

CITY OF FULLERTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
City Council Chamber
Monday, February 14, 2011
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stanford called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Vice Chair Shanfield led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Scott Hayes, Kirk San Roman, Kathleen Shanfield, Scott Stanford, and Carl Van Gorden.

Absent: None

Staff: Parks and Recreation Interim Director Wes Morgan; Parks and Recreation Manager Hugo Curiel, Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard; Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley; Landscape Superintendent Dennis Quinlivan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Roberta Reed spoke on the removal of the trees at the Senior Center.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 1 - 3)

1. MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION JANUARY 10, 2011 COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Carl Van Gorden MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Kirk San Roman SECONDED the motion to approve the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation January 10, 2011 Commission Meeting.

AYES: Hayes, San Roman, Shanfield, Stanford, Van Gorden

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. LANDSCAPE DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2011

Commissioner Van Gorden MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Scott Hayes SECONDED the motion to approve the Landscape Division Monthly Report for January 2011.

AYES: Hayes, San Roman, Stanford, Shanfield, Van Gorden

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

3. BUILDING AND FACILITIES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2011

Commissioner Hayes MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Kathleen Shanfield SECONDED the motion to approve the Building and Facilities Division Monthly Report for January 2011.

AYES: Hayes, San Roman, Shanfield, Stanford, Van Gorden

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS (Items 4 – 8)

4. HILLCREST MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Katie Dalton, Chairperson of the Hillcrest Park Master Plan Ad Hoc briefed the Commission on the planning process and welcomed their input.

Interim Director Wes Morgan introduced Mia Lehrer and Hong Joo Kim from Mia Lehrer and Associates to present a final concept of the Hillcrest Master Plan. The presentation addressed the following mission goal and objectives:

Goal:

- To acknowledge Hillcrest Park as a significant community asset and reclaim its rightful place as the City's premier park

Objectives:

- To preserve, protect, and restore the historic character of the park, including the structures and landscape
- To accommodate casual family and community activities
- To provide for a sense of adventure and nature exploration as well as a natural retreat in an urbanized environment
- To preserve views from within the park and existing vistas looking out to the City and beyond
- To address the parks traffic circulation, including pedestrians, vehicles, and bicycles
- To establish the Harbor Blvd. frontage as the 'front door' of the Park
- To encourage economic and environmental sustainability in future improvements
- To consider a balanced approach by addressing infrastructure as well as aesthetic issues
- To enhance the connection of Hillcrest Park to the City's recreational, economic, educational, entertainment, and transportation assets

Commissioner Questions: Commissioner Van Gorden asked about not having a Harbor Blvd. entrance into Hillcrest Park. Mr. Kim clarified the Harbor side of the park will be made more pedestrian friendly and the Brea Blvd. entrance will be nearby.

Commissioner San Roman asked about possible commercial areas at the park. Interim Director Morgan replied that park and facility rentals would take place with a possibility of having a small café type kiosk by the duck pond that may compliment rentals, as in wedding rentals.

Chair Scott Stanford asked about the proposed roundabout on the entrance located at Lemon Street and Shadow Lane. Interim Director Morgan answered it will slow traffic and make a safer area for the neighborhood. He added there was a high level of approval by the neighborhood to the proposed roundabout.

Commissioner Shanfield asked about having wheelchair and stroller friendly ramps into the park. Ms. Lehrer said there will be alternative routes and entrances that are A.D.A. accessible. She also asked about removal of trees. Mr. Kim said the next phase of the design work will assess the question. Interim Director Morgan added that the goal is preservation and enhancements of the park, including trees. Commissioner Shanfield proposed showing slides that show improvements more clearly when this item goes before the City Council. Interim Director Morgan and Chair Stanford agreed.

Commissioner Hayes asked about additional parking to support the increase use of the park. Interim Director Morgan indicated most parking will be available at Lions field and shuttles could be used for special events in the park. Commissioner Van Gorden also suggested having the presentation include changes to parking shown more clearly when this item goes to the City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Leonard Zivitz suggested using the available funds to maintain and restore; and noted he is opposed to modernizing the park. He added that Lions Field should be available to the community at large that does not participate in league activities.

Mr. Bob Ashlock requested enhanced landscaping on the Lemon St. side of the park. He stated he is impressed with the proposed master plan, but would like parking to be addressed in detail.

Mr. Ira McNabb supports restoration of Hillcrest Park, but would like to keep the rustic feel and open space. He added that the proposed roundabout is a good idea.

Ms. Dorian Hunter agrees with keeping the feel of the park and would like to see the bowl area stage improved.

Ms. Sally Zivitz commended staff and the Committee on the work on the master plan. She thought the design is overly designed with hard surfaces, whereas Hillcrest Park should be kept natural as much as possible.

Ms. Phyllis Copp attends the park almost daily and agrees with keeping the park natural. She would like to attend future meetings regarding Hillcrest Park improvements.

Ms. Roberta Reid was in support of restoring the park.

Ms. Kathy Dasney stated the need to improve the presentation when it goes before the City Council. She would like a stronger emphasis on the number of meetings that have been held to acquire feedback and input from the community and on the objectives and goals of the master plan. Ms. Dasney would also like more emphasis on the historic aspect of the park.

Commissioner Shanfield read a letter from Fullerton resident Vince Buck. Mr. Buck would like to see the backstop returned and would like to have pedestrian access to the park from Lemon Street addressed. He would also like to see an esplanade with benches near his son's memorial bench.

Commissioner Hayes indicated he wanted to see the park restored and improved and not modernized. He would like parking concerns addressed, but emphasized keeping the natural feel of the park.

Chair Stanford commended staff and the committee's hard work and effort put forth into the master plan and appreciated the community's input and dialog.

Interim Director Morgan indicated that the presentation to the City Council will be enhanced thanks to the feedback received at this meeting. He noted this item was tentatively scheduled to be presented at the April 5, 2011 City Council meeting.

5. FULLERTON DOG PARK FOUNDATION OPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

Recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend to the City Council the approval of the Operations Agreement between the City Council and the Fullerton Dog Park Foundation.

Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard introduced the item and briefed the Commission on the dog park's history. Chair Stanford and Commissioner Shanfield commended the volunteers and the good work they have done at the park.

Commissioner Shanfield MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Hayes SECONDED the motion to recommend to the City Council the approval of the Operations Agreement between the City Council and the Fullerton Dog Park Foundation.

AYES: Hayes, San Roman, Shanfield, Stanford, Van Gorden

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

6. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Interim Director Morgan updated the Parks and Recreation Commission on the following City Council Agenda items:

- Fullerton Community Center Project Construction Timeline

Demolition began on the Boys and Girls Club building. The Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place Tuesday, March 1. Seniors will begin to relocate their operations to St. Mary's School.

- Commissioner Appointment Process

Reviewed Parks and Recreation Committee vacancies and noted additional commissioner appointment taking place at the March 15 City Council meeting.

7. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- Capital Projects Update

Bids received for the Richman Athletic Field. Project is expected to start mid-March and be completed in the fall of 2010. Tennis Center Renovation project will go back to bid soon. Negotiation for cell towers at Ford and Bastanchury Parks are moving forward. Cell towers are not part of the Hillcrest Park master plan.

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Staff and Commission welcomed new Parks and Recreation Commissioner Kirk San Roman.

Commissioner Hayes MADE A MOTION and Commissioner San Roman SECONDED the motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Morgan, Secretary

WM/pd