



DRAFT

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL RETREAT
NOVEMBER 20, 2009
Lucie Stern Community Center
1305 Middlefield Road**

Commissioners Present: Pat Markevitch, Paul Losch, Daria Walsh, Sunny Dykwel, Deidre Crommie,

Commissioners Absent: Carl King, Joel Davidson

Others Present:

Staff Present: Rob de Geus, Catherine Bourquin, Robert Ward

I. ROLL CALL CONDUCTED BY: Catherine Bourquin

II. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS: None

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

III. ANNUAL RETREAT

1. Annual Retreat topics

a) Review of Parks and Recreation Commission Priorities for 2009

Staff de Geus reminded the Commissioners of what the Commission's purpose and responsibilities were for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Commissioners discussed the past 2009 priorities and noted the accomplishments for the year. Some accomplishments that were acknowledged were the Field Allocation Policy, Senior Games, the Baylands Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge, Foothills Fire Management Plan, "Let's Go Palo Alto", and the Dog Recreational Opportunities Public Meeting,

b) Discuss Potential Parks and Recreation Commission Priorities for 2010

There was general agreement that the commission had accomplished a primary goal with the Field Allocation Policy. However, Recreation space needs particularly gymnasium space and recreational opportunities for dog owners remain a concern and several



commissioners would like to see the commission continue working on recreation space needs.

There was general agreement that we had accomplished some goals with regard to Creating Cultural of Fitness such as supporting the Senior Games and the online walking challenge “Lets Go Palo Alto. However, looking forward commissioners felt that this goal should be broader to include health and wellness particularly given the tragedy of the recent teen suicides.

Protection and access to Palo Alto’s Open Space remains a core interest for the commission and all agreed that an Open Space priority needed to be included in the 2010 priorities.

An additional priority of assisting staff with planning and policy matters was discussed as much of the commissions time is spent working on parks and recreation policy issues that staff bring forward for input and guidance.

The discussion on future priorities also captured specific topics the Commissioners would like to see on the agenda in 2010, several of the topics are listed below:

- o Teen Health and Wellness
- o Indoor Gym Space
- o Dog Recreational Opportunities
- o Commission Support of CSD
- o Commission as a communication vehicle
- o Baylands/Foothill Conservation Plans
- o Bicycle Master Plan
- o Culture of Fitness
- o Creek and Urban Trails
- o Middle School Athletics – solidify program
- o Quarterly Meetings to review goals and objectives

The themes that emerged from the discussion are below and represent the priorities for 2010:

- A. Recreation Facilities and Park Needs
- B. Open Space Protection and Stewardship
- C. Community Health and Wellness
- D. CSD Planning and Policy Recommendations

The Commissions work plan will also be updated to include the above priorities, and where relevant the planned agenda items will be tied back to the Commissions priorities.

V. BUSINESS ITEM

1. Recommendation to Council for the dedication and naming of Anna Zschokke Plaza
The Commissioners made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented.

Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commission Recommend to City Council to Adopt an Ordinance dedicating a portion of the High Street Parking Plaza as public park land and naming the parcel “Anna Zschokke Plaza”.

Approved 5:0 (King and Davidson absent)

VI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 15, 2009:

- o Review priorities identified at the November 20, 2009 Commission retreat
- o Update on support for youth and teens
- o Recommendation to rename Lytton Plaza to Thoits Plaza
- o Debrief community meeting on recreational opportunities for dogs owners

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Approximately 8pm