



**A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 10, 2009**  
**Albany Community Center**  
**Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Avenue**  
**7:30 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:00p.m. Commissioners present: Chair Pilch, Commissioners Class, Como (7:30), Kindle, Mullarkey and Trout. Excused Commission Linden.

Staff present: Director Penelope Leach, Director Ann Chaney and Robin Mariona.

- 2. Approval of Minutes: July 2009**

**Motion:**

Motion to approve minutes from July 2009 made by Commissioner Class and seconded by Commissioner Mullarkey. Motion carried 5 in favor and 1 abstention.

- 3. Public Comment:** Chair Pilch stated he had been surprised at the Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, that staff had not recommended Pierce St. Park for WW Funds. He stated that he would write to Council asking that they look closely at the Commission recommendations, including Pierce St.
- 4. Announcements/Communications:** Commissioner Kindle stated that the State Park Association intended to stop taking park reservations and if the Commission wanted to make any recommendation to Council regarding East Shore State Park, they should put it on an agenda.
- 5. Director's Report:** Director Leach stated that after review, staff had decided on a different recommendation for WW Funds regarding Pierce St. than the Commission had, and there had not been time with the August recess to let the Commission know before the first Council meeting in September. She stated that staff and Council had decided that putting money aside for Pierce St. while negotiations with CALTRANS were still going on was premature and not the best use of the funds. Council stated the intention to aggressively pursue solutions for Pierce St., and the City would find the money for the purchase if a price could be agreed upon in negotiations.

Director Leach stated that the rubberized surface under the swings at Ocean View had been installed. She stated that contract issues regarding the stage at Memorial Park had been resolved and concept drawings and meetings with the landscape architect had taken place. There would be more information at the October meeting.

Director Leach stated that changes were being made to the Ocean View batting cage and bullpen contract to bring the cost down. Construction would hopefully begin on the last week of September or the first week in October and be completed in four weeks.

Director Leach stated that Fern Tiger would make a presentation to Council on October 5<sup>th</sup> and Recreation Waterfront classes had begun. Finally, the City would close Key Route Blvd between Solano and Thousand Oaks to traffic on Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm for a new event called Sunday Streets. Modeled after San Francisco's program, it would allow for traffic free activities to take place on the street and center green strip.

Chair Pilch stated as a point of clarification that Council had voted not to allocate WW Funds for the Pierce St. Park project, but it was not necessarily set in stone. Commissioner Kindle stated that he

encouraged staff to make different recommendations to Council than the Commission if they thought it was important, and Council should receive as many views as possible before making decisions.

**6. Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items, which could include reports and/or proposed resolutions if any:**

**6-1. Tree Removal Request: Ann Chaney for the Community Development Department is requesting tree removals due to a City project on Pierce Street.** Director Chaney stated that accommodating a Class One bike path on the 800 and 900 blocks of Cleveland would require tree removal and given the space, it was unlikely that there would be room for replacement trees. The alternative would be a Class Two path, though there was currently no funding money for this Phase Two portion of the bike path plan.

Director Chaney stated that the environmental review had shown that removal of the 35 trees, mostly in good condition, would not have a significant impact on nesting birds. There would be a meeting for public comment on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> with the final decision made by Traffic and Safety Commission at the end of October. She asked the Commission for direction.

Commissioner Kindle stated concern about removing trees that provided noise block from both the highway and the train tracks, and was leaning toward a Class Two path instead.

**Public Comment:** A resident from 700 Solano Avenue stated that the trees did a lot to diminish noise and was in favor of keeping them.

Urban Forester Tony Wolcott stated that if the trees were removed they would be missed for screening the tracks, as well as being one of the few spots along Cleveland that had vegetation. He stated that the trees also functioned to slow drivers down on a dangerous and fast moving street, and recommended saving the trees and putting in speed bumps.

Commissioner Mullarkey stated that the trees were the only ones in the area. Commissioner Kindle agreed, but was not concerned about the removal of Eucalyptus. Chair Pilch stated the importance of looking at all possibilities and recommended obtaining another consultants opinion.

Director Chaney stated that she was hearing that it seemed important to keep the trees, and there needed to be further study on accommodating a bike path.

Commissioner Class questioned if there was access to the easement on the Caltrans property and if not, it seemed premature to plan. Director Chaney stated that Caltrans had been pressed to accommodate bike paths and she was optimistic about their cooperation.

Chair Pilch stated that it was often necessary to construct bike paths in segments. He further stated that a Class One bike path was the preferred alternative and the best solution would be to keep the trees as well as the Class One path. Commissioner Trout stated concern about the effect the installation of a bike path would have on the tree root systems, whichever bike class level was chosen.

Chair Pilch stated that from his perspective, it was sometimes necessary to remove trees to keep from compromising design as long as replanting was planned as well. He recommended delaying voting on a motion until the October meeting when some questions could be answered, and Commissioner Trout agreed.

**Motion:**

Motion to recommend to Council that any further proposals with regard to the bike path on the 800 and 900 blocks of Cleveland show preference for a Class One bike path plan and preservation of the street trees, but if a Class One was not possible, preservation of the trees and Class Two path made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Mullarkey. Motion not carried. 2 ayes, 3 no and 1 abstention.

**6-2. Eagle Scout Project: Graham Guletz will present an Eagle Scout project for the constructing of an ADA ramp at the Bulb.** Graham Guletz presented a proposal to the Commission for his Scout Troop to construct a 30 ft. boardwalk/ADA ramp at the Albany Bulb. He stated that the Troop would use pressure treated wood and would follow ADA guidelines. He stated that the City would pay for the materials, and it would be a two to three day project with six to ten scouts participating.

Commissioner Kindle stated that Orchard Supply Hardware often donated to such projects and the Community Garden had shovels the scouts could borrow.

**Motion:**

Motion to approve the Eagle Scout ramp project made by Commissioner Mullarkey and seconded by Commissioner Class. Motion carried all in favor.

**6-3. Amendment to Resolution re Dogs at Memorial Park: The Commission will consider amending the resolution passed in July to include no dogs on the ball field at Memorial when the field has been rented.** Director Leach stated that she had received some requests from renters to ban dogs while they were using the field and she recommended amending the resolution to include renters.

Commissioner Kindle stated that the amendment should include language banning dogs when renters were on the field, as well as other sports activities such as pickup games. Director Leach stated that enforcement could be difficult if the participants did not have a permit and the original agreement with the dog community did not include being banned during all sports activities.

Commissioner Class stated that it was hazardous to have dogs on the field when any ball sports were taking place. Chair Pilch stated that it seemed sufficient to include language to include renters, and not go further.

**Motion:**

Motion to recommend amending the dog resolution to include no dogs when renters were on the field made by Commissioner Mullarkey. Motion not seconded.

**Motion:**

Motion to recommend amending the dog resolution to include no dogs when permitted users and other sports activities were occurring on the ball field made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Trout. Motion carried 5 ayes and 1 no.

**6-4. Tree Task Force Update: Update from the Tree Task Force.** Commissioner Trout stated that there was no update until the meeting on the following week had taken place and the Task Force needed one more member.

Chair Pilch stated that a vote on the tree list should take place at the next meeting as well as discussion on extending or changing the scope of the Task Force. Commissioner Trout stated that the Task Force needed to move on to other tasks such as planting methods and information about tree choices.

Director Leach stated that she would send out the current scope of work to Commissioner Trout to mark and track changes, then forward to the Commission for review.

**6-5. Next Meeting: Next meeting scheduled for October 8, 2009, 7:00pm.**

**7. Future Agenda Items:** WW money, Cleveland St. Bike path/tree removal, State Park closure, tree list and Task Force scope of work, fencing at Memorial tennis courts/netting.

**8. Adjournment: 8:42pm**