. Christenson submitted site photographs, invoices and estimates from tree care companies as additional evidence. Commissioners made inquiries and discussed the overall health, condition and long term maintenance of the heritage trees in question; condition of surrounding structures, foundation, irrigation system, brick borders and sidewalks. Commissioners and staff discussed the heritage tree ordinance including process and penalties, and that property owners can re-apply for removal permits in future.

Motion approved that the applicant failed to establish the need to remove two trees based on the requirements in Sacramento City Code Section 12.64.050, Subsection (C)(1), and that the request on appeal of property owner Barbara Christenson for a permit to remove two heritage trees from 5911 Wymore Way is denied.

Motion made by:	Raya
Seconded:	Price
Ayes:	Raya, Cooke, Tamayo, Deglow, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Lynn, Williams, Pomer

**SPECIAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

None.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

8. BLACKBIRD PARK (PARK 2B) MASATER PLAN AND PARK NAME

Commissioners DeBlonk and Price discussed pathway design and the disposition of the Park Development Committee's suggestions on the park master plan. Gary Hyden, Supervising Landscape Architect, stated their suggestions would be addressed in the design and development phase of this turnkey park.

Motion approved to support the Blackbird Park proposed name and master plan.

Motion made by: Guadiana  
Seconded: Raya  
Ayes: Raya, Cooke, Tamayo, Deglow, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lynn, Williams, Pomer

9. UPDATE TO THE NORTH NATOMAS REGIONAL PARK MASATER PLAN

Motion approved to support the proposed updates to the North Natomas Regional Park Master Plan.

Motion made by: Guadiana  
Seconded: Raya  
Ayes: Raya, Cooke, Tamayo, Deglow, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lynn, Williams, Pomer

10. SUPPORT PROPOSED RENAMING OF DIXIEANNE PARK TO WINNER'S CIRCLE PARK

Motion approved to support the proposed renaming of Dixieanne Park to Winner Circle's Park.

Motion made by: Guadiana  
Seconded: Raya  
Ayes: Raya, Cooke, Tamayo, Deglow, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None

Absent: Lynn, Williams, Pomer

11. SUPPORT CAPITAL GRANT PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION GRANT PROGRAMS: HABITAT CONSERVATION: SOUTHSIDE PARK LAKE REHABILITATION AND RECREATION TRAILS: DEL PASO REGIONAL PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Motion approved to support capital grant project recommendations for the State Parks and Recreation Recreation Trails and Habitat Conservation Grant Programs.

Motion made by: Guadiana  
Seconded: Raya  
Ayes: Raya, Cooke, Tamayo, Deglow, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lynn, Williams, Pomer

**STAFF REPORTS**

12. TOWNSHIP 9 MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Teresa Haenggi, Park Planner, the developer for Township 9 and Carter Burgess, the developer's site design consultant, reviewed the proposed project between the southern perimeter of the American River Parkway and Richards Boulevard. Commissioners discussed proposed open space areas and parks, buildings, roadways, trails, and pavement design and overall placement relative to the river, and the importance of both protecting natural values of the river and providing respite and recreation opportunities for the masses. The need for buffer areas and consideration for future potential uses on the north side of the river; the potential use, value and placement of linear parks and rows of trees, and the placement of support facilities including transit stops and grocery stores was discussed.

Commissioners emphasized the need to plan for off-leash dog areas given the proposed residential density and proximity to the Parkway, to analyze public use opportunities of the terminus park and factor them into the overall size and design of the park, and to maintain a buffer between the north roadway and bike/pedestrian trail to maximize safety and visibility. Ms. Betsy Weiland, an alternate on the American River Parkway Plan Update Committee, stated the developer was responsive to the parkway considerations, but she still had concerns about the development's impacts on the Parkway and asked the City to consider the flora and fauna present there, and the unique value of visiting a parkway in an urban environment.

Staff will forward the Commission's comments to the Development Services Department and request they be incorporated into future staff reports to City Council regarding the proposed development.

13. JOINT USE PROJECT AT SOJOURNER TRUTH PARK AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE SITE MASTER PLAN

Janet Baker, Operations Manager, introduced the item. Chair Cooke advised to reconsider overlapping the sports fields as they would be in full use in spring months, and to ensure access to the school parking lot after school is in session to ensure there are no barriers to public use.

Motion approved to support the joint use project at the Sojourner Truth site to include a 5,000 square foot library branch, a 500 student middle/high school of Science and Technology and an expanded park and playfield, and to support the proposed modifications to the master plan for the park site.

Motion made by: DeBlonk  
Seconded: Raya  
Ayes: Raya, Cooke, Tamayo, Deglow, Lujan, Price, DeBlonk, Guadiana  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Lynn, Williams, Pomer

#### 14. URBAN FOREST TRANSITION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Staff reviewed the item and how the reorganization would strengthen coordination and assessment of trees in the public right of way, and in addressing new development. Commissioner Raya stated the Urban Forest Committee supported the transition with an emphasis to maintain the current mission and service priorities. Commissioners Tamayo and Lujan discussed the need for a long term vision for citizen input on urban forest services, that a coordinated approach to managing trees in the public right of way may help address severe top pruning practices by utility agencies, and that the transition will allow for additional use of technology and other resources the Transportation Department can offer. Chair Cooke advised City park trees need to remain a service priority. Jim Combs, Parks and Recreation Director, stated he will recommend looking at the concept to revise the tree appeal process, ordinance, and to explore the establishment of a separate tree commission.

With this discussion, staff will return to the Commission with a recommendation to support the transition.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Jim Combs, Parks and Recreation Director, stated 6,000 youth are participating in 80 summer camps in Sacramento. In follow up to items that have been heard by the Parks and Recreation Commission: City Council approved an ordinance banning smoking in City parks, and may have a pilot program in a few parks with designated smoking areas; BMX riding and other security issues are being assessed at the skatepark in Granite Regional Park. Staff is following up on concerns about uses at Woodlake Park.

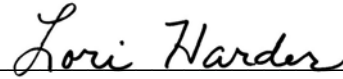
#### **COMMISSIONERS' IDEAS, QUESTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Tamayo stated the Mosquito and Vector District has monitoring stations in City parks and has deployed truck-based spraying in the past to abate mosquitoes. This is an ongoing possibility this summer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

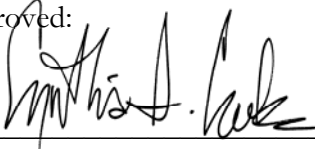
The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Lori Harder, Support Services Manager  
Department of Parks and Recreation

Approved:



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Cindy Cooke, Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation Commission