

**CITY OF FULLERTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

City Council Chamber
Monday, May 12, 2008
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Russell called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Chair Russell led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawna Adam, Sueling Chen, Kathleen Dasney, Craig Russell, Kathleen Shanfield, Nancy Spencer and Scott Stanford

Absent: None

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Felz, Parks and Recreation Managers Grace Carroll Lowe, Alice Loya, Judy Peterson;; Landscape Supervisor Tom Moreno; Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 1 - 3)

Cahir Russell requested a motion to approve the Consent Calendar items as corrected. DasneyMADE A MOTION and Commissioner Spencer SECONDED the motion to approve the Consent Calendar items.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

*1. MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

Recommendation to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2008 Commission Meeting.

Correction p-.13 – complaints *from* dog park users not about.l

*2. LANDSCAPE DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2008

Recommendation to receive and file the Landscape Division April 2008 Monthly Reports.

*3. BUILDING AND FACILITIES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2008

Recommendation to receive and file the Building and Facilities Division April 2008 Monthly Report.

Dasney asked if City had to go out to bid after 5 years, and Lyman said "yes." She asked if current contractor is participating, he said yes, 17 picked up bid packages, only 5 submitted, and 4 qualified. He said they're checking references and backgrounds and will submit to Council soon.

REGULAR BUSINESS (Items 4 – 10)

*4. MEMORIAL BENCH APPLICATION

Staff is seeking approval of a recommendation on a memorial park bench.

Joe said this is a fairly pro forma request although the request is to place a bench on the reservoir where there may be changes to the Master Plan. The family understands that the bench may be moved in the future, and are willing to sign a letter of agreement.

Spencer asked when the application was made, and Joe said it was formally agreed upon about 2 weeks ago. Spencer asked what type of bench would be installed, and he said the style hasn't been chosen yet, but they would bring this to the commission for their vote. That style may change. She also asked re: vandalism, and he said it's no more significant than anywhere else. He said the bench at _____ park is a memorial bench but not comfortable for seating; hence they will use a different type.

Dasney asked about the bench selection process. For Hillcrest, he said something consistent with the flagstone at the reservoir and that he felt confident staff could select an appropriate bench; however, Commission could look at the bench styles if they want. Dasney suggested stone benches although they might be expensive. Spencer asked about any WPA benches; Joe said probably not although there are some classic styles. Dasney said she doesn't want to get involved in the selection process. Joe said for a Hillcrest memorial bench, it will probably not be used park wide, the original bench would be used elsewhere when park renovations are completed, and the plaque would be moved to another bench whose style would be used throughout the park.

Spencer said there was a citizens' committee to choose a bench style for the downtown benches. Dasney quoted Vince Buck, who suggested that a bench style should be used throughout the park, and it should be tasteful. Joe said Vince Buck's suggestions were tasteful although some were not for commercial use. Spencer asked if there were sufficient funds to purchase a reasonable bench, and he confirmed this.

Chen asked if a bench were vandalized, would the citizen replace it, and Joe said the cost of the bench includes the maintenance. Chen asked if the cost would be adjusted for inflation. Joe said the price was the current price; Alice said there could be a yearly adjustment for price increases which would amend the resolution. Dasney noted there was an agreement for the policy to be reviewed by Commission after one year. Spencer noted the resolution stated that Commission could designate the style and placement of the benches. However, the commissioners noted there wasn't a large demand for benches. Dasney suggested the staff could come up with their top two options and the family could choose. Joe said in the future, they could bring this to Commission; but asked that the current request be approved in a timely fashion.

Shanfield moved that Commission approve a memorial bench placed in Hillcrest Park with approval from the donor. Dasney??? seconded the motion

Amended Motion " input from the donor – Shanfield moved, Dasney seconded, passed unanimously.

*5. NO-SMOKING POLICY IN PARKS AND PARK FACILITIES

Staff is seeking a recommendation on the proposed no-smoking policy to City Council.

Joe said staff is proposing a no-smoking policy that would essentially move smokers into outer perimeters, parking lots of the parks except for special areas such as trails or high-fire zones.

He provided an overview of the Chapman Park, noting the corners and outer areas for smokers. Re: Emery Park, due to large lawn areas, smoking would be permitted because they are away from play or picnic areas. Independence Park is similar; he said this wasn't a perfect analysis, but would provide commissioners with an idea of where staff is moving.

Joe referred to Att. G, which provided information on each park.

Dasney asked about parking lots at Rolling Hills, saying there weren't any parking lots. Joe agreed it might be an error but would probably be at the grass area where the street cuts in.

Russell asked about athletic fields, saying he had second thoughts on his position. He asked how "athletic fields" are defined, e.g. Chapman and Acacia, saying some areas are officially recognized baseball diamonds and others are not. He noted that the fields change with soccer, and whether that would be considered an official athletic field. He said Sports Complex, Bastanchury and Lions Field were all athletic fields but other neighborhood parks would be less clear. Joe said where formal sports activities were held, those would be considered athletic fields; the backstop at Hillcrest Park, now gone, would not be considered an athletic field. Russell said athletic leagues have their own no-tobacco policies, and asked if a person at a park when games or practices

weren't being held, couldn't smoke. Joe said the policy would still apply, and signs would be posted, but enforcement would be stricter when there was play.

Spencer asked about trails, and Joe said that would be coming up; however, they're trying to take the issue one piece at a time. Joe referred to Pacific Drive Park, noting the line on the left would be in to the right a little more. Shanfield had concerns smoking area was larger than non-smoking. Joe said that was the exception.

Dasney asked about the dog park, Joe said they would be addressing it also.

Stanford asked about no-smoking enforcement. Joe said no-smoking would be posted, and police could be called if the smoker wouldn't comply. Stanford said the no-smoking policy didn't appear that much different from the current and that most people wouldn't know about the ordinance. Dasney said those offended by smoking would have something they can point to. Joe agreed the policy would be difficult to enforce but the complainant can make a legitimate phone call.

Joe said a complete ban would be difficult, with more chances of confrontation.

Shanfield said she voted for the no-smoking areas envisioning smaller non-smoking areas. Russell said he felt the opposite, that the picnic areas were not discussed at the last meeting, and some athletic fields shouldn't be non-smoking because they aren't official fields.

Joe said the smoking areas in the parks are large turf areas where non-smokers would have no reason to occupy, and that most would.

Dasney asked about the no-smoking area at Gilman Park, and why the parking lot isn't considered for smoking. Joe and Alice said the parking lot is closed and would be part of the master plan. Would

Chen expressed her appreciation for staff's thoroughness in delineating smoking and non-smoking areas; however, the requirements are rather complex. She suggested simplifying the rules. Joe said the simple rule is eliminating smoking where any formal and informal gathering places are in parks. When asked about the signage, he said signs would be posted banning smoking for 25 feet from picnic and athletic fields.

Stanford asked if staff was comfortable with the plan, and Joe said yes because there would be enforcement from user groups but eliminates the lone smoker in the middle of a large open turf area from being forced to ban.

Chen asked about children playing an informal game on a field; Joe said that's the gray area; however, they are trying to find enforceable rules for smoking.

Trails – Joe said the fire dept. report will probably not meet all of what staff wants to accomplish. The high fire zones are already included; staff will work with the fire chief to determine high fire areas.

Russell asked for clarification on Laguna Lake's no smoking area. Joe said there would be smoking allowed around the lake. However, at the Equestrian center, there are areas while, not designated a high fire zone, should probably be banned. The fire chief may ban smoking on the trails. Commission will have to decide whether trails should be all no-smoking or only some.

Adam asked if there were any parts of the trail that weren't fire hazards. Staff noted a few areas but Stanford suggested it was better just to declare all trails no-smoking.

Re: Laguna Lake Park Equestrian Center, Russell suggested that the Rec Riders could provide enforcement through their own regulations. Dasney said the fire chief would probably define the Eq. Center as high fire. Shanfield asked if all parking lots could be no smoking. Russell suggested the fire marshall should declare all trails high fire zones, and Joe said that will probably happen.

Joe discussed the lessees, saying they could control the smoking themselves through their business model. Adam asked about Muckenthaler; Joe said they're in negotiations currently; that Muckenthaler wants to retain a smoking area. If Commission wanted an outright ban; no one could smoke there.

Stanford said you could take places like the Muckenthaler out of the equation because of their agreements; Joe agreed.

Re: the dog park, Commission could come up with a temporary solution since it only has an ad hoc committee. Dasney said she'd like the dog park in the list of parks. Joe said the commission could make a decision, perhaps in a corner and a parking lot. She said she didn't have a strong opinion. Chen said she sees the dog park like a play area and would prefer to have those areas non-smoking.

Shanfield asked if the pooch park became a non-profit, if they could make the designation themselves. Joe said they would still have to go to Commission. Shanfield asked about ash cans and signage; Joe said those are already ready to go at Laguna. Shanfield said she agreed with Chen that a dog park should be considered a play ground. Russell said there probably wasn't a definition of a dog park as a child's play area. Asked if this was going to Council; Joe said it would.

Russell said he'd like to provide a "complete package" for Council. Thus, Commission and staff would have to wait until the report from the state on fire zones was received. Joe agreed, saying they could return to Commission in July or June when they have more information.

Russell asked for overlays for all the parks to see where picnic areas and parking lots were. Joe said they could do so for the July meeting. Shanfield asked about pooch park incorporation; Joe said it was at least a year away. There was a discussion about problems of dog owners smoking and, if smoking were only allowed in the parking lot, would dog owners leave their dogs in the park and go to the parking lot. Joe said he needed more direction on pooch park. Dasney suggested allowing smoking in all areas of Hunt Park; then allow the group when incorporated to make a recommendation. She asked if there was any opposition. Adam said she hoped smokers would be

considerate of non-smokers. Shanfield said people offended by smoking should be encouraged to go to Commission or Council.

Shanfield moved to table the item until late summer, _____ seconded the motion. Discussion of when to review the item again; agreed would go to Council in August. Joe said they could provide park overviews in June.

Unanimous.

*6. 2008 – 2009 OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET

Staff is seeking a recommendation on the Parks and Recreation proposed 2008 – 2009 Operating and CIP Budget to City Council.

Alice agreed this was similar to last month's overview but with more specific numbers. She noted the current budget, both adopted and revised for 08-09. Funding increased. She provided a pie chart showing where funding came from including about 50% from GF, Pgm revenues (22%, grants 6%, Brea Dam 11% - all revenue has to go back into the Brea Dam. 1% from water and trash; Redevelopment 5% for large events, Fund balance 5%, funds remaining from previous year or additional funds.

Alice noted Brea Dam didn't go down as indicated in the slide.

Russell asked about the deficit from CSUF not applying for the grant. Alice said they got money from the fund balance; agreed they are still trying to get PD asset seizure funds. Although the \$40,000 is not taking away from any programs and comes from savings, Joe agreed it could have paid for something else if CSUF had applied for and received their grant. When Russell asked about just pulling the plug on that portion of the program, Joe said Council would probably override it and put the money back in. Russell again expressed his annoyance with CSUF's dereliction of duty and how the City is left holding the bag. Joe said he agreed and that the City's disappointment has been expressed at the highest levels. Chen asked about partnerships, Joe said they will be partners again and that he has confidence in CSUF's new staff. Shanfield asked if the new staff could come and speak to the Commission. Joe said the new staff could come if requested.

Dasney said she can understand CSUF dropped the ball with Dr. Castro passing away, but was optimistic that the program would be revitalized. Russell said he was still leery and would feel better if CSUF would come to reassure the Commission of its commitment. Joe said he would do so.

Shanfield asked if the building was supposed to be temporary. Joe said it's fairly permanent. Spencer reiterated Russell's previous concerns and agreed CSUF should come to the Commission to speak.

Hugo provided an overview of the capital projects with input from Joe.

Union Pacific Trail –

Downtown Public Art – increased by \$10,000 to help fund Lemon overpass.

Gilbert Park - increased \$50,000.

Lemon Park improvements – Joe said consolidating funding for the last 2 years into one year instead of phases. Commission will receive a request to approve this plan.

Laguna Lake – Phase III funding with an increase of \$450,000 with park dwelling fees of \$150,000.

Richman School Field Lighting – Separated out from other park lighting. HUD funding will cover that instead. Ladera Vista and Commonwealth athletic field lighting will be paid with original funding.

Fullerton Community Center – separates library from community center; also street improvements are a third project. Funding anticipated from Amerige Heights development. The concept plan will return to Commission.

Joe confirmed with Shanfield that the library is separate.

Stanford asked about additional plans, and Joe said staff would like to bring this next month; perhaps before a tour of the parks. He further explained the decision by Council to split the library, develop the mixed use center and change traffic circulation/pedestrian crossing plans.

Dasney asked about 5/20 Council meeting

Stanford moved to approve the budget as outlined, Adam seconded. Unanimous approval.

***7. COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS TO LEMON PARK RENOVATION PROJECT AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Recommendation to approve two commissioner appointments to the newly-formed Lemon Park Renovation Project Ad Hoc Committee.

Joe provided overview of the Lemon Park ad hoc committee, reassuring them that

Stanford agreed to serve. Chen agreed, too.

Dasney asked about the 5/27 meeting. Joe said it would be held at the Maple Center. Joe said there was extensive media coverage but there was actually minimal problems with the murals. Communtiyh more concered re: programming. He said he, Judy and Dannielle have been involved.

Dasney asked about the Public Art Committee meeting. Joe said they're aiming for the 19th of May.

8. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

- Council Directive on Formation of Hillcrest Park Master Plan Committee

Joe said Council took a different direction on Hillcrest; said to start from scratch, keep consistent with other committees. He said there was no commentary re: the commission's decision; but since there was no historical background on the formation of the committee and would loop through the commission anyway, they decided to change

9. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- Homeless Situation at Pacific Drive Park - Armory is now closed, there were discussions on how it operates and affects the surrounding area.
- Lemon Park Capital Project / Murals – eXpressed optimism that the murals would end on a positive note.
- Joe added information re commissioner request for a workshop on after school programs, esp. for teens.
- Commission Site Visits to Hillcrest Park and Laguna Lake in May - Joe was suggesting July visit or only visiting one park in June. He clarified that Laguna was just to update commissioners on improvements. After discussion, it was agreed that Hillcrest might be more important but that there was no rush. Shanfield again suggested Kay Miller as a good historical guide. Spencer said Kay was aware she might be providing a tour.
- Civic Center Plans Update – Will have community input and user group input.
-

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Adam – commented on her participation in public art committee, said today was last day of student artist search for the orange crate murals. Fender guitar mural dedication will be coming up soon. Capri Shoes should be having a mural but there are visa problems with the Canadian artists. Dasney asked about the location; Joe said it's in the alley behind 107 So. Harbor where Leo Fender first constructed his guitar.

Spencer asked about CSUF and Fullerton College student involvement. Joe said the restoration is complicated, but after.

Joe noted the copper wire thefts again at the Sports Complex and that the security measures helped slow it down. He said state legislation will try to make it harder to recycle those metals. Shanfield asked about cameras and alarms.

Dasney moved, Meeting adjourned 8:50.

JF:pf

*Written Material Attached

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Parks and Recreation Department front counter at City Hall located at 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, California during normal business hours. In addition, such writings and documents will be posted on the City's website at www.ci.fullerton.ca.us.