



**MINUTES
SUNNYVALE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 14, 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: Community Services Director David A. Lewis
Assistant to the Director Cathy Merrill

Guests Present: None

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION - None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes of September 9, 2009, Commission Meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Pochowski moved and Commissioner Harms seconded to approve Item 1.A. as presented.

VOTE: Motion passed 5-0.

STAFF RESPONSES TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Draft RTC – Amendment of General Plan Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element to Incorporate New Policies Identified During Parks of the Future Study – Resolution and General Plan Amendment

Director Lewis presented the staff report noting that Council approved 15 of the 16 recommendations in the Parks of the Future Study Report to Council which addressed Sunnyvale's parks and open space needs for the next 20 years, as submitted. Several of the recommendations were policy statements which affect policies in the General Plan and require a formal Council action to amend the General Plan. Director Lewis also noted the Planning Commission recommended different language in one of the policy statements.

Director Lewis stated that the date the report goes before Council has been changed from October 27 to November 24, 2009.

Commissioner Harms asked if any of the policies affect the Sunnyvale School District's plans to sell or change the use of their lands. Director Lewis responded no.

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

There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Commissioner Harms moved and Commissioner Chuck seconded to recommend that Council accept staff's recommendation, Alternative No. 1: Approve the attached resolution (Attachment A of the draft report) enacting a General Plan Amendment to add five policies identified through the Parks of the Future Study to the Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element of the General Plan.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

3. Draft RTC - Sunnyvale Municipal Code Chapters 18.10 and 19.74 Relating to Park Dedication: Consider Raising the Park Facility Standard from 1.25 Acres per 1,000 Population to 3.0 Acres per 1,000 Population

Director Lewis presented the staff report noting that Council approved the 16th recommendation of the Parks of the Future Study Report to Council with modifications to the staff recommendation. Council directed staff to prepare an amendment to the Sunnyvale Municipal Code increasing the facility standard used from the current level of 1.25 acres per 1,000 additional population to 3.0 acres per 1,000 additional population in a specified phased approach. The amendment to the City's Park Dedication regulations requires a change in the City Ordinance; therefore, this Report to Council is a separate action and requires two public readings.

Director Lewis stated that the date the report goes before Council has been changed from October 27 to November 24, 2009.

Commissioner Chuck asked if staff has talked to the public and developers regarding impacts this may have on new development in Sunnyvale. Director Lewis noted there were public hearings and study sessions with both Council and Commission for the Parks of the Future Study where developers did raise their concerns, and he believes this input led to Council's desire to phase in the fee increase.

Commissioners inquired if staff is aware of areas with potential for large scale developments which might be affected and also asked if properties where smaller houses are on large lots and owners are adding to the size of the house, would this type of project be affected?

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

Commissioner Pochowski moved to accept the recommendation and Commissioner Harms seconded the motion.

Director Lewis clarified that there are three alternatives in the report.

There was no further discussion.

Commissioner Pochowski restated the motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Pochowski moved and Commissioner Harms seconded to recommend that Council accept staff's recommendations, Alternatives Nos. 1 and 2.

- 1. Council adopt the attached amendments to City Municipal Code Title 18 (Subdivisions) Chapter 18.10, Parks and Open Space Dedication, raising the facility standard from the existing standard of 1.25 acres per 1,000 to 3.0 acres per 1,000 over three years.**
- 2. Council adopt the attached amendments to City Municipal Code Title 19 (Zoning) Chapter 19.74, Park Dedication Fees for Rental Housing Projects, raising the facility standard from the existing standard of 1.25 acres per 1,000 additional residents to 3.0 acres per 1,000 over three years.**

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

4. Ranking of Study Issues for 2010

Director Lewis and Assistant to the Director Merrill presented the staff report and reviewed the background of study issue DCS 09-02 Consider Potential Locations and Related Costs for Development of New Mini-Parks in North Sunnyvale. Director Lewis provided an overview of the study issue process between Commission and Council. Chair Colvin reviewed the procedure for ranking study issues.

There were no questions and no discussion.

MOTION: Commissioner Chuck moved and Commissioner Harms seconded to drop study issue DCS 09-02 Consider Potential Locations and Related Costs for Development of New Mini-Parks in North Sunnyvale.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

5. Calendar Work Plan Review

Commissioner Harms asked if Community Services Department would be involved in a holiday parade (a past event). Director Lewis responded, noting a similar situation with the Howl'oween Pet Parade, which the City is going to co-sponsor again this year. Dave reviewed the City's special event policy and process if a group, such as the Chamber of Commerce or a service club, wants to organize an event. Commissioner Harms noted there might not be enough spirit in Sunnyvale to consider a holiday parade. Director Lewis reminded the Commissioners about Breakfast with Santa at the Senior Center.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Oral Comments

Commissioner Harms mentioned an article from *The Sunnyvale Sun* regarding schools' need for open space that seems to have happened without the support or control of the City. He said the City is losing open space that is owned by the school districts. He questioned why staff bothers bringing these issues forward if the outcome is the same – schools need open space for classrooms and the City is not going to deny students an education. Director Lewis provided the history of City and school district agreements that benefit the public with an inventory of well-maintained land for open space

available for public use and school use. The City also covers the water costs for the irrigation of those sites. There are benefits for all, but at the time when the agreements were developed it was not possible to predict the increase in student population. Staff does work with the school districts to review plans and offer suggestions to minimize loss of open space. Director Lewis also noted he believes the City could have done better to minimize our costs (i.e., the school districts could pay for the water or a portion of maintenance costs), but the public is the one who benefits the most. Commissioner Harms asked if the new policies generated by the Parks of the Future (POTF) study would lead to reclaiming the land we have lost. Director Lewis noted areas identified in the POTF study where additional open space is needed and could be found. Chair Colvin asked if school open space counts as open space in the City's inventory. Director Lewis responded yes. However, in his experience in other places, it was calculated differently; for example, school open space counted for a smaller percentage than City owned property. Commissioner Pochowski asked about the use of Peterson School fields. Director Lewis said the City's agreement only covers swimming pool use.

Commissioner Chuck announced the October 24th Howl'oween Pet Parade and noted that the Sunnyvale Rotary Club is a co-sponsor of the event.

Chair Colvin complimented the entire Recreation staff for their quarterly reports and all their activities and work.

Commissioner Oliver particularly wanted to compliment Recreation Supervisor Nancy Bolgard Steward for all her and her staff's hard work.

Staff Oral Comments - None

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- Staff Liaison Written Report
- Recreation Division Quarterly Report, April – June 2009
- Board/Commission 2009 Local Appointments List
- Miscellaneous Items of Interest

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Reviewed by:

David A. Lewis, Director
Department of Community Services

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