



**A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2009**  
**Albany Community Center**  
**Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Ave.**  
**7:30 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:05p.m. Commissioners present: Chair Pilch, Commissioners Class, Como (7:32), Kindle, and Trout. Excused Commissioners Mullarkey and Cunningham.

Staff present: Director Penelope Leach and Robin Mariona.

- 2. Approval of Minutes: 2009**

**Motion:**

Motion to approve minutes as corrected from October 2009 made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Class. Motion carried all in favor.

- 3. Public Comment:** None

- 4. Announcements/Communications:** It was announced that Heather Cunningham, the new Commissioner replacing Kim Linden would attend her first meeting in December.

- 5. Director's Report:** Director Leach stated that the new dog signs and ordinance notifications had been posted at Memorial Park, and a Plexiglas bulletin board would be installed soon for posting rental times and dates. Memorial Park fields would close from Nov. 30-Feb. 1, 2010 and Ocean View from Nov. 30-March 1, 2010 for the winter season.

Director Leach reported that the batting cages and bullpen at Ocean View were near completion. She stated that the Eagle Scout project at the Bulb had been completed and the concrete path at the Ocean View garden had been poured.

Chair Pilch reported that Council had passed the Dog Ordinance Resolution recommended by the Commission, excluding "other sports activities on the field".

Director Leach stated that the school district had hired a consultant to look at the playing fields and give recommendations with regard to Title 9 issues. School Superintendent Marla Stevenson intended to schedule meetings with all field user stakeholders to try and reach a level of agreement. She would then take recommendations to the City Council. Director Leach stated that the City did not have gender equity issues; because all fields for boys and girls sports were scheduled equally, but it was alleged the high school had violations particularly with the permanent mound. Once Superintendent Stevenson completed her meetings, she hoped to bring the resulting requests before the Council.

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

**6-1. Measure WW: Update from November 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting. Next steps:** Director Leach stated that Council had approved three projects for WW funds; the rubberized surface at Ocean View, the Teen Center and the Bulb project. The rest of the funds remained unallocated.

Director Leach stated that the Commission may want to consider asking Council for direction on their vision for the Ohlone Greenway. She stated that if Council were interested in pursuing the project, the Commission could come up with a general plan and identify a process for arriving at decisions for Greenway usage.

Commissioner Kindle asked to see a copy of the Gates and Associates plan for the Greenway. Director Leach stated that she would try to find a place for the Commission to view the plans and bring the latest BART retrofit schedule to the next meeting.

Director Leach stated that Council had a December meeting planned with Assembly Woman Nancy Skinner to discuss strategies for moving forward on Pierce St. Park. Council members agreed that if there was a purchase agreement on the table, they would be willing to spend WW funds on it.

**Public Comment:** An Albany resident asked if WW funds were going to be used on the Senior Center project. Director Leach said no.

**6-2. Tree Task Force: General update including tree list and scope of work.** Commissioner Trout handed out a revised scope of work for the Task Force that included; creation of informational material to be posted on the website, spending of the remaining \$5,000 Task Force fund and a placeholder item that would serve the possibility of changes in the City code.

Director Leach stated that the Commission would need to make some decisions regarding the continuation of the Task Force, including whether it should be a continuing committee. If so, it should be re-named, re- recruited and recommendations about scope of work and meeting times submitted to Council for approval.

Members of the Task Force Kindle and Trout stated that it had been difficult to meet, and many times there was no quorum. Chair Pilch stated that it may be time to bring the Task Force back to the Commission as a sub-committee or as a continuing agenda item. Commissioner Kindle suggested that the Task Force needed to meet one more time to complete final business and recommend the next step to the Commission. Director Leach stated that the Task Force should come up with a proposal with recommendations for the continued scope that could be attached to a staff report to Council.

Commissioner Trout stated that the California Buckeye and Red Horse Chestnut included on the tree list could be toxically problematic if they were concentrated in one area but not if they were spread out. He stated that it was his inclination not to have them on the list, but if they were, to limit density as they had positive visual aspects. Commissioner Class stated that they could be included on the list as long as any dangers were clear to the public. Commissioner Kindle stated that he would like a wildlife expert opinion on including the trees and their potential danger to local wildlife.

Commissioner Kindle suggested that the last meeting of the Task Force had four items to discuss; the tree list including new additions, parking strips, proposed scope of continued work and recommendations for spending the remaining \$5,000.

**6-3. Senior Center Expansion: Update on grant opportunities and community meetings:** Director Leach stated that the City had a good opportunity for funding the Senior Center expansion, by qualifying for Proposition 84 grant funds. The submission deadline was March 1, 2010 and the proposal needed to include 5 community meetings to gain grassroots information from the community. The intention was to include a community garden element to the project. Architect Todd Jersey would be present at all the meetings with a basic sketch for comment, and the goal was to get the grant information to Council by

the first meeting in February. The Commission was invited to any or all of the upcoming meetings and the development concept plans would be presented at the December meeting.

**Public Comment:** An Albany resident stated that it was her understanding from attending meetings that had already taken place, that the expansion would be as a recreation center and not just a senior center, and that should be made clear to the public

Director Leach stated that the primary use would be for seniors, and other activities would be in the evenings or on weekends, similar to the way it was currently used. She further stated that the design was meant to insure the least amount of impact on the neighbors as possible.

**6-4. Community Gardens: General discussion on creating more community gardens in Albany.** Chair Pilch stated that there had been lots of interest in community gardens and the Commission should brainstorm on where more gardens might be located in the City.

Commissioner Kindle stated that the Ocean View Garden had very low public visibility and other choices should be more visible. He stated that Ohlone Greenway would be ideal, but it would not be possible until after the BART retrofit and would it be possible to put temporary plots at the new senior center location until the building was torn down. Commissioner Class suggested the green strip along Key Route. The northeast corner of Albany Hill was suggested as a possibility, Memorial Park next to the tennis courts and Catherine's Walk.

Commissioner Trout suggested that the City might act as a broker that would put homeowners that might want a garden but were not able to do the work, together with other residents that wanted to do the labor but did not have the space to garden. He further asked for the costs associated with creating the Ocean View Garden and the possibility of community orchards. Chair Pilch stated that there were questions about the demand and the possibilities of space sharing that he would like to understand.

Commissioner Como suggested inviting Berkeley Edible School Yard Garden participants to gather information from their experience and Bibo Turman who was involved with the edible school yard projects.

**6-5. Next Meeting: Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009**

7. **Future Agenda Items:** Further discussion of Community Gardens including the Ocean View members, school chef Clell Hoffman, information and discussion of policy for sports field usage by the school district.
8. **Adjournment:** 8:52pm

