CITY OF FULLERTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting City Council Chamber Monday, March 9, 2009 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Dasney called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Chen led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawna Adam, Sueling Chen, Kathleen Dasney, Scott Hayes, Kathleen

Shanfield, Scott Stanford

Absent: Nancy Spencer

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Felz; Parks and Recreation Managers

> Grace Carroll Lowe, Hugo Curiel, Alice Loya, Dannielle Mauk and Judy Peterson; Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard; Landscape Supervisor Tom

Moreno; Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 1 - 3)

Commissioner Stanford MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Chen SECONDED the motion to approve the consent items as corrected.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Hayes, Shanfield, Stanford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Spencer

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 2009 COMMISSION MEETING

Recommendation to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2009 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Shanfield asked that on Page 7, in the second to last paragraph, the sentence regarding her remarks about the committee/commission application process be clarified, and Director Felz said this would be done.

2. LANDSCAPE DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2009

Recommendation to receive and file the Landscape Division February 2009 Monthly Report.

3. BUILDING AND FACILITIES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2009

Recommendation to receive and file the Building and Facilities Division February 2009 Monthly Report.

REGULAR BUSINESS (Items 4 – 10)

4. ELECTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OFFICERS

Recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Commission elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

Director Felz introduced the item, and described the nominating and election process, saying the Parks and Recreation Commission Chair would first be elected, then would take on the Chairmanship immediately, including overseeing the nominating and voting process for the Vice Chair. Acting Chair Dasney said no seconds were needed for nominations. Commissioner Stanford nominated Vice Chair/Acting Chair Dasney as Chair. Acting Chair Dasney nominated Commissioner Stanford for the Chair position.

As Acting Chair, Vice Chair Dasney called for the vote:

Commissioners Adam, Chen, Hayes, Shanfield, and Stanford voted for Vice Chair Dasney as Parks and Recreation Chair. As this was a majority of the Commission, Vice Chair Dasney was elected as the new Parks and Recreation Commission Chair.

Commissioner Chen nominated Commissioner Stanford as Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Chair Dasney called for the vote.

Commissioners Dasney, Adam, Chen, Hayes and Shanfield voted for Commissioner Stanford as Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chair with Commissioner Stanford abstaining. Commissioner Stanford was elected as the new Parks and Recreation Vice Chair.

5. APPOINTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

Director Felz said with Parks and Recreation Commissioner Craig Russell's Commission term having expired, there were vacancies on the Sports Field Users Group (SFUG) (and Appeals Committee) as well as the ad hoc Sports League Policy Review Committee. However, due to the detailed work required on the Sports League Policy Review Committee, staff was recommending that former Commissioner and Chair Russell be allowed to remain as a member. Chair Dasney noted that ex-Commissioner Russell was agreeable to remaining on the Review Committee.

Recreation Manager Grace Carroll Lowe provided a brief overview of the committees. She said the first committee was the Sports Field Users Group (SFUG) (and Appeals Committee), which helps to monitor field use and make recommendations on any field use conflicts. As the ad hoc Sports League Policy Review Committee reviews issues and conflicts pertaining to the City's Sports League Policy, Director Felz recommended that the Commissioner to be appointed have some interest in sports. New Commissioner Scott Hayes said he was interested in the SFUG, and agreed to take the other position in the Sports League Policy Review Committee as well.

Vice Chair Stanford MADE A MOTION to retain former Commissioner Craig Russell to the Sports League Policy Review Committee, and Commissioner Adam SECONDED the motion. Chair Dasney called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Hayes, Shanfield, Stanford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Spencer

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

6. KABOOM! GRANT FUNDING FOR TRUSLOW PARK

Director Felz provided an overview of the KaBOOM! project and funding at Truslow Park, saying that KaBOOM! renovates and builds playgrounds, having built about 1500 so far. He explained that KaBOOM!'s grant process was different from governmental grants, and was more like a conversation with a very short timeline from award to the building of the playground.

Director Felz said the value of playground to be installed at Truslow Park was \$100,000, and that the City Council had already committed to the project and approved the City's share of \$15,000 and site preparation costs, for a total project cost of approximately \$200,000. He noted that this was a good project in an area of the City that needed improvement. The key to the project, said Director Felz, was that it would be installed in two days, so the site had to be ready for the installation. He said staff is working closely

with Maple School, park neighbors, and other groups and that 150 volunteers are expected to build the playground.

Other salient points that Director Felz noted about the project were that the playground would be fully accessible to disabled children, it recognizes the work of Cesar Chavez, a vegetable garden will be planted and maintained there by Maple School, and a mural will be painted although the mural location will be changed from the storm drain to another yet-to-be determined location.

Director Felz reported that there had been a Design Day with the children and neighbors, led by KaBOOM staff in which the children provided input which would influence the design of the playground. Director Felz showed the commissioners the landscape design for Truslow Park which was created by Parks Project Manager Hugo Curiel. Chair Dasney asked if the garden was enclosed and was told "yes." Director Felz said artist Katherine England would be overseeing the painting of the mural.

Director Felz said the Truslow Park Project was "a challenging project in a challenging part of town," but also noted that Recreation Supervisor John Clements had been working with neighborhood groups who had been helping to bring positive activities to the park, and that Maple School was "very involved."

Vice Chair Stanford asked about the lighting standards and the park hours at Truslow Park. Landscape Supervisor Tom Moreno said it would have regular park hours dawn to dusk with security lighting. Chair Dasney said she was impressed with the community buy-in.

Commissioner Shanfield asked for more clarification on where the mural would be, and Director Felz said the mural would be put on wood, 16' wide x 8' high, with a frame built to display the mural. It would be considered temporary, with a life of two to four years. Director Felz also clarified that the wood mural was KaBOOM's idea and part of their standard plan. The artist Katherine England would follow a format with only a little artistic license.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if the whole community was being asked to participate, or just the very local one, and Director Felz said the school and local churches would also be involved, and while the local community was the focus, everyone was welcome to help.

Chair Dasney said the Commission accepted the report and looked forward to having the park in operation.

7. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

 The Adopt A Park MOU approval process was amended to allow the Director of Parks and Recreation to approve the MOU's with the organizations instead of requiring Council approval. • The agenda item on proposed amendments to the Memorial Tree and Bench Policy was continued due to some vague language in the policy. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be reviewing the item again. The recommendations Commission made last time were still viable, but other language in the policy needed to be clarified and costs for the memorial bench justified.

Chair Dasney asked about possibly opening up the wording options further for the memorial plaques, but Director Felz said that staff would recommend against it because, legally and from the City Attorney's perspective, doing so would open up "a whole can of worms," in that virtually any type of wording would have to be allowed.

 The California State University Fullerton Internship Agreement, which was also previously reviewed by Commission, was approved on consent.

8. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

BUDGET UPDATE

As the State had finally approved a budget, the City was able to move forward with its own budget. The Parks and Recreation budget has been completed and submitted, and will be reviewed internally next week. After Council reviews and accepts the City budget as a technicality, the Parks and Recreation budget will go back to the Commission for its review. Director Felz said there were some major changes which would go in front of Commission next month, including major budget cuts and decisions to be made. He said staff felt they had a responsible plan. The City is taking an approach where the budget is initially completed in a timely manner without trying to continually adjust to all the ongoing changes. Then, after a legally binding document is created, changes and potential cuts will be made as needed.

Chair Dasney asked about the water conservation efforts, and Director Felz said City Council will receive a report with recommendations in early April from the Metropolitan Water District. The Council will then direct different commissions to review and respond to different sections of the report, taking into consideration any rate increases and State emergency drought conditions. He estimated the Parks and Recreation Commission would be reviewing this matter, perhaps in May, as the measures would go into effect July 1.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Puente Street Trail Project has generated continued interest from the neighbors. The Commission reviewed the project in December 2008, but since then, 100 neighbors requested another meeting with the Council and Commission. The neighbors have met with the City Council, and as the Mayor felt they were sincere in their feelings of not having an adequate opportunity or the facts to address this issue, this item was returning

to the Commission. Director Felz noted that the neighbors' representatives were pleasant to work with and straight forward. He added that the same presentation would be made by City Civil Engineer Thuy Nguyen and that all the necessary notifications would be made to local residents and user groups. In addition, staff will meet with the neighbors prior to the Commission meeting to ensure they have all the information they need. Director Felz noted that although he felt all the attendees at the previous hearing conducted themselves with decorum and were given a fair hearing, he also understood that some residents sincerely felt they needed more time and a second hearing.

After this meeting, Parks and Recreation will take the Commission recommendation to Council which would make the ultimate decision. Director Felz noted that State funding was currently frozen for this project although it may be unfrozen next year, however, everyone, pro or con, still wanted to move forward with this hearing which should come in May or June. Director Felz explained to new Commissioner Hayes that the commissioners were given information and encouraged to walk the area concerned, and that he would be provided with a map.

The Trail Advisory Committee has kicked off with its first meeting with another scheduled for March 18. It has not yet been decided if all the issues will be presented to the Commission for its vote, or if they will be brought in sections.

The newly re-formed Hillcrest Master Plan Committee will be meeting March 21 for the first time with a tour of Hillcrest Park.

Director Felz noted that ad hoc committees are not technically subject to the Brown Act and public hearing notifications because they are the routine work of the Department where citizens are asked to provide input. However, some citizens were requesting to be notified so they could attend these meetings; thus, staff was trying to find a reasonable way to notify people. It was decided e-mail would be the best way if someone requests notification. When asked about web-based notification, Director Felz said Public Information Coordinator Sylvia Palmer was researching this possibility, too.

The Tri-City Master Plan is moving forward with the help of a "great firm," Mea Lehrer.

The recent County grant projects at Independence Park, Laguna Lake, baseball backstops and Hillcrest Park facilities are also moving forward.

The Richman Park lighting bids are opening this Friday with Fall installation expected.

The Lions Field Project is moving fast, with groundbreaking expected in May. The slope will be addressed first.

The Community Center Project is in its early stages. The contract manager-at-risk is on board, and the next step will be to select the architect.

The Hiltscher Trail Project (connecting Euclid with Valley View) is moving forward with another neighborhood meeting planned. One resident is retaining legal counsel to try to block the project, but this action was not unexpected, and was also "not hostile" as the resident was trying to determine all of his options regarding encroachment.

Chair Dasney said she went to view the area, and wondered if the City would extend the fencing where the bushes were moved. Director Felz said the City is ready to do some preliminary work but will probably have to do something aggressive like fencing to stop vehicle access. He said the trail itself is the prominent purpose or use rather than it becoming a park or picnic area. The lot on Euclid would be formalized and a signal has been approved for installation, the latter item being "a great improvement."

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Summer preparations were beginning, classes were going well, and the Fullerton Market would begin April 2.

Commissioner Hayes asked about the Hiltscher Trail Project location, and it was confirmed it was on the west side of Euclid as it goes up. However, Director Felz said the City isn't opening up the parking area, rather the trail will be improved with less of an incline but still of interest for the bike riders. The project will include a user-operated traffic light that will actually force traffic to stop rather than just provide flashing lights. The drainage and water flow will be improved and utility poles will be moved to increase the width of the trail, mostly to help with trail use and safety. The parking area will receive aesthetic improvements with plantings, a drinking fountain and a small rest stop.

Commissioner Shanfield asked about budget cuts, and whether the City would be able to hire summer program staff. Director Felz said there was a hiring freeze but the Department had received an exemption for part-time and seasonal staff so they could run their summer programs. However, Recreation Manager Judy Peterson said she has stopped taking applications because they were inundated with applications due to the poor economy. Commissioner Shanfield asked about volunteer programs for college students, but Manager Peterson said there were only programs for younger volunteers, and that they would probably be cutting back on the summer programs as well.

Chair Dasney asked about the Richman Community Center addition, and Director Felz said staff had one difficult piece of paperwork left to submit, and thanked the Engineering and Parks and Recreation staff for their help. He hoped to have the building open in a few weeks.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Stanford welcomed Commissioner Hayes to the Commission and said he would find this "a great place to help serve in the community. " Commissioner Hayes thanked him, and Chair Dasney commented, "Well said."

Commissioner Adam said she attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new mural at Capri Shoes. She was really impressed with the mural itself and the enthusiasm of the artist. She said she thoroughly enjoyed the event which went very smoothly, and expressed support for public art and community beautification, adding that she enjoyed working on the Public Art Committee. She also thanked Cultural Arts and Events Manager Dannielle Mauk.

Director Felz said he forgot to mention earlier some information regarding the Coyote Hills Project. He said it was moving forward with a proposal being developed which would affect the trails and involve improvements including a proposed Nature Center. The timeline wasn't known yet; however, he believed there would be a review by the Commission and other boards which would then move forward to the City Council.

Chair Dasney said she received a glossy brochure inviting her to an upcoming meeting and asked Director Felz his opinion on commissioners attending this meeting. He replied that although the developer invited the Trail Committee to participate in the proposal development process, the Committee declined, as there should be some separation between the developer, Pacific Homes, and the City, which would then hear their completed proposal. The commissioners were welcome to attend those meetings as regular citizens, however.

Chair Dasney said she went to league openings for softball and Golden Hill Little League. She said she wanted the minutes to reflect "resounding praise" for Golden Hill Little League's manicured lawn, which represented "untold hours of work," and added that their work and enthusiasm was "truly, truly amazing" and that they "were absolutely outstanding." She said a Pacific Homes representative came to the opening ceremony and discussed the history and use of the field, and that there were other good speakers including a college player who went through Golden Hill Little League as well as a representative from the Orange County Flyers who had been a major league ballplayer.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dasney adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Felz, Secretary