



APPROVED

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2009
City Hall
250 Hamilton Ave**

Commissioners Present: Pat Markevitch, Carl King, Paul Losch, Daria Walsh, Sunny Dykwel

Commissioners Absent: Deidre Crommie, Joel Davidson

Others Present:

Staff Present: Greg Betts, Catherine Bourquin, Robert Ward

I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY: Chair Markevitch

II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: John Hickson – Palo Alto Lawn Bowling Club

IV. BUSINESS:

1. **Recruitment of Community Services Department Director** – City Manager Jim Keene came before the Parks and Recreation Commission to elicit feedback from the Commissioners on what they thought were important traits to have as the Director of Palo Alto's Community Services Department. City Manager Keene informed the Commissioners that he is in the process of a nationwide recruitment process for the Director position in Community Services. The purpose of this feedback will be used to create a brochure highlighting these specific qualities. He added that he is gathering feedback from the staff of Community Services as well as all the Commissions in the Community Services Department. The qualities that the Parks and Recreation Commissioners felt strongly on were: they wanted the person to have excellent budgetary experience, an innovator of programs and services, excellent leadership skills, and an excellent collaborator. City Manager Keene reminded the Commissioners if they had any other ideas they wanted to share they could send an email through Greg Herman.

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2. **Approval of Draft Minutes of July 28, 2009 regular meeting** – The Draft Minutes of the July 28, 2009 regular meeting were unanimously approved. **Approved 5:0**
3. **Mitchell Library and Community Center Project Update** – Staff Betts introduced the Group 4 architects who presented the Commissioners with an update to the plans for the Mitchell Library and Community Center project. The Commissioners were given time for questions.
4. **Recommendation to City Council to Adopt an Ordinance dedicating a portion of High Street Parking Plaza as Public Park Land and naming the Parcel “Anna Zschokke Plaza” Informational presentation** – Staff Betts went over the report provided to the Commissioners as an overview of the procedures in naming dedicated park land. The approval of a recommendation to City Council to adopt an ordinance dedicating a portion of High Street parking plaza and the naming of the park land will be coming back to the Commission at a later date. It was suggested that for the naming consideration that the Downtown Parking Committee be involved in this process. Staff Betts will notify the Downtown Parking Committee of the hearing date related to this item.
5. **Recommendation to Council from the Commission for a Baylands Greenhouse Project Park Improvement Ordinance** – Senior Ranger Daren Anderson introduced Stella Santina the Nursery Manager for Save the Bay who gave a presentation to the Commission on the request to construct a greenhouse and replace an existing shed at the Baylands Nature Preserve, as well as recommend a park improvement ordinance to the City Council for this project. The presentation consisted of the background on the Save the Bay’s involvement with the Baylands Nature Preserve and the construction of the existing Native Plant Nursery at the Baylands.

The Commissioners were given time to ask questions and then moved for a motion by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Dykwel.

Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends to Council to approve the Recommendation for a Park Improvement Ordinance to allow for the construction of a greenhouse and the replacement of an existing work shed at the Baylands Nature Preserve. Approved 5:0 (Crommie and Davidson absent)

V. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Commissioners Losch announced a tentative date for the community meeting on dog issues in Palo Alto. The tentative date is October 19th.
2. Staff Betts introduced Robert Ward who is the new interim Division Manager for the Open Space and Parks Division which now with some reorganization includes the Golf Course Maintenance section.

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3. Staff Betts announced that this Saturday, September 26th is the 75th Anniversary of the Junior Museum and Zoo and there will be a celebration from 10am to 4pm. Also this Friday night, September 25th there will be a reception at the Art Center celebrating the “Treasures from the Mexican Museum” starting at 6pm.
4. The Moonlight Run is on October 4th at the Baylands and the Moon Festival is on October 3rd at Mitchell Park.
5. Council approved the Seale and Greer projects last night, September 21st. The ordinances will go into affect after the 2nd reading.

VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 27, 2009 REGULAR MEETING:

1. World Music Day
2. Outcome of the Community Dog Issue Meeting
3. Bobcat Ridge Project
4. PAUSD Liaison update, Commissioner Walsh attending meeting
5. Parks and Recreation Commission terms of office discussion

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Losch and seconded by Commissioner King.
Adjourned at 8:55pm.