



**A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 11, 2010**  
**Albany Community Center**  
**Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Ave.**  
**7:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:00p.m. Commissioners present: Chair Pilch, Commissioners Como (7:42), Cunningham, Kindle, Mullarkey and Trout. Excused Commissioner Class.

Staff present: Director Penelope Leach and Robin Mariona.

- 2. Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:**

Motion to approve minutes from January 7, 2010 made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Mullarkey. Motion carried all in favor.

- 3. Public Comment:** None

- 4. Announcements/Communications:** Commissioner Kindle commented that skateboard metal deterrents had been installed by the Senior Center. He thought installation of deterrents should come before the Commission for approval before Maintenance installed them. Commissioner Mullarkey stated that the block party plantings she had seen looked good.

- 5. Director's Report:** Director Leach reported that the free fruit tree giveaway had been very popular and all were welcome to participate in park cleanup days. Cleanup dates were listed on the back page of the activity guide. She stated that there would be no Lighting and Landscaping discretionary funds this year and the Council had passed the location switch for the Teen Center and Friendship Club. Finally, the last draft of the grant for the Senior Center expansion would be mailed the following week.

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

**6-1. Community Gardens: General discussion on creating more community gardens in Albany.**

Chair Pilch stated that neither group had met since the last meeting, but the Friday group was scheduled for Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. The sight list was; Terrace Park, Ohlone Greenway, Memorial Park, Dartmouth Tot Lot, Key Route median, San Gabriel Ave. at the Ohlone Greenway, Catherine's Walk, Albany Hill and Creek side Park.

**6-2. Ohlone Greenway: Discuss possible improvements to the Ohlone Greenway after the BART retrofit project is completed.**

Chair Pilch stated that he would ask Community Development Director Ann Chaney to put an electronic version of the BART Greenway plans on the City website if possible.

Director Leach stated that the Greenway's primary function was as a pathway/commuter route. She asked the Commission to determine if there were any other functions the Greenway should have, and what functions it should not have. She further stated that the pedestrian pathway closer to the street that was not being changed by the BART project, would eventually need repair. Bond money from the Community Center could possibly be used after 2013 for the project.

Commissioner Kindle stated that some ideas were; a par course, baci ball courts, a full size chess board, more benches, a wildlife habitat garden and fruit trees. Chair Pilch stated that the Greenway had a dual function as a commuter route and recreation area. He questioned the Commission as to whether they were interested in further developing either of those purposes.

Commissioner Trout stated that it should serve educational purposes as well including; a street tree walk, demo plantings, butterfly garden and sustainable perennials. Commissioner Mullarkey stated that she viewed it as a park with many uses and encouraged the installation of dog stations. Commissioner Cunningham stated it should be kept accessible as a commute path, replacement trees should not cast shadows that make commuting difficult, include signage, be well lit and child friendly. Director Leach stated that she would find out how many trees in total were being replaced.

Chair Pilch stated that he was interested in possibly claiming some of Masonic between Garfield and Washington to add to the open space on the Greenway. He further commented that more bike racks should be provided near Solano, the Middle School, Marin and Portland and bulb outs helped to protect pedestrians.

**6-3. Information from the Waterfront Committee meetings re Dogs at the Waterfront: Staff will pass along information that has been discussed at the Waterfront Committee meetings regarding dogs at the Waterfront. (Attached is a summary of their discussions)** Director Leach referred the Commission to the informational staff report from Director Ann Chaney included in the packet. Commissioner Kindle stated that there were errors in the report including; dogs in Berkeley were always required to be on a leash in parks and no posted signage was not an excuse for lack of awareness of the laws.

Commissioner Kindle stated that he had attended the meeting and suggested the Waterfront Committee look at the Dog Ordinance created by the Commission. He stated that the Committee members were concerned that Albany residents were not using the area, problems with dogs off leash disturbing the wildlife and charging usage fees for dog walkers.

**6-4. 2010 Commission Planning: The Commission will identify any known projects, policies, events for 2010 in an effort to develop a 2010 work plan. (Attached are examples from Planning/Zoning and Traffic/Safety Commissions)** Director Leach stated that a City workshop was planned for Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> to begin discussing the City's mission and vision statements and core values. Department heads would present strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in preparation for the next year's budget to help Council formulate a plan with the available resources. Director Leach asked the Commission to give recommendations for a 2010 work plan.

Director Leach stated that the plans and events already in place for 2010 in the Recreation Dept. were; The Arts and Green Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Holiday Hoopla, Sept. Concerts in the Park, Chinese New Year, MLK Day and likely Dinner with Albany.

Chair Pilch asked the Commission if there were long term projects, goals policies or procedures they wanted to include. He stated that the Ohlone Greenway, Community Gardens, plans for the dead-end at Garfield to the Greenway were goals he had identified. Commissioner Mullarkey stated that procedures and implementation for accessibility at the parks were important. Commissioner Kindle agreed and stated that the walkway along Thousand Oaks and Community Garden access was important. He suggested a subcommittee.

Commissioner Kindle suggested moving the Commission to City Hall so meetings could be broadcast. Director Leach stated that most other commissions or committees submitted special requests for cable casting and that it required staff to accomplish. She suggested uploading audio might be a more do-able alternative. Chair Pilch suggested a trained volunteer might be helpful and asked that cable casting be a future agenda item.

Albany Hill Master Plan, ongoing discussion of a Pierce St. Park, the completion of the Joint Use Agreement, Community Gardens and demonstrations on roof and container gardens were suggested as projects for the Commission to work on.

**7. Next Meeting:** Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2010.

**8. Future Agenda Items**

**9. Adjournment: 8:27pm**