



**MINUTES
SUNNYVALE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
AUGUST 19, 2010**

The Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Commission met in special session in City Hall Council Chambers, 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 Robert Pochowski
Commissioner Howard Chuck (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)
Commissioner Robert Harms
Commissioner Richard Oliver

Commissioner Absent: None

Staff Present: Assistant to the Director Cathy Merrill
Recreation Superintendent Nancy Bolgard Steward
Recreation Supervisor Gerard Manuel

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION – None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes of July 14, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Harms moved to approve Consent Item 1.A. as corrected: Mayor Hamilton stopped by to pick up with information to hand-out on recreation programs.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Chuck was absent. Commissioner Oliver abstained because he was not present at the July 14, 2010, meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Last Chance to Propose Study Issues/Budget Issues for 2011

Assistant to the Director Merrill gave an overview of the study issue process regarding identifying policies for change and/or projects requiring a budget issue.

Commissioner Harms proposed a study on park usage to determine if the City has full usage of the parks.

Commissioners said the idea was too vague and asked for more detailed information such as which park(s) he was referring to; was he proposing specific items to survey, i.e., who uses a particular park and for what activities; the goal(s) of the study issue.

Commissioner Harms said he has gone to several different parks on Sunday afternoons and found no one there. He proposed that if the Sunnyvale parks are not being used, then the City should sell them.

The Public Hearing was opened. There were no speakers. The Public Hearing was closed.

MOTION: Commissioner Harms moved to propose a study issue to survey Sunnyvale parks' usage, determine the amount of use that the parks receive, and determine, if appropriate, to use the land for another purpose.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

No other study issues were proposed.

Commissioner Chuck arrived at 7:20 p.m.

3. Fee Waiver History

Recreation Superintendent Steward introduced Recreation Supervisor Gerard Manuel whose presentation covered fee waiver history and the roles of Sunnyvale Community Services and the City. A handout was provided to the Commissioners.

Commissioners asked questions about the timeframe of the fee waiver policy change, number of applicants, average distribution per eligible family, maximum cap, number of eligible adults prior to policy change to youth only, and possibility of volunteering time in exchange for fee waivers.

Chair Colvin clarified that this topic was on the agenda at the request of the Commission at the last meeting.

The Public Hearing was opened. There were no speakers. The Public Hearing was closed.

MOTION: Chair Colvin moved and Commissioner Oliver seconded to suggest a study issue to propose adults volunteer time in exchange for participation in recreation programs.

Commissioner Harms feels this would add to City expenses.

Commissioner Chuck recalls it was for very good reasons when it was decided to eliminate fee waivers for adults.

Chair Colvin accepted Commissioners' comments. He rescinded his motion and will weigh in on this topic in the future.

Motion withdrawn by Chair Colvin and accepted by Commissioner Oliver.

Commissioners thanked Recreation Supervisor Manuel for the report.

4. Consider Department Name Change

Assistant to the Director Merrill notified Commissioners this is not a policy issue; however, the Commission could make a recommendation to the city manager if they so desired.

Commissioner Chuck provided an email from Nancy Tivol, Executive Director, Sunnyvale Community Services.

Chair Colvin read it to the Commission:

“ . . .there was always some minimal level of confusion between Sunnyvale Community Services and the City of Sunnyvale, between Community Services (us) and the Community Center. We got calls for the City, and vice versa.

However, since the City changed the name of Parks and Rec Department to Community Services, our volunteer receptionists have reported a significant increase in calls that should have gone to Parks and Rec. We get many more calls to reserve rooms and parks, to sign up for classes, and to ask about child care. Often the callers said they were told to call Community Services, and that's exactly what they did, so why can't we help them?

I have no numbers, just anecdotal information, but the volunteers consistently have reported this increased level of confusion.”

Commissioner Harms said we do a disservice to the public by confusing them with two similar names. He proposed changing the department name to Department of Parks and Recreation Services or Parks and Recreational Services.

Commissioner Oliver suggested leaving it at Department of Parks and Recreation.

Chair Colvin explained it is no longer Department of Parks and Recreation; the name was changed to Department of Community Services. He would like to submit a recommendation to the city manager to reflect what the Commissioners feel is not clear.

Vice Chair Pochowski agrees that the name change to Department of Community Services is confusing and he favors Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Public Hearing was opened. There were no speakers. The Public Hearing was closed.

MOTION: Chair Colvin moved and Commissioner Oliver seconded to recommend to the city manager that the Department of Community Services be renamed to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

VOTE: Passed 5-0.

5. Update on General Plan Consolidation Advisory Committee

Commissioner Pochowski said the General Plan Task Force has disbanded as planned and work is continuing by staff.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Chuck said the Sunnyvale Rotary is having a car show on October 9, 2010, at 9 a.m. at the old Chevrolet site on El Camino Real.

STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

Assistant to the Director Merrill reminded Commissioners that ethics training has been scheduled.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

- Staff Liaison Written Report

ADJOURNMENT – 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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