

MINUTES

August 7, 2008

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

Call to Order – 6:10 p.m.

Roll Call – A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Cooke at 6:10 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, 2008 at the Sacramento Historic City Hall Hearing Room. All members present except Commissioner Price.

Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda

1. None

Public Hearings

2. **Appeal of a Decision of the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to Approve a Request to Remove Heritage Trees**
Location: (Curtis Park Village P04-109, North of Sutterville Road, West of 24th)

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

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

Mr. Benassini gave an overview of the item, followed by Mr. Phil Harvey, tree permit applicant representing Petrovich Developers. Mr. Harvey stated the request to remove the trees was based on a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to remediate soil and groundwater contamination on the site in order to develop the property. Mr. Harvey affirmed Petrovich Developers will replace trees on an inch-for-inch basis as required in the Negative Declaration in the RAP. Commissioners inquired about the exact location of the trees on the parcel map, if any other options were considered there to make the soil safe short of moving trees, how were trees identified, and asked for further clarification regarding the RAP results.

Mr. Gary Levenson-Palmer, appellant, spoke to the item to address concerns with notice issues, site development completion, exact location of trees, and possible other alternatives in lieu of removal of the trees.

Action: Moved, seconded and carried to table discussion and continue the public hearing until the next regularly scheduled PRC meeting for applicant to provide additional maps and information regarding location of the trees. (Tamayo/Raya; Ayes: Cooke; Nays: DeBlonk, Lujan, Pomer, Deglow, Lynn, Guadiana; Absent: Price)

Action: Moved, seconded and carried to uphold the decision of the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to grant a permit to remove the trees based on the requirements in Sacramento City Code Section 12.64.050, subsection (C)(1)(a). (DeBlonk/Deglow; Ayes: Lujan, Pomer, Lynn, Guadiana; Nays: Tamayo, Raya, Cooke; Absent: Price)

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.

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

4. Approval of May 1, 2008

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Approve commission minutes for March 6, 2008

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

Action: Approved minutes

5. Public Art Projects for Fremont and Southside Community Gardens

Location: Fremont Community Garden – Northeast corner of 14th & Q Streets; Southside Community Garden – Northwest corner of 5th & W Streets, Council District 4

Recommendation: Receive and file

Contact: Robert J. Fleming, Park Operations Manager, 808-6301

Action: Received and filed

6. **Sacramento County American River Parkway Plan 2006**
Location: Citywide
Recommendation: Support Sacramento County American River Parkway Plan 2006
Contact: J.P. Tindell, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, 808-1955
Action: Approved recommendation

Discussion/Action Reports

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

7. **Reichmuth Park Master Plan Update**
Location: 6135 Gloria Drive, Planning Area 3, Council District 4
Recommendation: Support Reichmuth Park Master Plan Update
Contact: J.P. Tindell, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, 808-1955

Jeff Nittka, Landscape Assistant, presented this item and reviewed the park master plan revisions. Commissioners expressed appreciation for staff efforts and were pleased with the revisions. Mrs. Michele Joe spoke to the need for more park elements for older adults, traffic concerns with the relocation of the tennis court parking lot, the lack of full community engagement in outreach efforts, and priority given to the skate park development. Staff confirmed of the proposed master plan elements, Phase 1 design and development consist of the new skate park, demonstration garden and the art work.

Action: Move, seconded and carried to support Reichmuth Park Master Plan. (Guadiana/Cooke; Ayes: Raya, Deglow, Lujan, Pomer, DeBlonk, Lynn, Tamayo; Absent: Price)

8. **Support an Amendment to the South Natomas Community Park Master Plan for Fort Natomas and Development of the Jefferson Park Master Plan**
Location: South Natomas Community Park, Planning Area 9, Jefferson Park, Planning Area 9
Recommendation: Support an amendment to the South Natomas Community Park Master and the proposed process for development of the new Jefferson Park Master Plan
Contact: Jonathan Rewers, Parks & Recreation Analyst, 808-7590

Jonathan Rewers, Parks and Recreation Analyst, reviewed the park master plan for Fort Natomas, project development and timeline, and community input process. Neighborhood residents spoke in support of relocating Fort Natomas to South Natomas Community Park as the site provides better visibility and accessibility, available parking, and a safe overall environment. Mr. Eric Maher expressed concerns including the park relocation due to traffic issues, safety, pitfalls of the tight project time line, and a potential landmark for graffiti problems and/or criminal activities.

Councilmember Tretheway thanked staff for the quick response to the community plan to schedule rebuilding of Fort Natomas and fully supported moving the playground to South Natomas Community Park, and thanked the Commissioners for their positive considerations.

Action: Move, seconded and carried to support an amendment to the South Natomas Community Park Master Plan for Fort Natomas and development of the Jefferson Park Master Plan (Cooke/Guadiana; Ayes: Raya, Deglow, Lujan, Pomer, DeBlonk, Lynn, Tamayo; Absent: Price)

9. Department of Parks & Recreation Sustainability Plan 2008-2015

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Support adoption and implementation of the proposed Department Sustainability Plan 2008-2015

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

J.P. Tindell, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, reviewed this item. Ms. Tindell introduced and thanked the “Green Team” members, PRC Ad Hoc Committee, and Amy van Riessen (Project Consultant) for their efforts and hard work in the development of the proposed Sustainability Plan.

Commissioners had questions and comments regarding the definition of “turf”, possible other options in place of eliminating turf that serve recreation goals, and the benefits of both retaining and reducing turf.

Commission Pomer commented it was good to see the “public health and nutrition” element recognized and included in the plan. Commissioner Tamayo asked for a brief update on the city-wide “Integrated Pest Management Policy.”

Action: Move, seconded and carried to support adoption and implementation of the proposed Department Sustainability Plan 2008-2015. (Guadiana/DeBlonk; Ayes: Raya, Deglow, Lujan, Pomer, DeBlonk, Lynn, Tamayo; Absent: Price)

10. **Parks and Recreation Director Report (Oral): A. June 2008 department highlights; B. July 2008 department highlights; August 2008 department highlights; D. Proposed “Lending Library”**

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and comment

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

Director Combs updated the Commission on summer events and park openings. Mr. Combs noted that staff is working on a process to identify financial strategies for regional parks and open space. He also mentioned that City Council approved environmental documents assisting in the process for potential property acquisition for the American River Parkway.

Commissioner Guadiana asked for a report back on the department's FY09 budget augmentations. Mr. Combs confirmed that staff will follow up with her.

Commissioner Raya asked for an update on the Sutter's Landing Regional Park improvements project. Staff indicated that this item is scheduled for discussion and review at the next PRC meeting in September.

J.P. Tindell, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, noted she has two books available to lend out to the Commissioners as part of the department's "Lending Library" program.

Action: Received

Questions, Ideas, and Announcements of Commission Members

11. **Nomination and Election of Parks and Recreation Commission Vice-Chair**

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Nominate and elect new Commission Vice-Chair

Contact: Cindy Cooke, Commission Chair, 808-5200

Action: Motion and seconded to elect Sheila DeBlonk as Vice-Chair. Motion failed. (Lujan/Pomer; Ayes: Deglow, DeBlonk, Nays: Tamayo, Raya, Lynn, Cooke, Guadiana; Absent: Price)

Action: Motion and seconded to elect Virginia Guadiana as Vice-Chair. Motion carried. (Tamayo/Raya; Ayes: Lynn, Cooke, Guadiana; Nays: Lujan, Pomer, Deglow, DeBlonk; Absent: Price)

Commissioners presented Janet Baker, Operations Manager, with a Proclamation to thank her for her outstanding services as she leaves the City of Sacramento to start her new job as Director of Regional Parks and Open Space for Sacramento County.

Adjournment – 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Marcy Tierce, Administrative Analyst
Department of Parks and Recreation