



**MINUTES
SUNNYVALE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JUNE 10, 2009**

The Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Commission met in regular session in City Hall Council Chambers, at 456 W. Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 at 7 p.m. with Vice Chair Oliver presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: Chair Jim Colvin (excused)

Staff Present: Assistant to the Director of Community Services Cathy E. Merrill

CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCE

The Commission determined by general consent that Commissioner Colvin's absence was excused.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION - None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes of May 20, 2009, Joint Arts Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Harms moved and Commissioner Chuck seconded to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

VOTE: Motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Colvin was absent.

STAFF RESPONSES TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Las Palmas Park Pond

Vice Chair Oliver opened the public hearing.

Peggy Quillinan

Ms. Quillinan's family lives directly across from Las Palmas Park. The water has not been on in the pond for several years. She requests that the Commission consider a special project or study issue to consider the feasibility of creating a smaller water feature and installing landscaping at the rest of the site where the pond is currently located.

Vice Chair Oliver asked Ms. Quillinan to elaborate on her recommendations. She said, as she understands it, the pond leaks; the City has no funds to repair the pond; and the neighbors do not want to look at an empty pond. She asked what the City's priorities are and if it is content (even prior to the current economic crisis) to leave an ugly, empty pond space. She advocated that the pond or a smaller pond be maintained and a special project or study issue be considered to make that happen.

Assistant to the Director explained to the Commissioners the process for bringing forward a study issue.

Sally James

Ms. James said she has previously addressed the Commission and Council on this topic. The pond is empty and neighborhood children miss the water but play in the empty pond. The site could be better developed with areas designated for the children. She suggested building a dam in the pond to make it smaller.

Vice Chair Oliver closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Kinder moved and Commissioner Harms seconded to create a study issue to:

- a.) determine how to keep water in the pond year round
- b.) determine if it is possible to make the pond smaller
- c.) determine other alternatives for use of this site

Ms. James requested permission to clarify her previous statement. The Commission agreed to re-open the public hearing.

Ms. James said the children enjoy the back part of the empty pond site where they can play. Vice Chair Oliver said her concerns would be addressed in a study issue.

Vice Chair Oliver closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Kinder moved and Commissioner Harms seconded to create a study issue to:

- a.) determine how to keep water in the pond year round**
- b.) determine if it is possible to make the pond smaller**
- c.) determine other alternatives for use of this site**

VOTE: Motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Colvin was absent.

Vice Chair Oliver requested a presentation from staff on the history and issues with water in park ponds. Assistant to the Director Merrill said staff will follow up and encouraged the Commissioners to visit the Las Palmas Park pond site.

3. Fair Oaks Skatepark Lighting Project

Commissioner Harms suggested that this item be placed on the next regular meeting agenda when Commissioner Colvin can be present.

Vice Chair Oliver opened the public hearing and there being no public testimonies, closed the public hearing.

4. Commission Satisfaction Survey

Assistant to the Director Merrill requested that the Commissioners complete the satisfaction survey and return it to her.

Vice Chair Oliver opened the public hearing and there being no public testimonies, closed the public hearing.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER Oral Comments

Commissioner Harms noted an upcoming event at the Senior Center.

STAFF Oral Comments

Assistant to the Director Merrill reminded Commissioners of the special Commission meeting scheduled for June 24 regarding Consideration of Parks of the Future Study. Commissioner Chuck said he has a prior commitment and he will not be available to attend.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- Staff Liaison Written Report
- Recreation Division Report, January – March 2009
- Miscellaneous Items of Interest

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy E. Merrill, Assistant to the Director
Department of Community Services

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