



**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2009**

The Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Commission met in regular session at 7 p.m. on January 14, 2009, with Chair Colvin presiding. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers, 456 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

CALL TO ORDER / SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Colvin called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Chair Jim Colvin
Vice Chair Richard Oliver
Commissioner Howard Chuck
Commissioner Robert Harms
Commissioner Bob Kinder

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Cathy Merrill, Assistant to the Director, DPR
Curtis Black, Superintendent of Parks
Scott Morton, Parks Supervisor
Mike Abney, Administrative Analyst

Guests Present: Rob Williams, Director of Facility Modernization and Construction, Sunnyvale School District

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes from Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission on December 10, 2008

MOTION: Approve Consent Item 1.A.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously 4-0. (Commissioner Chuck abstained due to his absence on December 10, 2008.)

STAFF RESPONSES TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Revision of Cumberland and Ellis Schools Sports Fields Master Plans to Accommodate New Classrooms and Related Facilities (Council Action 1/27/09)

Scott Morton, Parks Supervisor, and Mike Abney, Administrative Analyst, Parks Division, presented the staff report, overview of the staff recommendations, and noted there is no fiscal impact to the City. Rob Williams, Director of Facility Modernization and Construction, Sunnyvale School District, was available to answer questions regarding the District's capital project and related plans.

Chair Colvin opened the meeting for questions and discussion.

Commissioner Kinder inquired about the location of the expanded play area at Cumberland. Director Williams, SSD, reviewed Attachment A with the Commissioners and noted the location of the new school buildings and new play area.

Chair Colvin asked about the location of new asphalt versus newly reduced grass areas and location of installation of new play area.

Chair Colvin inquired about the location of the Cumberland soccer field. He said there were two fields, now there is one. Supervisor Morton explained how the leagues use and configure fields for practice and play, and the configurations may be different than official field size. The City's inventory has always showed that Cumberland had one soccer field.

Commissioner Kinder expressed concerns regarding open space being reduced and replaced with asphalt.

Parks Supervisor Morton noted that City maintained land versus school maintained land is shifting but the field size is not reduced. He also clarified that the play area, which will be open to the public, will have play equipment on the asphalt.

Vice Chair Oliver requested clarification that the turf area will be reduced, the play area on asphalt will be increased, and fire access will be provided as required.

Chair Colvin requested that Commissioners move on to questions and discussion about Ellis School.

Chair Colvin inquired about the green space being reduced. Director Williams, SSD, distributed clearer, color renderings that included more detail and explained the existing and proposed site plan. Supervisor Morton noted that less than an acre of green space (20% of green space on site) will be lost.

Chair Colvin asked about the building expansion and the possibility of designing two-story buildings in order to save open space. Director Williams, SSD, responded that, typically, there is much resistance from the neighborhood, and at times the City, when considering two-story school buildings, and the SSD is striving to be a good neighbor in the community.

Commissioner Harms asked about the increase in school enrollment. Director Williams, SSD, explained that the increase in lower school levels is spilling over into the higher grades. The enrollment has increased from 6,000 to 6,200 students over the last 2-3 years.

Director Williams, SSD, noted that an Ellis School student drop-off area will be incorporated in future phases. He said that Vargas School has a student drop-off area now, details of which have been worked out with the City's Traffic Division.

Commissioner Kinder reconfirmed that the asphalt areas are increasing. He noted that asphalt areas are not guaranteed to remain available to the public per agreement, and he cited the fenced off areas at Lakewood School. Director Williams, SSD, said the SSD does not plan to fence off these areas. He said Lakewood School is a separate, special issue due to the high rate of vandalism and the solution, to fence it off, was worked out with the City's Public Safety Department.

Commissioner Kinder requested that the Lakewood School issue and gang problem be addressed by Public Safety Department at the next Commission meeting.

In response to Commissioner Kinder, Director Williams, SSD, explained why the SSD could not take back the Challenger School site to accommodate additional students.

Chair Colvin reconfirmed that the SSD does not intend to fence off the play areas after school hours. Director Williams, SSD, restated that the SSD wants to be a good neighbor and has no intention of fencing off this space.

There were no more questions or discussion.

Chair Colvin opened the public hearing. There were no appearances and the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Commissioner Harms moved and Vice Chair Oliver seconded to recommend that Council accept staff's recommendations:

- Alternative No. 1: Approve the Proposed Master Plan for Cumberland Elementary School sports field to include the new classrooms per Attachment A.
- Alternative No. 2: Approve the Proposed Master Plan for Ellis Elementary School sports field to include the new classrooms and facilities per Attachment B.

VOTE: Motion passed 4-1. (Commissioner Kinder dissented.)

Commissioner Kinder said he appreciates kids' need to go to school. He also appreciates an increase in playground space and noted the SSD has no choice but to make these changes. However, he is opposed to any decrease in open space in the City.

Commissioner Harms added that he supports the motion.

Chair Colvin asked if the Commissioners can be invited to future neighborhood public meetings to hear comments and feel the pulse of the neighborhood regarding these types of issues. Assistant to the Director Merrill said she would follow up on the request to verify current notification procedures and the resources available to include Commissioners in future notifications.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

COMMISSION

Commissioner Kinder said the Summer National Senior Games will be held August 1-14, 2009, in Palo Alto and noted two events will be held in Sunnyvale. He said they are looking for volunteers and encouraged Commissioners to check their web site, www.nsga.com.

STAFF

Assistant to the Director Merrill noted the City Council Study Issues Workshop will be held Friday, January 23. After the study issues are ranked by Council, staff will have information on the due dates for the Commission's calendar to be adopted next month.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- Staff Liaison Report
- Miscellaneous Items of Interest

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Colvin adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy E. Merrill, Assistant to the Director
Parks and Recreation Department

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