



## DRAFT MINUTES

### SUNNYVALE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION DECEMBER 12, 2012

The Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Commission met in regular session in the Community Center Conference Room, 550 E. Remington Drive, Sunnyvale CA 94087 at 7 p.m. with Chair Kinder presiding.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Commissioners Present:**

Chair Robert Kinder  
Vice Chair Robert Pochowski  
Commissioner Henry Alexander III (arrived 7:38 p.m.)  
Commissioner Robert Harms  
Commissioner Craig Pasqua

##### **Commissioners Absent:**

None

##### **Council Liaison:**

Councilmember Pat Meyering (arrived 7:06 p.m.)

##### **Staff Present:**

Director of Library and Community Services Lisa Rosenblum  
Superintendent of Parks Scott Morton  
Casual Professional Carolyn McDowell

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes of November 14, 2012

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Pochowski moved and Chair Kinder seconded to approve Consent Calendar Item 1.A. as presented.

**VOTE:** 4-0 motion passed unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

2. Proposed Verizon Cellular Antenna Project at Sunken Gardens Golf Course

Superintendent Morton presented the staff report. He stated that Verizon Wireless petitioned the City to build a cellular tower on public grounds at Sunken Gardens Golf Course. In the proposal, the 85' slim line pole would be installed among the row of palm trees adjacent to the golf course parking lot. Meanwhile, the existing 400 square foot building that houses the ball washing and dispensing equipment would be replaced with a 640 square foot building, paid for by Verizon Wireless, to house the current golf course equipment as well as Verizon equipment. Superintendent Morton communicated the various steps in this public process and clarified the Parks and Recreation Commissions role in determining whether it is an appropriate use of open space.

Chair Kinder asked about other Verizon antennas in Sunnyvale.

Clarence Chavis, Verizon Wireless representative, didn't have the coverage map with him yet stressed the significant gap in coverage in the area.

Commissioners asked questions of staff about the proposed location and square footage of the new building, the size and aesthetics of the cellular tower, whether the Verizon unit would be mobile or permanent, the noise level of the equipment and the impact, if any, on golf operations.

Chair Kinder and Commissioner Pasqua disclosed that they are Verizon customers.

The public hearing was opened.

Sharon Stewart referenced the public input process conducted in late-October. She stated the minutes captured support and opposition for the proposed project, however she only recalls hearing resident opposition and concern. Ms. Stewart referenced the amplified sound in the dish environment surrounding the golf course. Her main concern, however, was that of public health. She felt the City was only concerned with the bottom line and stated that only the City and Verizon customers would benefit from this project.

Phil Stewart, former Electrical Engineer and radio communications professional, said he does not support approving the proposed Verizon Cellular Antenna Project because of the acoustic noise generated from the Verizon equipment. He referenced the cellular tower at Ortega Park, stating that it far exceeds the City's noise ordinance. He recommended the City rely on a non-Verizon connected vendor to certify the noise reading. Mr. Stewart also mentioned that the City's current maximum decibel reading according to the noise ordinance can cause damage with 30 minutes of exposure. The homes surrounding the proposed cellular antenna will have 24-hour a day exposure. As such, he recommended the City lower the allowable noise dose should this project move forward.

Claire Morse, resident of The Terraces, expressed displeasure with the lack of information, late notice of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and responsiveness from staff. She referenced the previous public meeting stating nobody was in favor of this project. Ms. Morse went on to talk about the extensive hours of the golf operation, noise in and around the area, potential for other cellular companies to piggy-back onto the proposed tower and studies in Australia and Germany that document increased risk to cancer following exposure to cellular equipment. She concluded by stating that this project is all about money and recommended the antenna be placed in the dump.

Clarence Chavis displayed pictures of the existing building, adjacent to the golf course parking lot, along with a visual of the row of palm trees with the proposed 85' slim line pole. He communicated Verizon Wireless' interest to upgrade the data transfer process in Sunnyvale, particularly in response to the demand for 4G.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Alexander arrived.

Chair Kinder asked his fellow Commissioners if they had questions for any of the speakers or staff regarding the public comments.

Commissioners asked questions of staff and Mr. Chavis regarding the proposed building materials, size and noise level of the cooling fans, health hazard, fiscal impact of conducting decibel level checks and what is required of Verizon Wireless should the noise level exceed the City's municipal code. Commissioner Pochowski and Alexander communicated an interest in having an independent contractor evaluate the decibel level of cellular equipment in Sunnyvale.

Superintendent Morton reminded the Commission of their role in this process. The Parks and Recreation Commission is charged with determining whether this is an acceptable use of open space and to approve, deny or modify the land use permit. The Planning Department would review the proposal based on the building agreement.

Director Rosenblum reminded the Commission that another Public Hearing would be conducted on this matter by the Planning Commission.

**MOTION: Chair Kinder moved and Commissioner Alexander seconded to recommend that the Planning Commission approve the proposed cellular antenna project as proposed by Verizon Wireless and as referenced in Attachment A.**

Commissioner Pochowski requested a friendly amendment to the motion.

Chair Kinder amended his motion.

**MOTION: Chair Kinder moved and Commissioner Alexander seconded to recommend that the Planning Commission approve the proposed cellular antenna project as proposed by Verizon Wireless as referenced in Attachment A and that the facility meet all FCC and City noise standards.**

**VOTE: 3-0-2 motion passed.**

Chair Kinder asked Commissioners Harms and Pasqua if they wanted to share why they chose to abstain.

Commissioner Pasqua stated he has no problem with the way in which the land would be utilized should a cellular antenna be added to the open space at Sunken Gardens. He went on to state that he felt the Parks and Recreation Commission was taking on discussion that was too broad and didn't fall within the scope of the Commission.

Commissioner Harms communicated he was concerned with the decibel level of the proposed equipment. He stated an interest in having an unbiased independent contractor evaluate the decibel level of cellular equipment to satisfy the public.

Director Rosenblum recommended that for the future meeting with the Planning Commission, Mr. Chavis bring maps of the other Verizon Wireless cellular antennas in Sunnyvale.

Mr. Chavis agreed to the staff request.

### 3. 2013 Master Work Plan

Director Rosenblum informed the Commissioners that this is the time to review the draft 2013 Master Work Plan and ask questions and/or provide input to staff. She shared that the Commissioners will see this item on the agenda again in March, 2013 for approval.

Commissioners reviewed the 2013 Master Work Plan and inquired about the potential Dog Park Study Issue.

Director Rosenblum reviewed the City Council Study Issue and ranking process for the Commission.

### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

#### COMMISSION MEMBERS Oral Comments

Commissioner Harms commented on the lack of parking this evening at the Community Center Complex and inquired about meeting at City Hall in the Council Chambers (preferred location) or West Conference Room (second choice).

Staff agreed to research availability of the Council Chambers and West Conference Room for future meetings.

Commissioner Kinder asked about the City Council action on the Request for Proposals for License to Operate Public Swim Programs at Fremont High School.

Director Rosenblum summarized the Council actions and follow-up work which has been conducted by staff. She shared that the City is currently seeking Request for Proposals from qualified parties and a mandatory pre-proposal walk-through will be conducted at 9am on Tuesday, January 15, 2013. The formal proposals are due by 3pm on Friday, January 25, 2013. The operator selected to operate the pool will commence work on September 1, 2013.

Commissioner Alexander shared that he had been contacted by Holly Lofgren, Chair, Friends of Fremont Pool. During the conversation, Ms. Lofgren expressed concern that although City staff was in agreement with Friends of Fremont Pool recommendations the Request for Proposals does not reflect all of the Friends of Fremont Pool recommendations.

Director Rosenblum explained the process that went into staff's recommendation to City Council.

#### STAFF Oral Comments

Director Rosenblum re-introduced herself, shared that Nancy Bolgard Steward had retired as of December 7, 2012 and that she will serve as Staff Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission until the Superintendent of Community Services is hired and trained accordingly. Meanwhile, she informed the Commissioners that the recruitment will begin in January, 2013.

Superintendent Morton provided updates on the following topics:

- Naming of the park at 545 Santa Real Avenue will be similar to the process used for the naming of Plaza del Sol. This item will be included in the Parks and Recreation Commission's Master Work Plan.

- Commission action in January, 2013, on a Report to Council for a License Agreement for the Operation of the Golf Course Restaurants.

Superintendent Morton informed the Commissioners that given the holidays, he will be unable to meet the required deadlines to prepare and distribute Report to Council for the License Agreement for the Operation of the Golf Course Restaurants prior to their January 9, 2013 meeting. He queried the Commissioners regarding their availability to conduct a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 in lieu of their regularly scheduled meeting. Four of the five Commissioners (Pasqua excluded) are available to meet for a Special Meeting.

Staff agreed to cancel the January 9, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and schedule a Special Meeting on January 23, 2013.

Chair Kinder requested additional details be sent via email regarding the Fremont Pool pre-proposal walk-through, including the day, time and location.

Chair Kinder inquired whether he should attend the Planning Commission meeting when the Verizon Cellular Antenna Project at Sunken Gardens Golf Course is discussed.

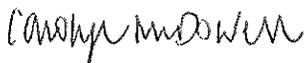
Superintendent Morton informed the Chair that he is not required to attend the Planning Commission meeting, however all Commissioners are welcome to attend this public meeting. The Commissioners will be informed of when the Planning Commission will consider this item.

**INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kinder adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn McDowell  
Recording Secretary  
Community Services Division  
Library and Community Services Department

Reviewed by:



Lisa G. Rosenblum  
Director of Library and Community Services  
Department