

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2009

*Historic City Hall, Hearing Room
915 I Street*

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: 39th 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 5th 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 stated he did not support the recommendation at the committee level because it does not address issues such as defining the value of a heritage tree, formulating adequate criteria for the appeal process, and that the ordinance should be amended comprehensively as previously discussed, as opposed to making small changes and moving an ordinance with flaws forward to the Planning Commission. 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 the planning, design and maintenance for buildings, facilities, open space and park land, and that the Parks and Recreation Commission be the place where policy is discussed regularly to ensure an ongoing discussion. 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