



## MINUTES

### SUNNYVALE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION September 11, 2013

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Commission Members Present:**

Chair Henry Alexander III  
Vice Chair Craig Pasqua  
Commissioner Ralph Kenton  
Commissioner Robert Harms

##### **Commission Members Absent:**

Commissioner Robert Pochowski (excused)

**Council Liaison:** Councilmember Jim Griffith (Present)

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

Anna Lewis, Administrative Aide  
Scott Morton, Superintendent of Parks and Golf  
Jim Stark, Parks Manager  
Daniel Wax, Superintendent of Community Services

**MOTION: Commissioner Kenton moved and Vice Chair Pasqua seconded to excuse Commissioner Powchoski's absence as a personal leave for FY 13/14. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).**

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

Friends of the Sunnyvale Public Library are holding a book sale September 14 and 15, 2013 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**MOTION: Commissioner Kenton motioned and Vice Chair Pasqua seconded to approve the draft minutes of July 10, 2013. Motion carries (3-0) Commissioner Harms abstained as he was not present at the meeting.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Conceptual Design for the Expansion of Orchard Gardens Park.**

Superintendent of Golf and Parks, Scott Morton, presented the staff report. He answered Commissioner's questions. The area of expansion will equal less than three (3) acres and Orchard Garden Park will remain a mini-park, therefore no reservations will be available for fields and picnic areas. City owned homes are currently on the expansion area with rental agreements until January 2014.

Bill Harris of Harris Designs provided an overview of the conceptual design for addition to the park. He compared the proposed design with a front yard of a home, allowing for access and visibility into the park and park building. He provided details regarding the proposed trees, turf and features. He answered Commissioner's questions regarding lighting, safety, exercise equipment, and water use.

Commissioner Pasqua attended the Public Meeting on August 15, 2013 and shared that the residents appeared pleased with the proposed plans. He expressed the importance for parking and inquired if six spaces would be enough, specifically because this park is also an entrance to the John W. Christian Greenway. Superintendent Morton explained as a mini-park there is no code requirement for the number of parking spaces, there will be no overnight parking allowed.

Chair Alexander opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Sue Muller, a resident of the neighborhood expressed support for the plan and the importance of visibility into the park. She stated she has been involved in this plan for a number of years.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

**MOTION: Vice Chair Pasqua motioned and Commissioner Harms seconded to approve Alternative 1: Approve the conceptual design as noted on Attachment A. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).**

### 3. Discussion of Study Issues

Superintendent Wax provided the definition of a study issue and a general overview of the study issue process. Superintendent Morton provided examples of past study issues.

The public hearing was opened at 7:58. There were no speakers and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioners reviewed a number of ideas which could be presented as study issues. Commissioners discussed how to group and present ideas and then voted on each suggestion.

Chair Alexander proposed a study to review the possible increase of natural habitat protection and restoration in the park system. He would be interested in acquisition and converting existing city land to establish more space for natural habitat and restoration. Commissioner Kenton co-sponsored the idea.

**Vote: 3-1 commissioner Pasqua dissenting.**

Chair Alexander proposed to create a Nature in the City Program, to increase “wildness” in the parks and expand human access and intimacy with nature. – He retracted his idea at the time of the vote.

Chair Alexander proposed a study to promote environmental sustainability of existing park practices. He would like to see efficient irrigation and water audits, encourage the reduction of chemicals and pesticides used in parks, and proposed the study include alternatives to pesticides. He is interested in efficient electricity consumption in the parks and ideas like gardening and compost drop off at the parks. Commissioner Kenton co-sponsored a study to review sustainability in the parks.

**Vote: 4-0 unanimously agreed upon.**

Commissioner Harms proposed a study to review park permit policy and an increase in permit fees, including what can be permitted. He also would like increased reservation signage in the parks. Commissioner Alexander co-sponsored the idea.

**Vote 4-0 unanimously agreed upon.**

Commissioner Pasqua proposed to study the feasibility of the City sponsoring various city events in conjunction with Super Bowl L in 2016 at Sunnyvale Parks. Commissioner Alexander co-sponsored the idea.

**Vote 4-0 unanimously agreed upon.**

Commissioner Pasqua proposed a study into the feasibility of an annual Musical Concert in the Park as either a single event or a series. He expressed that this type of event can become “enamored” in the culture of the city and attract musical artists. Commissioner Alexander co-sponsored the idea.

**Vote 4-0 unanimously agreed upon.**

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

Commissioners Oral Comments - none

Staff Oral Comments

- Superintendent Wax provided information about the Active Aging Week at the Senior Center scheduled September 23-27, 2013.
- Superintendent Morton reminded commissioners of the Public Input meeting on Thursday, September 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center, regarding recreational use at the Sunnyvale landfill. Additionally an online survey will be available to provide feedback.
- Three Dog Park Study public meetings were held in August with over 60 people attending. Summary report will be distributed to Commissioners in advance of the Joint Study Session with Council.
- Superintendent Morton reminded Commissioners of the Joint Study Session with Council regarding the Dog Park Study on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Las Palmas Park.

## **INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

- Friends of Stevens Creek Trail 2012 Annual Report  
[http://www.stevenscreektrail.org/PR/Annual\\_Report\\_2012\\_2.pdf](http://www.stevenscreektrail.org/PR/Annual_Report_2012_2.pdf)
- Evenings of Cultural Arts  
<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityServices/Arts/EveningsofCulturalArts/DStamey.aspx#season>
- Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
<http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/80>

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Wax  
Superintendent of Community Services