



## DRAFT MINUTES

### SUNNYVALE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION May 8, 2013

The Parks and Recreation Commission met in regular session in Council Chambers, 456 West Olive Avenue with Vice Chair Pochowski presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Board/Commission Members Present:**

Vice Chair Robert Pochowski  
Commissioner Henry Alexander  
Commissioner Robert Harms  
Commissioner Craig Pasqua

**Commissioner Harms motioned and Commissioner Pasqua seconded to record Commissioner Alexander's absence on April 10, 2013 as unexcused. Motion carries (4-0)**

**Council Liaison:** Councilmember David Whittum (present)

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

Nancy Grove, Community Services Manager  
Anna Lewis, Administrative Aide  
Scott Morton, Superintendent of Parks and Golf  
Lisa G. Rosenblum, Director of Library and Community Services  
Kent Steffens, Director of Public Works  
Robert Walker, Assistant City Manager  
Daniel Wax, Superintendent of Community Services

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

##### **Cupertino Union School District (CUSD)– Cupertino Middle School (CMS) Open Space Site Plan**

Rick Hausman, Chief Business Officer for CUSD, presented the plan to expand the CMS to accommodate an increasing student population. Construction is slated to start this summer and scheduled for completion by summer 2014. The plan increases the number of classrooms, creates a larger faculty lounge, provides a multipurpose room, creates a functional quad, increases parking spaces and provides an additional off-street student drop off location. Construction will encroach onto open space, with a loss of 1.48 acres and one baseball field.

Mr. Hausman answered questions from the Commissioners, indicating that CUSD will partner with Sunnyvale Community Services to allow access to the gym when not in use by the school. He estimated about 85% of CMS students are Sunnyvale residents.

### **Recognition of Service**

Councilmember David Whittum recognized Chair Robert Kinder and Vice Chair Robert Pochowski and thanked them for their service on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Vice Chair Pochowski accepted the certificate of recognition on behalf of Chair Kinder, who has moved out of the area and subsequently resigned from the Commission.

### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

Holly Lofgren, Chairperson of Friends of the Fremont Pool, provided an update about the City of Sunnyvale Pool Trust Fund, which was established in 1999 to offset costs of building Fremont Pool. More than a million dollars have been raised. The most recent donation of \$73K came from Dale O'Rorque, who has donated a total of \$280K.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1.A. Approval of Draft Minutes of April 10, 2013

<b>Commissioner Harms motioned and Commissioner Pasqua seconded to approve the consent calendar. Motion carries (4-0)</b>
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**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

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

#### **2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Changes to the Cupertino Middle School Open Space Site Plan**

Superintendent Morton reviewed the Draft Report to Council and addressed questions from Commissioners. He indicated the loss of the little league field could be accommodated by converting the softball field to a multi-use field and explained the necessary modifications to do so. The construction encroaches on an area used for a full sized soccer field, and there is no space to accommodate the lost field.

Vice Chair Pochowski opened the public hearing.

Jim Lauth, a neighbor to CMS, lives a block away from the school and is significantly impacted by parking during events and on weekends. He feels the proposed plan doesn't adequately address parking. He identified a proposal that Steven Creek Trail may be routed down Bernardo which will further exasperate the parking situation. He requested parking be reconsidered in the current plan.

Elaine Enos, a neighbor living across Helena Drive from the current tot playground on CMS, explained that the fields and playgrounds are currently well used. The construction will remove 21 mature trees. She explained that residents have requested the construction take place closer to Bernardo Avenue and Homestead Road, away from homes, which would allow for more parking and better noise mitigation from the gym.

Susan Arnold, a neighbor living around the corner from CMS, stated the school district pushed this remodel through quickly and are only now asking for public input. The impacted area is well used by sports leagues and the community. She quoted "they paved paradise and put up a parking lot".

Greg Arnold, a neighbor of CSM for 22 years, stated he is supportive of the District and the School. He asks that the improvements to the school meet the needs of the students, school and residents. Residents are already disrupted during school drop-off times and during events. He feels it would be better if the new building is located off Bernardo instead of the heavily impacted Helena Drive. The building plan is 75 feet, from houses, which is not very far. If relocated to the baseball field, it would contain the noise and the parking. He conducted an impromptu survey of the audience which reflected only school district representatives favoring the current location.

Bill Teter, a neighbor to CSM who lives across the street from the proposed parking lot, shared his experience regarding the traffic on Helena. Cars are dropping off students; making U-turns in the street; and bicyclists are riding on the wrong side of the street. He feels it presents a safety concern. Helena has stop-and-go traffic on a regular school day, which becomes impassable in the direction of Bernardo on rainy days. He stated it is a terrible corridor and believes the simple solution is to construct the new building in the empty area on Bernardo.

Vice Chair Pochowski closed the public hearing.

**Commissioner Harms motioned, and Vice Chair Pochowski seconded to approve Alternative 1; Approve the proposed revised Site Plan for Cupertino Middle School open space per Attachment B. And Alternative 2; Require the District to modify the existing softball field so it can be used for youth baseball as a condition of approving the amendment. The Commission's recommendation to Council: Please consider the concern of the neighbors regarding the location of the multipurpose center and perhaps swapping it with the softball field.  
Motioned carried (3-1) with Commissioner Pasqua dissenting**

Commissioner Pasqua opposed the plan based on the loss of recreation space, and opposes any plan that requires loss of recreation space.

Commissioner Alexander indicated that if there is an alternative that can reduce the expansion, he would prefer to not lose the recreation space.

Commissioner Pochowski, understands the need for the expansion, and voted based on the impact to recreation. He understands the concerns regarding the parking, and is sympathetic to the neighbors and identified that those issues are beyond the scope of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

### **3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Identification of a Preferred Site for Construction of a City Branch Library**

Assistant City Manager, Robert Walker, presented the Draft Report to Council. Staff recommends Alternative 1. He answered Commissioners questions regarding population and residents in the proposed area.

Vice Chair Pochowski opened public hearing

Holly Lofgren spoke about the need for a branch library, and expressed that it will be wonderful. She also holds hope that the Lakewood Pool may reopen in the future.

Jeanine Stanek, a long time Sunnyvale resident, has volunteered at Lakewood School and agreed it takes a long time to drive there. A branch library will provide a place for teens to do projects, since they lack proximity to the current library in Sunnyvale.

Vice Chair Pochowski closed the public hearing.

**Commissioner Harms motioned, and Commissioner Alexander seconded to approve Alternative 1. Pursue designs for a branch library at Lakewood Park. Motion carries (4-0)**

Commissioners expressed their support for the branch library. Commissioner Harms agreed that Lakewood is too far away from the current library for teens, and there is no longer a book mobile service. It will increase Sunnyvale's value and may diminish gang activity. Commissioner Pasqua and Pochowski expressed interest in the recreation facilities of tennis courts and the pool, which will not be impacted by the proposal.

#### **4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposals for the Operation of Public Swim Programs at Fremont High School Pool**

Director Rosenblum reviewed the Draft Report to Council. There were no questions from the Commissioners.

Vice Chair Pochowski opened the public hearing.

Dave Peterson, Director of California Sports Center (CSC), requested the Commission support Alternative 1, with a change to reduce commercial insurance liability to \$2 million per occurrence and \$4 million aggregate. The current contract requirement is \$1 mil / \$2 mil aggregate. A new contract with the City would require \$5 mil / \$10 mil aggregate, which he indicated he could afford, however his broker requires double indemnity from his users. Although CSC subcontracts with his operators for aquatic programs, he indicated that the higher coverage may not be affordable to some. Mr. Peterson answered commissioners' questions explaining that San Jose is currently \$2 mil / \$4 mil aggregate. He doesn't believe the specialized pool activities would be eliminated, but they would be challenged to continue. Those clubs with events held annually would be required by CSC to match the City's insurance requirement or CSC would have to pay more to their insurance broker to gain full coverage.

Margaret Copley, President of Sunnyvale Swim Club spoke. Currently the Club has insurance through USA Swimming and her investigation on coverage indicates it is possible to obtain the \$5 mil / \$10 mil aggregate level. If Sunnyvale Swim could not secure insurance through USA Swimming, then the cost might be prohibitive. The Club uses the pool year round and serves hundreds of families with children ages 4-18, while also hosting weekend events. She feels they should be OK with the insurance, which includes their weekend events. She would like see the Commission support Alternative 1. She also runs swimming programs at Sunnyvale Middle School and agrees that the City does not currently have the staff expertise to run a full scale

year round, multi-faceted aquatics program and therefore would require a steep learning curve by the City.

Holly Lofgren provided a letter of support for CSC. She thanked the City for supporting aquatics. During the last 11 years CSC has exceeded expectations for running the pool, and has met all program expectations and some. They have wholesome, friendly, efficient staff members and provide lively programs. Holly has three suggestions regarding typographical errors, which she provided to staff. She thanked Lisa Rosenblum and staff for collaborating to create an effective RFP. She has concerns about the insurance and suggests Commissioners recommend Alternative 1 with a recommendation to Council to inquire about the impact to small groups being required to get the particular insurance policy.

Vice Chair Pochowski closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Harms inquired about the insurance requirements by the City. Director Rosenblum responded, explaining that the City Attorney and Risk Manager extensively researched the insurance and strongly recommended the \$5 mil / \$10 mil aggregate coverage. She indicated that it is not over-coverage for a pool of this size with the level of existing activity.

Commissioner Pochowski stated he supports the Alternative 1 with the recommendations that Council consider the liability insurance issue. He wants to assure program operators can afford to participate at the pool. He requested staff provide data on the fiscal impact to swim clubs. Nancy Grove, Community Services Manager, explained that the contract requires CSC to obtain the coverage, but does not stipulate the requirement for individual programs. If CSC passes the insurance requirement onto the programs then they would need to collect that information.

Commissioner Alexander inquired about the fiscal impact on the swim club fees. Margaret Copley doesn't have the amounts. She agreed to research and bring data to the Council meeting on May 21, 2013.

**Commissioner Pasqua motioned, and Commissioner Harms seconded to approve Alternative 1; Approve, in substantially the same form as attached, the proposed agreement between California Sports Center and the City of Sunnyvale for the Operation of Public Swim Programs at Fremont High School Pool. Commission requests that Staff contact Sunnyvale Swim Club to request comparative data for City Council regarding the impact of liability insurance requirements. Motion carries (4-0)**

## **5. Discussion and Possible Action of Draft Park Dedication Fund**

Superintendent Morton reviewed the draft plans for park dedication funds, which will be presented to City Council.

Vice Chair Pochowski opened the public hearing.

Jim Reynolds, of the Sunnyvale Historical Society, identified the item "Orchard Heritage Park" scheduled for 2015/16 on the park dedication fund schedule. The plan is to remove a maintenance shed and dumpster which obstruct the entrance to the museum. He urged to have this item moved forward 1-2 years. The remodel will install 2 iron gates, gardens and gazebos, which will enhance the space. The museum reflects life in the 1800's, hosts 8 Victorian teas

each year, serves 5000 people and 1600 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Currently it is difficult to find the park and museum because it is obstructed by the shed.

Leslie Lawton from the Sunnyvale Historical Society provided the history of the Orchard Heritage Park. She described the successful fundraising to build the museum. The Sunnyvale Historical Society has become a model for other communities. The Society has worked closely with the City and she hopes the shed removal project can be moved to an earlier date.

Jeanine Stanek is a volunteer at the museum and is often asked if the space is available for rent. She indicated that the shed diminishes the appeal of the facility. Her experience is that the museum is underutilized. The sooner the shed is removed the greater the income that can be earned, as it is a desirable venue for the public.

Vice Chair Pochowski closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Alexander asked the impact of moving "Orchard Heritage Park" to an earlier timeframe. Superintendent Morton stated it would likely delay another item. **Commissioner Alexander recommended the timeframe for the "Orchard Heritage Park" be accelerated, in order for the project to move forward.**

#### **6. Review of FY 2013/14 Budget**

Director Rosenblum reviewed the budget and indicated this year it focuses on capital projects.

Vice Chair Pochowski opened and closed the public hearing for a lack of public.

**Commissioner Harms motioned and Commissioner Pasqua seconded the approval of the budget as presented. Motion carries (4-0)**

#### **7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Naming of the New City Park Located at 545 Santa Real Avenue.**

Superintendent Morton requested the Commissioners provide 10 names to the City Council.

Vice Chair Pochowski opened and closed the public hearing for a lack of public.

**Commissioner Pasqua motioned and Commissioner Alexander seconded to submit the following names to Council to name the park at 545 Santa Real Avenue (listed alphabetically):**

- a) Centennial Park**
- b) Cherry Park**
- c) Duane Park**
- d) Larson Park**
- e) Libby Park**
- f) Micro Park**
- g) Rancho Posolmi Park**
- h) Santa Real Park**
- i) Sunnyside Park**
- j) Sunrise Park**

**Motion carries (3-1) Commissioner Harms dissented**

Commissioner Harms stated none of the names are historical.

**8. Discussion and possible action regarding June Meeting Schedule.**

Commissioners confirmed they will hold the regularly scheduled meeting on June 12, 2013. Commissioner Pasqua will represent the Commission at the City Council meeting on June 25, 2013 for the Special Order of the Day: "July is Parks and Recreation Month".

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioners Oral Comments

Commissioner Harms announced the Friends of the Sunnysvale Library is holding a Book Sale on May 18-19, 2013.

Staff Oral Comments

Director Rosenblum announced events at the Community Center: Hands on the Arts is May 18, 2013. Spring Pottery Sale is May 10-11, 2013.

**INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

none

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa G. Rosenblum  
Director of Library and Community Services