



**A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 14, 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 Class, Como (7:37), Cunningham, Kindle, Mullarkey and Trout.

Staff present: Director Penelope Leach and Robin Mariona.

- 2. Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:**

Motion to approve minutes from December 14, 2009 made by Commissioner Mullarkey and seconded by Commissioner Class. Motion carried 5 in favor 1 abstention.

- 3. Public Comment:** Tony Wolcott encouraged the Commission to attend tree planting events around the City. Locations, times and dates were listed on the back cover of the Recreation Activity Guide.
- 4. Announcements/Communications:** Commissioner Kindle stated that he was Chair of Team Albany for the St. Baldrick's event planned for St. Patrick's Day and asked the Commission to participate. Commissioner Mullarkey stated that she had attended the last Voices to Vision session. Chair Pilch stated that he had fielded questions at a School Board meeting regarding the Teen Center Friendship Club switch.
- 5. Director's Report:** Director Leach stated that she had three items; first were copies of the BART plans for the Ohlone Greenway that she handed out to the Commission. She stated that it would be at least 2 years before anything could be done so there was plenty of time to plan. The second item was notification that the City Council and School Board meetings were moving back to City Hall now that the retrofit project was complete. The last item was an invitation to the Commission to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Commit to Serve volunteer event taking place at the Community Center on MLK Day Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 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.**

The Commission formed two subcommittees of three members each to review locations for community gardens. Commissioners Cunningham, Kindle and Trout would meet on Fridays and Commissioners Class, Mullarkey and Pilch would take weekends. Urban Forester Tony Wolcott was welcomed to join. Director Leach stated that the experience gained implementing the Ocean View Garden would help the new gardens to have better focus.

**6-2. Location Switch for Friendship Club and the Teen Center: Commission to consider recommending switching the locations of the Friendship Club and the Teen Center. (Staff report attached)**

Director Leach stated that letters and school etree notifications had been sent out to inform the community of the intended switch of locations. The responses from the supervisors and email had been small but positive.

Commissioner Kindle asked how volunteers would get over to Ocean View. Director Leach stated that it was possible they could walk, but it could be talked about further. Chair Pilch stated that the play equipment at Ocean View would not be as good for the Friendship Club as Memorial's because it was mostly for younger children. Director Leach stated that the move would be a good one for City purposes.

**Motion:**

Motion to support the location switch of the Friendship Club and the Teen Center made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Class. Motion carried all in favor.

Director Leach stated that she would present a staff report to Council on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**6-3. Field Use/Modifications Proposal from AUSD: Review and consider recommendation from AUSD to modify uses and field configurations at the Ocean View, Memorial and Cougar fields to better serve baseball and softball groups in Albany. (School District's Staff report attached.)**

Director Leach stated the School District Staff report gave their perspective on the field modifications and the School Board had voted unanimously in favor of the changes.

Commissioner Class asked about the \$100,000-120,000 allotment mentioned in the report and whether the School Board was committed to spending it. Director Leach stated that they had voted to spend the money on the improvements.

**Public Comment:** An Albany resident asked about a 2 foot easement along Ocean View field for the Bay Trail connector. Director Leach stated that she would need to verify possible movement of the fence. The same resident asked about volunteer projects for the fields. Director Leach stated that volunteers could participate in making the fields bigger or smaller and plant grass. Superintendent Stevenson would present the plans to Council in February.

Dave Preuss stated that he was in full support of the changes.

Commissioner Mullarkey asked if all stakeholders were in support of the changes. Director Leach stated that they were and the Joint Use agreement had legal language to protect the City's interests.

**Motion:**

Motion to support and endorse the proposition from the School District for field changes made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Mullarkey. Motion carried all in favor.

Commissioner Mullarkey commended the work of all the stakeholders.

**6-4. Tree Task Force: Update from Tree Task Force including Tree List and work plan.**

Commissioner Trout stated that the tree list had been completed and the Task Force had voted to disband with the agreement to function as an advisory group if necessary. The Task Force had allocated their money to nursery planting and entrusted any leftover to the discretion of Tony Wolcott.

Commissioner Kindle stated that the California Buckeye should be removed from the list because of its possible toxicity. Commissioner Trout stated that it was not likely that the trees would be dangerous if planted with restrictions as recommended on the list. Tony Wolcott stated that the Buckeye had unique and desirable qualities and should be left on the list.

**Motion:**

Motion to approve and adopt the tree list as presented by the Tree Task Force made by Commissioner Mullarkey and seconded by Commissioner Trout. Motion carried 6 in favor and 1 opposed.

**6-5. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair: Commission to vote on Chair and Vice Chair to serve Feb 2010 through January 2011.** Commissioner Kindle nominated Commissioner Mullarkey for Chair and she declined. Commissioner Mullarkey nominated Commissioner Kindle for Chair and he declined. Commissioner Kindle nominated Commissioner Class for Chair and he declined. Commissioner Mullarkey nominated Chair Pilch for another term and he accepted. Commissioner Kindle nominated Commissioner Class for Vice Chair and he accepted.

**Motion:**

Motion to accept Chair Pilch as Chair for another term made by Commissioner Mullarkey. Motion carried all in favor

**Motion:**

Motion to accept Commissioner Class as Vice Chair made by Commissioner Kindle. Motion carried all in favor.

**6-6. Next Meeting: Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2010.**

**7. Future Agenda Items: Ohlone Greenway, Community Gardens.**

**8. Adjournment: 8:01pm**

*Please note that if you provide your name and address when speaking before the Commission/Committee/Board it will become part of the official public record, which will be posted on the Internet.*

NOTE: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council/Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Community Center counter located at 1249 Marin Ave during normal business hours, 8:30am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday.