



APPROVED

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
July 28, 2009
City Hall
250 Hamilton Ave**

Commissioners Present: Pat Markevitch, Carl King, Deirdre Crommie, Joel Davidson, Paul Losch, Daria Walsh

Commissioners Absent: Sunny Dykwel

Others Present: Council Liaison Espinosa

Staff Present: Greg Betts, Catherine Bourquin, Rob de Geus, Donald Piana

I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY: Catherine Bourquin

II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

IV. BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Draft Minutes of June 30, 2009 regular meeting** – The Draft Minutes of the June 30, 2009 regular meeting were approved as amended. **Approved 6:0**
2. **2009 Senior Games Update** - Staff de Geus updated the Commissioners with information pertaining to the upcoming 2009 National Senior Games. There will be 25 sport competitions bringing 30,000 visitors into Palo Alto. Staff de Geus added that this is the largest multi-support event in the nation for athletes over 50. He went on to add that August 1st will be the caldron lighting ceremony; the train carrying the torch will leave San Francisco and end up in Palo Alto traveling to Stanford and then to City Hall. With the assistance of Cynthia Segovia, an intern for Recreation, the Recreation Division put together a brochure to announce activities in Palo Alto for the convenience of visitors and athletes. Cynthia guided the Commissioners through the flyer that was handed out at the meeting and went through some of the special activities that Recreation is sponsoring. During the Senior Games a free wheeling program/bike share program is being introduced. There was some discussion on how the program will be



implemented in the City after the Senior Games are over. Staff de Geus said he would report back to the Commission on details as they evolve for a bike share program.

- 3. Recommendation to Council from the Commission for a Greer Park Improvement Ordinance** – Staff Piana provided some history on the Greer Park Renovation and Phase 4 project, and why an Ordinance was required for the project. Elizabeth Ames, Senior Engineer in charge of the project, was introduced and went over the design of the park which included the passive park (Phase 4), irrigation, a new pump station, and updated playground equipment.

Oral Communications

Sheri Furman – 3094 Greer Road, Palo Alto – Ms. Furman expressed her concern that the Midtown Residents Association wasn't given advance notice that this business item was coming before the Commission tonight. She also wanted to encourage the Commission to approve the park improvement ordinance so this long awaited project could commence on the proposed November timeline.

Herb Borock- PO Box 632, Palo Alto – Mr. Borock wanted to remind the Commission and staff that they should follow the California Environmental Act upon going forward with this project. He believes that this is not being followed tonight and that the CEQA documentation in the proposed ordinance is inadequate.

After Oral Communications, the Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions before making a motion to approve the recommendation. A motion was made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Losch.

Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends to Council to approve the Greer Park Improvement Ordinance. Approved 5:1(Davidson)

- 4. Jr. Museum & Zoo – Bobcat Ridge Exhibit Capital Improvement Project** – Staff de Geus presented to the Commission an informational presentation on the upcoming renovation of the Bobcat Ridge Exhibit that is proposed for the Junior Museum & Zoo. There will be a four month construction period and the project will cost \$450,000, which is being funded by the Friends of the Junior Museum & Zoo. The project will be coming back to the Commission in September for review and approval of a Park Improvement Ordinance. Time was given for questions and answers.
- 5. Logistic planning for public feedback meeting on improving recreational opportunities in Palo Alto for dog owners** – Staff de Geus met with Commissioner Losch and drafted an agenda for the prospective public meeting. The draft agenda was passed out for discussion with the Commissioners. Items that were discussed included how the meeting will be advertised via the local newspapers, PTA's, web, etc.; how will it

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be facilitated; and what are the expectations for the outcome of the meeting. These issues were discussed and will be addressed when putting together the final agenda to be brought back at the next Parks and Recreation regular meeting in September.

V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Reminder, the August 25th Commission meeting is cancelled.
2. Don Piana was recognized for his upcoming retirement.
3. Commissioner Davidson acknowledged staff Piana and Bourquin for their work with the Ventura Neighborhood Association in the expansion of their community garden.
4. September 21st the Fire Management Plan will be going to Council – Commissioner Markevitch will be attending
5. September 14th – The Council will be awarding a construction administration contract for Group 4 Architects for the final design phase of the Mitchell Park Community Center and Library project.
6. The Gym use policy was approved by City Council on July 27th.
7. Blue ribbon task force meeting (Study Session) for the composting center at the Baylands was held on July 20th.
8. Council Liaison Espinosa remarked on the bond for El Camino which was passed by City Council.
9. Council Liaison Espinosa recommended that staff reports related to the composting issue and any other relevant important topics should be included in the packets that go to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR September 22, 2009 REGULAR MEETING:

1. Gymnasium space issue and prospective partnerships with PAUSD.
2. World Music Day
3. Junior Museum & Zoo Bobcat Ridge exhibit park ordinance
2. Recap on Recreational Opportunities for dog owners in Palo Alto meeting details.
3. Change of terms of office for the Parks and Recreation Commission

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made in honor of Don Piana's upcoming retirement.

Adjourned at 9:44pm

