

MINUTES of a regular meeting of the Parks Commission held Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers are as follows:

PRESENT: Dennis Bolt
Steve Guggisberg
Patricia Holohan
Brian King, Chair
Kristin Saukel, Vice Chair
Tina Sray
John Beall, Student
Jon Harrison, Mayor

ABSENT: Mick Gallagher, Council Liaison

STAFF: Gary Van Dorst, Quality of Life Director
Rick Cross, QOL Operations Manager
Janet Sherman, Senior Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER – ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. Commissioner King introduced the new Student Commissioner, John Paul Beall, whose family has a long history of involvement with the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Saukel requested a correction to the November 13, 2008 minutes. The second line from the bottom of page 3 under item A of New Business should say Dr. Hill regulates the water at Caroline Park instead of the Friends of Prospect Park. The minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Street Tree Committee Update

Gary Van Dorst reported the Street Tree Committee had not met since December and provided the Commission with a quick update. The City planted in excess of 1,000 trees in the last year utilizing donations and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. No City monies were involved in that effort. The trees planted included a little more than a hundred honorary trees, two hundred saplings, and about 840 street trees. The Quality of Life Department also applied for a tree grant through Cal Fire for continuing the street tree program, but there is no word on that grant yet.

B. Recreation Advisory Commission Update

Joe Gonzales reported the Recreation Advisory Commission meets January 14 to discuss their project priority list.

C. Trails Report

No report.

D. Park Ranger Update

Brad Billings reported the Park Rangers are now regularly patrolling the unnamed Oakmont Park on foot. Recently all the benches were hit by paintballs and the rangers turned in a report. Rangers are also patrolling the Oakmont and Live Oak areas on ATVs to look for illegal off-roaders. Something that came up last month in dealing with troublesome juveniles in Smiley Park was the absence of signs in some of the parks regarding no smoking, no alcohol, and dogs needing to be on a leash. Mr. Billings said signs at the entrances of the parks would be helpful. Commissioner Saukel said signs could be easily overlooked while watching the road when driving into a park and felt they would be more noticeable at the parking areas. Commissioner Saukel took a photo of the dogs on leash sign at the Loma Linda dog park and offered to email it to staff.

E. Park Liaisons Update

Commissioners reported on their assigned parks (see attached list).

Steve Guggisberg mentioned the need for an orientation package for new members of the Parks Commission. It would include the locations, sizes, and features of the parks as well as the charge of the Commission. Commissioner Saukel said Commissioner Sray has an excellent package for the Chino Parks that could serve as a guideline. Commissioner King thought creating the orientation package would be a good project for the new Student Commissioner, John Beall.

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. QOL Director's Update

Quality of Life Director, Gary Van Dorst, reported staff has been working with a consortium of service clubs to form the Redlands Service Club Council based on the premise that when service clubs come together they can do projects that cannot be done individually. The focus of that organization would be to work on projects that benefit the City. Officers were formally appointed today and the handling of funds through the City or perhaps through the Redlands Community Foundation was discussed. We have garnered their interest in taking on a couple

of the public restrooms at Sylvan Park. We will follow up by meeting with a subcommittee of their new membership in the next week or so to lay out a budget.

The facilities naming policy is tentatively on the City Council agenda for January 20.

City staff is reviewing a draft of specifications and drawings for Ed Hales Park. We should have them back for revisions in a couple of weeks and will move forward from there.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Improvements to Community Field (Craig Kundig, Redlands Baseball for Youth)

Craig Kundig, a member of the Board for Redlands Baseball for Youth (RBY), presented a proposal for improvements to Community Field. He explained he already discussed the proposal with Chairperson King, Gary Van Dorst and the Department. The proposal requests installation of the following improvements:

1. Pour Concrete Patio North of the Snack Bar (Between the Snack Bar and Field No. 1) – This includes extending the building roofline to cover approximately 40% of the patio and permanently attaching the picnic tables to the patio. This is currently dirt in an area where grass will not grow.
2. Build a Batting Cage Against the west Fence between Field Nos. 3 and 4 – The batting cage will include a 24' x 100' concrete slab enclosed with a 10' high chain link fence and a chain link roof. The cage will be divided into four stations with soft netting to allow four teams at a time to warm up safely. The cage will be locked when the fields are not in use.
3. Install Eight Soft Toss Areas Near the End of the Fence Lines of Field Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Two per Field; One per Side) – Gated 2' x 6' boxes that open onto the fields will allow players to hit baseballs into pads hanging on the 10' high section of fencing, rather than having teams hit the ball against, and damage existing fencing that surrounds the fields. The only concrete in these areas will be for installation of the poles.
4. Pour a Concrete Slab Approximately 3' x 4' Directly Behind the Backstops of Field Nos. 5, 6, and 7; Mount a Construction Storage Box Behind Field Nos. 5, 6 and 7 so Bases and Other Equipment for that Field May Be Stored at the Field
5. Install Floor-Mounted Bat Racks and Fence-Mounted Helmet Racks to all Seven Fields

The estimated cost of materials for these improvements is \$10,000 to \$15,000. RBY's goal is to use volunteers who are licensed contractors for the installation. There was a discussion with concerns expressed about issues such as drainage, possible damage to irrigation lines, the feasibility of using pavers or a pervious material instead of concrete, and the quality of volunteer labor. Staff will work

with Mr. Kundig on construction specifications and to address the Commissioners' concerns.

Commissioner King moved to accept RBY's proposal for Community Field improvements with revisions as discussed. Commissioner Holohan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Parks Water Conservation Program (Chris Diggs)

Chris Diggs, Water Resources Manager for the City of Redlands, presented information on the conservation project to install smart irrigation controllers at City parks. The Municipal Utilities and Engineering Department (MUED) has been working with the Quality of Life Department in addition to the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) on this project. Existing timers at the parks would either be replaced or have an additional component installed that would communicate with a weather-sensing tower installed at a location that establishes a benchmark for water needed. Manual adjustments can be made to any timers, as necessary, to take types of plants and microclimates into consideration. The savings to the City are anticipated to be 26 to 27 million gallons of water per year. This estimate is on the low side, using a 20% savings factor. From a value perspective, that is a savings of about \$35,000 worth of water per year. The manufacturer has done one pilot project with SBVMWD at one park in the City of San Bernardino and that project has seen higher savings of between 20% and 40%. MUED and SBVMWD are splitting the approximately \$50,000 cost of this project because of the water cost savings and the shortages within the State water project. There is no cost to the General Fund. Installation of the system is expected to take place in the next couple of months. The first park installed will probably be the Sports Park. Commissioner Saukel was concerned about who would control the irrigation at Caroline Park. Mr. Diggs said Dr. Hill would be able to adjust the timers there to provide the correct amount of water. At this time, it is unclear whether the system will be controlled by a computer. If there is a computer, it will either be located in MUED or the Quality of Life Department.

B. Update on Dog Park (Elizabeth Kulbin)

Elizabeth Kulbin reported the volunteer group that is doing the orchestrating, organizing, and fund raising for the dog park has incorporated as Redlands Unleashed Fidos & Friends (R.U.F.F.). The group has an established Board and has been holding regular meetings since May, 2008. The volunteer group will be raising the money for the park, building the park, helping maintain the park, working on capital improvements, continuing to do ongoing fundraising, and helping with other animal-related causes. Donations and working capital were received from two service clubs in Redlands and those funds are being held at the Redlands Community Foundation because they are a tax-exempt organization. A benefit of the current economy is that some of the building costs are lower.

The City has generously dedicated an area at Ford Park for the dog park, but we want to emphasize that volunteer donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses are the lifeblood of this project. The brochures have been completed. We had a dog park float at the Christmas Parade and handed out about 1200 brochures. Brochures will be placed at various businesses and offices throughout the City such as veterinary offices, grooming salons, boarding centers, PAWS, PETCO, Daryl's Pet Shop, etc. We also plan to insert the brochures in the Redlands Daily Facts and we have a mailing list for all the licensed dog owners in Redlands that we anticipate using. The website is up. There are still a few minor modifications to be made, but it is very nicely done. The same designer did both the brochure and the website so the look is congruent. We have made presentations to service clubs, church organizations, and civic groups in the Redlands area and will continue to do so. We will be having information tables at various businesses, like PAWS, PETCO, Gerard's, and at Market Night, where we will be able to answer questions and accept donations. Donors at certain levels will be able to have custom-engraved bricks or tiles. We are also looking into the availability of grants. This fall we are looking at having a run/walk event, maybe a 5K for Fido, and have been getting suggestions from Kiwanis since they have experience with their Run Through Redlands. The estimated cost for the raw materials for the project is approximately \$60,000 to \$65,000, assuming volunteer labor.

C. Appoint New Member for Park Master Plan Subcommittee

This item was continued until next month.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

Gerald Davis, a Redlands resident and former City employee, addressed the Parks Commission to request their support in adding the name of his son, Ricky D. Davis, to the Veterans Memorial in Jennie Davis Park. Ricky D. Davis, a veteran, was killed in Jennie Davis Park on May 3, 2008. Gerald Davis said his family is willing to pay the cost for adding the tile with his son's name on it to the Memorial. Commissioner King and Rick Cross explained that it is actually a veteran's group that maintains the Veterans Memorial. Mr. Cross asked for Mr. Davis' telephone number so he could research whom he needs to contact to accomplish his goal. Commissioners expressed their sympathy to Mr. Davis for the loss of his son.

Mr. Van Dorst said he expects to see the inactive east end at the California Street Landfill to reach a point where the gas levels have come down to where we can turn that system off. At which point, there is a process to go through with the Waste Board to open that 15 acres up to public access. This area cannot be irrigated, so we are talking open, riparian type space. There are many barriers to developing this type of land, but I would like the Commission to start thinking about what we can do there in the next five to ten years.

Commissioner Saukel announced that on Tuesday, January 20 at 4:30 p.m. at the Prospect Park Carriage House the Friends of Prospect Park are honoring two of their

oldest Board members, Harry John and Dale Bauer, who are retiring. These are two of our outstanding citizens and Prospect Park would not be what it is without them. The Commissioners are invited to attend the party.

POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Parks tour for a future meeting (perhaps February or March)
- Update on parks naming policy
- Rotation of Park Inspection Assignments

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m. The next meeting of the Parks Commission will be held at **2:30 p.m., Thursday, February 12, 2009** in the City Council Chambers, 35 Cajon Street, Suite 2, Redlands.

JANET SHERMAN

Senior Administrative Assistant

Park Liaison Reports January 8, 2009

Beazer Park – Nothing reported.

Brookside Park – Commissioner Guggisberg reported the park looked very good for being the dead of winter. There are still missing roof tiles on the concession stand restrooms and the two drain lines coming out of the parking lot are still creating huge mud holes.

Caroline Park – Commissioner Saukel said Dr. Hill called her to say they were having trouble with vandalism. Car windows have been broken and items stolen from the cars. Dr. Hill wanted to know whether the City could post signs warning people of the thefts and telling them not to leave valuables in their cars.

Community Park – Commissioner Bolt reported the south side of the park looks very good. Work still needs to be done to smooth the roughness on the edges of the benches. There is a lot of work going on at Community Field and perhaps Mr. Kundig can give us a report on that.

Crafton Park – Commissioner Sray reported she was very happy to see new barbecues at the park. There were spitballs on the ceiling in the restrooms. There were minor gopher mounds in the turf area. Overall, the park looked very good.

Ed Hales Park – Nothing reported.

Fire Demonstration Garden – Nothing reported.

Ford Park – Commissioner Sray reported toilet was out of order and two partitions were missing in the men's restroom. She was very happy to see new barbecues at the park. The planter at the restroom near the ponds was vacant. The exterior door is missing from the women's restroom in this area.

Franklin Park – Nothing reported.

Jennie Davis Park – Commissioner Guggisberg reported the park looked good. There was a lot of gopher activity in the southeast corner near the veteran's memorial. One of the transients asked why Commissioner Guggisberg was in the park and he explained it was part of his duties as a Parks Commissioner.

Prospect Park – Commissioner Saukel reported several cars have been broken into at the Carriage House and Kimberly Crest parking lots during the day. The vandalism, at least in the south side parks, seems to be increasing. Commissioner Saukel said the Police Department has posted signs in the shopping centers that prompt people to lock their cars and take their belongings. She said she hates signs in the parks, but perhaps it is worth noting the thefts because we are naïve. Vandals set the sign on fire at the amphitheater a week ago and broke into the Kimberly Crest Mansion. They tried to break into the Carriage House, but were unsuccessful. Terry Herndon thinks some of the problem is due to the park gates not being locked every night. He said he has found the parking lots full of cars and kids everywhere at 2:00 a.m. Rick Cross said the park staff gets off duty at 3:30 p.m. and it would not be fair to lock the gates that early. He asked Brad Billings if the park rangers could help City staff by locking Prospect Park. Mr. Billings asked Mr. Cross to call the Police Department with his request.

Park Liaison Reports

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Smiley Park – Commissioner Guggisberg reported the park looked good and many of the sick and dying trees were removed. About half a dozen new trees were planted. The water fountain that existed prior to the construction at the Mission Gables House is still missing and there are still donor bricks with names on them in that area of the public park.

Sports Park – Commissioner Bolt reported the facility always seems to be locked, except when the soccer kids are there. He noted the grass was all brown, but was not able to inspect anything else. Gary Van Dorst reported the grass is dormant at this time of year. Staff will look into why the park is always locked.

Sylvan Park – Nothing reported

Texonia Park – Nothing reported. Chairperson King assigned the inspection of this park to Student Commissioner Beall.