CITY OF FULLERTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
City Council Chamber
Monday, September 12, 2011
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Van Gorden led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Sean Fitzgerald, Scott Hayes, Barry Levinson, Kirk San Roman, Kathleen Shanfield (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Scott Stanford, and Carl Van Gorden

Absent: None

Staff: Acting Director Hugo Curiel; Parks and Recreation Manager Judith Peterson; Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard; Planning Manager Heather Allen; Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley; and Landscape Superintendent Dennis Quinlivan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Acting Director Hugo Curiel informed the Parks and Recreation Commission that Wes Morgan, Interim Director for the Parks and Recreation Department, announced his retirement, effective September 12, 2011.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 1 - 2)

1. MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION JULY 11, 2011 COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Hayes MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Levinson SECONDED the motion to approve the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation July 11, 2011 Commission Meeting.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Shanfield

ABSTAIN: Fitzgerald

The MOTION PASSED 5-0.

2. MAINTENANCE SERVICES MONTHLY REPORTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2011

Commissioner Van Gorden MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Shanfield SECONDED the motion to approve the Maintenance Services Monthly Reports for July and August 2011.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED 7-0.

REGULAR BUSINESS (Items 3 – 9)

3. FULLERTON PLAN (GENERAL PLAN UPDATE)

Acting Director Curiel introduced Planning Manager Heather Allen who in turn presented the Fullerton Plan agenda item to the Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission is being asked to review and provide comment on the specific portions of the Public Review Draft of The Fullerton Plan (General Plan Update) relevant to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Manager Allen noted that Mr. Joseph Stopper, Chairman of the General Plan Advisory Committee was also in attendance.

Chapter 12 – Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Barry Levinson asked to have more programmable active open space, specifically sports fields available to the growing community. Chair Stanford agreed with Commissioner Levinson regarding the need of more open grass fields for youth sports.

Commissioner Shanfield asked for the park acreage to population ratio for the City of Fullerton. Manager Allen said the ratio varies, depending on where in Fullerton one is, with the average being about 5 acres per 1000 people, noting this being on the lower end of state requirements. Commissioner Shanfield asked for the Advisory Committee to look into raising this ratio, despite the possibility of increasing park dwelling fees.

Commissioner Hayes asked how the West Coyote Hills Development project that was recently approved would affect and or increase the park acreage to population ratio for the City. Acting Director Curiel noted that the project included open and green space,

but did not have a specific answer on how the park acreage to population ratio would be affected.

Acting Director Curiel noted that the City does review land acquisition opportunities or multi-use facilities, similar to Lions Field.

Commissioner Fitzgerald noted since the park acreage to population ratio varies in different areas of the city, creating a short-term action plan to focus on those underserved areas in the City should be noted.

Chapter 13 - Arts and Culture

Commissioner Fitzgerald asked for clarification regarding the goals and short term actions, noting that listed under goals, it mentioned supporting existing arts and culture venues and in the short-term actions in mentions preparing for the establishment of new venues. Manager Allen noted that the goals and short term actions listed are not mutually exclusive and they could be reworked to make clearer.

Chapter 14 - Education

Chapter 19 - Open Space and Natural Resources (missing in agenda packet)

Commissioner Van Gorden asked if any of the City's trails, including bikeways, connect to other neighboring cities. Manager Allen answered yes, there is a bicycle element in the Fullerton General Plan. There is also a collaborative plan with the 4th Supervisorial District including the cities of La Habra Buena, Brea, Anaheim, Placentia. Commissioner Van Gorden asked if any recreational trails connect to other cities and Acting Director Curiel answered, no.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if preservation of water sheds was included in the Fullerton General Plan. Manager Allen said it was addressed in Chapter 16 – Water. Commissioner Shanfield asked if it could also be included in the Open Space chapter as watersheds and open spaces are interconnected. Commissioner Shanfield also asked for clarification regarding preservation of trees, public versus private. Manager Allen noted the Fullerton Plan can address both and be made more specific.

Commissioner Levinson asked if Chapter 4 – Mobility, addresses traffic concerns pertaining to the increase in population. Manager Allen responded yes, and it also looks at other means of transportation other than just automobiles.

Commissioner Van Gorden asked if the City has community gardens, as mentioned in the Health chapter of the General Plan and asked if they are they part of the park system. Acting Director Curiel said that there is community garden at the Fullerton Arboretum and the General Plan does not specify, they could be in a park or within a development. Commissioner Shanfield noted that many schools have adopted community gardens.

4. KABOOM! GRANT FUNDING FOR FORD PARK

Acting Director Curiel introduced Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard, who in turn provided a PowerPoint presentation on the KaBOOM! Grant Funding for Ford Park agenda item.

Chair Stanford asked if there were any additional needs for the playground build taking place on September 17, 2011. Specialist Pickard said everything was set and welcomed any more volunteers willing to participate on build day.

Commissioner Fitzgerald asked how Ford Park was chosen for this project. Specialist Pickard answered that KaBOOM! reached out to the City and the City reviewed parks that would meet the grant criteria and Ford Park was the best fit for this project.

5. LIBRARY AD-HOC COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Shanfield volunteered to serve on the Library Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.

6. CALGRIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Fitzgerald volunteered to serve on the Fullerton CaIGRIP Advisory Committee.

7. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

8. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Acting Director Curiel updated the Parks and Recreation Commission of the following projects items:

Hiltscher Trail project is expected to be completed in November.

Bids will open on September 13 for the Lemon Park/Maple Community Center Improvements project.

The Richman Field Improvements, including new ball fields, sports field lighting, backstops, and installation of new turf and irrigation, completed in August.

The Tennis Center Renovation is on track and is expected to complete in November.

The concrete footings for the Fullerton Community Center were poured in early September. The seniors are being temporarily housed at St. Mary's School until the completion of the project in October of 2012.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Shanfield asked for the status of the Hillcrest Park project. Commissioner Van Gorden asked for an update regarding the skate park and asked if any floating islands would be coming to Laguna Lake. Acting Director Curiel noted that

most projects that make use of Redevelopment funding are now on hold until further notice. He noted that the planning portion of the Hillcrest Master Plan is almost complete.

Commissioner Van Gorden asked for the status of the James Wernke memorial kiosk. Chair Stanford indicated that his son initially took on the task for his Eagle Scout Project, but encountered difficulties. The project has been handed back to the City for any other groups who would like to take on the project. The design plans have been approved and are ready to use for building the kiosk, noted Acting Director Curiel.

Commissioner Levinson informed staff members regarding a vendor selling canes and walking sticks on the Juanita Cook Trail. Acting Director Curiel said staff was not aware of this situation and would look into this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stanford adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____

Hugo Curiel, Secretary

HC/pd