# **CITY OF FULLERTON** PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

# **Meeting Minutes**

Regular Meeting City Council Chamber Monday, March 8, 2010 6:30 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Stanford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

# FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Wes Morgan led the flag salute.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Shawna Adam, Scott Hayes, Wes Morgan, and Scott Stanford.

Absent: Sueling Chen, Kathleen Dasney, and Kathleen Shanfield

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

Grace Carroll Lowe and Alice Loya; Parks Project Manager Hugo Curiel and

Landscape Superintendent Phil Kisor.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lorraine Mejia 613 S. Lambert Drive: Ms. Mejia expressed her concern as to the closing of the skate park and noted that she has been coming to the skate park for the last nine years with her son. She requested an effort be put forth to reopen the skate park and to work with members of the community along with local schools and students to address the issues and problems currently associated with the closing of the skate park. She suggested additional police and video camera surveillance or a possible user fee to discourage loitering and inappropriate behavior. She stated the skate park is needed and used everyday by kids in the community and feels there is an opportunity to work together to solve the problems and keep the skate park open and safe.

Lavonne Francisco 1540 W. El Portal Drive La Habra: Ms. Francisco stated her child uses the skate park and would like the City to keep it open. She said the solution is not to close it, but to identify and eliminate the real problems. She stated the park was built for the kids and that should be the focus point. She noted that it is the adults at the skate park using illegal drugs that should be removed and police should supervise the area every half hour. Ms. Francisco emphasizes the solution is not taking this away from the kids, but to handle the bad problems. She stated the need to continue to provide an activity that encourages the good kids and provides a place they can go to and enjoy. She suggested that more parents should be involved and held responsible

for bad behavior of their kids using the skate park and recommended more monitoring of the skate park.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 1-2)

# \*1. LANDSCAPE DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2010

Recommendation to receive and file the Landscape Division February 2010 Monthly Report.

Commissioner Morgan stated he had observed three Jacaranda trees had been removed and asked what initiated the removal. Commissioner Adam inquired about the origination of the requests and asked if the requests involved private property or City property. Landscape Superintendent Phil Kisor stated the jacarandas trees were in decline, noting holes and severe root problems and indicated that the requests are typically from residents and/or businesses on both City and private property.

# \*2. BUILDING AND FACILITIES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2010

Recommendation to receive and file the Building and Facilities Division February 2010 Monthly Report.

Commissioner Adam noted outstanding information was provided in the graffiti removal performance audit report. She expressed concern regarding the costs involved and wanted to know sources of financing for graffiti removal. Director Felz stated a combination of funding sources is available through Redevelopment Agency funding, general fund and special funds where applicable, such as Brea Dam area funds. Commissioner Hayes asked if an effort is put forth to identify and prosecute the taggers. Director Felz said the Police Department keeps an ongoing log of the tagging along with documenting the reports by the graffiti crews, our staff and school district staff.

Vice Chair Stanford requested A MOTION to approve consent items 1 and 2. Commissioner Hayes made A MOTION to approve consent items 1 and 2 and Commissioner Adam SECONDED the motion. Vice Chair Stanford called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Hayes, Morgan, and Stanford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chen, Dasney, and Shanfield

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS (Items 3 – 10)

#### \*3. COMMISSION REORGANIZATION

Vice Chair Stanford stated that due to the absence of three Commissioners the Commission Reorganization will be tabled for next month's commission meeting.

#### \*4. TRAIL NAMING REQUEST

It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission consider a request to name a trail within the City system.

Director Felz presented a PowerPoint slide presentation with a brief orientation of the Brea Dam area which included the Sports Complex. He noted trail location and highlighted the following details:

# **Current Naming Policy**

• Leaders and events in history; native trees; persons dedicating/donating land, funds, facilities, services, or; geography/location.

# **Current Memorial Policy**

- Trees/benches (language such as In Memory of....and In Recognition of.....)
- Under consideration are additional language options

Options: Trailhead Marker Kiosk; Field Backstop Plaque

Commissioner Comments and Questions

Vice Chair Stanford stated that he understands there was a second fatality in this area recently and Director Felz indicated an individual on a mountain bike suffered a fatal heart attack on the loop closer to St. Jude. Vice Chair Stanford asked if there has been any contact from the family or friends regarding the incident and Director Felz answered no.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he reviewed an email received by Director Felz from Mike Spazafumo and requested clarification of Bob mentioned in the email. Director Felz stated the reference is referring to Bob Wernke, father of James Wernke and noted that Mike has represented the family in recent conversations. Commissioner Morgan stated the email seems to represent a good direction for consideration. Commissioner Adam noted the Commission has not addressed this subject previously and in an effort to keep an open mind in representing the community and the City Council, stated the need to have conversation all the way through; nonetheless, did not want the Commission to appear callus, but expressed she could not begin to understand the pain experienced from this tragic event. She asked if other incidents of similar situations have occurred in the City which this would provide an example for the Memorial Policy by using a trailhead marker kiosk or field backstop plaque. Commissioner Hayes asked if the leased land would limit what we could do in that area as to the use of the land. Director Felz said the Army Corp of Engineers will respond to the City's recommendations for any type of development of the land. Commissioner Morgan noted the kiosk itself would be the memorial.

#### **Public Comments:**

Robert Wernke 3252 El Charro Colorado: Mr. Wernke stated he appreciates the Commission's effort in reviewing this memorial request and supports the suggestion of a trailhead marker or field backstop plaque 100%. He noted his family has lived in Fullerton for over 50 years and one of the main points to live in Fullerton was the trails and indicated his son, James, used the trails regularly.

<u>Dan Stauber 7110 W. Ocean Front Newport Beach</u>: Mr. Stauber stated he feels James is an excellent example for memorial policy as a "true son of the City of Fullerton" and supports the memorial request.

Marc Delin 24250 Agnew Circle: Mr. Delin said James Wernke was a unique person that really personified what Fullerton is all about and supports the memorial request.

<u>Prij Patel 1214 Glen Ridge Court</u>: Mr. Patel said he understands the City's position; however as a resident of Fullerton he is requesting the extra effort to address this memorial request.

<u>Michael Spazafumo 1221 Glen Ridge Court</u>: Mr. Spazafumo stated it is the community's desire to make this memorial request and noted that James Wernke interacted with many individuals in the community, which was reflected in his memorial services of over 3,000 attendance. Mr. Spazafumo requested the Commission to consider a trailhead marker or field backstop plaque as a memorial for James.

<u>Charlotte Russell 1012 E Miramar</u>: Ms. Russell stated that she met James Wernke on the trail near the sport complex when he was in the eighth grade and expressed that this trail is where James belonged and spent so much time. She indicated that 5,000+ individuals made comments on Facebook in his memorial site and noted that when she read let's name a trail after him, she thought it was a wonderful idea and wanted to state that she feels very strongly for this request to the Commission for consideration of a trailhead marker for James.

#### **Commissioner Comments and Questions**

Commissioner Morgan asked if a trailhead marker is a workable memorial. Director Felz indicated a trailhead marker kiosk is a viable option under the site amenities. Commissioner Morgan asked if the family felt this is something honorable and memorable as a permanent memorial in James' name and Mr. Wernke answered yes. Commissioner Hayes wanted to clarify a trailhead marker kiosk is in preference to a field backstop plaque. Mr. Wernke indicated that both would provide an excellent memorial, but stated that personally as James' father, he feels the trailhead marker kiosk is the way to go as more members of the community would pass by a trailhead marker and appreciate that type of memorial for James.

Commissioner Morgan stated he favors a trailhead marker kiosk and Commissioner Adam suggested a memorial kiosk at a trailhead which could be offered up for an Eagle Scout to do the project. Commissioner Hayes thanked everyone for their comments and stated he is in favor of supporting a trailhead marker kiosk.

Commissioner Hayes MADE A MOTION to add a trailhead marker kiosk to a list of options for the Memorial Policy for the City of Fullerton and Commissioner Morgan SECONDED the motion. Vice Chair Stanford called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Hayes, Morgan, and Stanford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chen, Dasney, and Shanfield

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

#### 5. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

• Hiltscher Trail Project and Status of Lawsuit (Shin vs. City of Fullerton)

Director Felz said there is a pending settlement agreement, but the signs look positive and the project is now moving forward with final design and bid process with possible completion in the next six to eight months.

Independence Park Skate Park Status

Director Felz stated the skate park is closed for a variety of reasons and noted the Council directed it back to the Commission to review possible alternatives within the next few months and with the associated costs.

#### 6. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Budget Update – Review of City's Budget Review process for FY 2010/2011

Director Felz said the Council will be meeting tomorrow with all Departments making presentations to address budget deficiencies.

Program Updates – Review of Department programs

Recreation Manager Grace Lowe noted the Fishing Derby is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> and is sold out. Director Felz stated the downtown Fullerton Market opens April 1<sup>st</sup>.

 Capital Projects – Review of project's in planning phase or under construction

Parks Project Manager Hugo Curiel stated Hiltscher Trail project is back on track and Lions Field is moving forward to the August completion date. Curiel noted that Hillcrest Park Master Plan is going well, as preliminary data gathering is completed. A meeting will be scheduled with the committee to review the first initial phases. He indicated the Independence Park irrigation drainage system is in place and planting will be going in soon along with pool repairs and new fencing. Director Felz noted the Tennis Center is going out for bid and the Community Center goes before the Council as the conceptional design is being more fully developed for the second meeting in April.

Commissioner Morgan stated the Planning Commission will be reviewing the Coyote Hills project, which has scheduled two separate meetings. Director Felz indicated the

meetings are to review the entirety of the project which will include the comments Parks and Recreations Commission made along with Transportation and Circulation Commission and bringing it together with water issues and fire set back areas that are now required. Director Felz said the Planning Commission will make a recommendation after the second meeting to the City Council. He stated the first meeting is not to take public comment, but to provide information to the Planning Commissioners at the staff level and the second meeting will incorporate Planning Commissioner's comments with pertinent information and to consider public comments. He noted the project involves a significant dollar amount of 18 to 25 million.

#### 7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Adam said she attended the first Art Walk noting it was very successful and indicated it will take place the first Friday of each month. Commissioner Morgan requested an email regarding Arbor Day and thanked everyone for working with the Wernke family and finding away for a happy ending in a tragic situation. Vice Chair Stanford also acknowledged everyone's efforts and thanked everyone for their support and stated that Fullerton's Parks and Recreation department is the best in Southern California.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Felz, Secretary

JF/nb