



**MINUTES
SUNNYVALE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Chair Colvin presiding.

CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chair Colvin called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Assistant to the Director Cathy Merrill

Guests Present: None

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION - None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes of August 12, 2009, Commission Meeting

MOTION: Vice Chair Oliver moved and Commissioner Harms seconded to approve Item 1.A. as presented.

VOTE: Motion passed 4-0. (Commissioner Colvin abstained because he was absent from the August 12, 2009, meeting)

STAFF RESPONSES TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Draft RTC – Consider Use of Hendy Iron Man Museum for a Cultural Amenity – Phase II (Council Action 9/29/09)

Assistant to the Director Merrill presented the staff report.

Commissioners inquired about the option for a short-term lease (10 years instead of 25 years), timeframe for Northrop Grumman reconsideration, and alternative locations for a new museum facility that does not require a security check.

Commissioner Harms commented that Sunnyvale Heritage Museum docents toured the Hendy Iron Man Museum and went through a security check. He feels the City should not get involved with this

project and that there are other things the City can spend money and energy on. He said the City could do more to direct the public to the Sunnyvale Heritage Museum. Chair Colvin agreed.

Commissioner Chuck noted the benefits of a museum site walkable from downtown and requested a brief overview of the background of the initial report.

Commissioner Pochowski asked about the intent of the original report regarding space at Northrop Grumman.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Pochowski moved and Commissioner Chuck seconded to recommend that Council accept staff's recommendation, Alternative No. 1: Conclude this study based on the information from Northrop Grumman stating they are not in a position to commit to a museum facility on their campus at the present time.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

There was no further discussion.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER Oral Comments

Commissioner Harms asked about the agreement between the City and the Sunnyvale Historical Society and whether it allows a directional sign with higher visibility at the entrance to the Heritage Museum. He would like to see a panel for the Heritage Museum added to the directional signage already in place at the Community Center. Assistant to the Director Merrill said she would find out and respond back to the Commission.

STAFF Oral Comments

Assistant to the Director Merrill handed out her staff report and said, for the record, she wished to update the Commission on the status of upcoming study issues which will be ranked next month for study in 2010.

Assistant to the Director Merrill explained that during the June 10, 2009, Commission meeting, a new study issue was proposed in response to the seasonal closure of the ponds at Las Palmas Park. The Commissioners indicated they desired a study to determine how to keep water in Las Palmas pond year around, to determine if it is feasible to make the pond smaller, and to determine other alternative uses for the site. Two weeks following that meeting, on June 24, the Commission reviewed the Parks of the Future Report and recommended a new policy that would address this issue; and that new policy was approved by the City Council on July 14, 2009, when it approved the staff and Commission recommendations in the final Parks of the Future Report. The new policy was identified in the POTF report as recommendation #14: Amend the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to include a new Open Space Policy (Goal A): *If amenities are no longer needed (e.g., due to fiscal constraints, environmental reasons, change in community needs) give strong consideration to redesigning the amenity to serve community needs.*

Assistant to the Director Merrill pointed out that the new approved policy could substitute for a new policy which would result from the study requested by the Commission. She noted what seems to be desired is a capital project to present alternative designs for the open space where the pond currently is, rather than a new policy to consider allowing older facilities to be redesigned into new uses.

Assistant to the Director Merrill continued her report, noting that only one other study issue, deferred last year and planned to come before the Commission for ranking next month is "Consider Potential Locations and Related Costs for Development of New Mini-Parks in North Sunnyvale."

In response to questions, Assistant to the Director Merrill explained the difference between a budget issue/capital project where an allocation of funds for an improvement or new program is asked to be considered versus a study issue where a new or revision to City policy would be considered. She noted the new policies recently approved following the Parks of the Future study.

Commissioner Harms noted his preference that the consideration to change Las Palmas Park pond into other uses of open space should be a Budget Issue.

Chair Colvin wanted to be sure the local community near the park would have a say into the type of amenities that may go into the park if the pond area is reduced in size or removed. Assistant to the Director Merrill explained the park planning and citizen input process the City follows before any park improvements are made.

By general consent, the Commissioners requested that the study issue "consideration to change Las Palmas Park pond into other uses of open space" be changed to a budget issue/capital project, agreeing it is not a policy issue since the policies are already in place.

Assistant to the Director Merrill thanked the Commissioners for clarifying the intent of the study.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- Miscellaneous Items of Interest

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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