

**A Regular Meeting Of The Park And Recreation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 11 , 2007**  
**Albany Community Center**  
**1249 Marin Ave.**  
**7:15 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order:** 7:21 p.m. Commissioners present: Vice Chair Linden, Piller, So, Mullarkey, Kindle. Excused Trout.

Staff present: Melinda Chinn, Rich Cunningham and Robin Mariona

**II. Review of Minutes: 2006:** Motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2006 with corrections by Commissioner Piller and seconded by Commissioner Kindle. Motion approved 3 ayes and 2 abstentions.

**III. Public Forum:** None

**IV. Comments/Announcements by Commissioners:** Commissioner Kindle welcomed the new members and stated that the School Board had extended the application period for all appointees to all it's commissions, and he would stay on the Park and Recreation Commission until a replacement was found for him.

**V. Comments/Announcements by the Director of Recreation & Community Services:** Director Chinn welcomed the new Commissioners and stated that she had given them copies of the Master Plan for review.

**VI. Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items:**

**1. Nomination of officers:**

**1.1 Nomination and election of Commission Chair:** Commissioner Kindle nominated Commissioner Piller. Commissioner Piller nominated Commissioner Linden and asked for discussion before he declined the nomination. He stated that Commissioner Linden had experience and as Vice Chair of the former Commission he would defer to Commissioner Linden for the Chair position if she were interested. Commissioner Linden agreed to accept the nomination. Nomination accepted 5 ayes.

**1.2 Nomination and election of Commission Vice Chair:** Commissioners agreed to wait until Commissioner Trout was present before nominating a Vice Chair.

**2. Parks Rehabilitation Project:**

**2.1 Report from the Council Meeting of 1/8/2007 on authorization to bid project and any follow up items:** Director Chinn stated that construction schedule for Memorial Park was on track to begin when school let out. One or more contractors could bid on the contracts. Several bid deducts were identified by the Council including the community garden, playground and picnic area at Ocean View and the sidewalk at Carmel and Thousand Oaks.

**2.2 Bid Schedule:** Director Chinn stated that bids were due to go out in early Feb. and due back in early March with all parks currently on track.

**2.3 Status of the projects:** Manager Cunningham stated that the selection of a construction manager was in process and 3 to 6 resumes for an individual with significant landscape background would be considered. It was be important to dovetail the selection of the manager with the dates of the construction projects. Commissioner Piller stressed the importance of hiring a qualified landscape specialist for the projects to ensure a good outcome. Barry Whitacker would be working on the civic center project.

Director Chinn stated that she would be meeting with the new Commissioners to bring them up to speed on the projects begun over the past couple of years, and the restrooms would be open for use in the next couple of weeks. Manager Cunningham stated that there would be portions of the parks that would remain operational during construction for non-organized users.

**Public Comment:** Nan Wishner stated that there were public art components to the parks projects that Barry Whitacker had been very helpful with, and it would be appreciated if the construction manager had experience with public art. Manager Cunningham stated that Mr. Whitacker's primary focus would be the civic center project, but he would have limited availability for other projects as well.

### **3. Report from the Public Works Manager**

**3.1 Flooding prevention and asphalt repair of tree root damaged streets:** Manager Cunningham reported that there was private property flooding problems in seven locations on Ramona and San Carlos due to asphalt buckling from tree roots that would eventually cause liability claims if they were not dealt with. There would most likely be collateral damage to the trees in question to restore the asphalt and drainage on the street side and the arborist would need to be consulted. The trees were mainly camphor and one magnolia.

Commissioner Kindle questioned if there would be tree removal as a result of the problems. Manager Cunningham stated that they did not anticipate removal, and the City arborist and a contractor would be on hand during the process. The cost would be covered by street maintenance funds and was estimated at twenty to forty thousand dollars and a reliable contractor would be important due to the start/stop element to the work. The work would begin in Feb or March depending on the weather and the Ransom Company would most likely be the contractor due to their reliable work in the past.

**Public Comment:** Mark Bowman stated that in his experience, fertilizing the trees before shaving the roots in a lengthwise cut would help the trees to recover from root damage and disease.

Manager Cunningham stated the importance of developing a managed plan for the urban forest.

### **4. Arts Committee Report**

**4.1 Art in the park update:** Nan Wishner stated that the "Rose Wave" design had been chosen by the Committee for Ocean View Park and would most likely go to the Council for approval the first meeting in Feb. Installation would take place in Sept. if approved. Three finalists had been selected for Terrace Park and they would be providing models of their work for display in the Community Center for public comment the last week in Jan. or the first week in Feb. The three finalists for the Memorial Park art project had been chosen and were pending approval by the Committee due to contacting a reference for one of the artists. The

art zone for Memorial Park would be located on the south side. The models would be displayed at the Community Center the beginning of March for public comment.

The final meeting of the Terrace Park panel was scheduled for Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> and selection would take place from the three models and artist interviews. The final meeting for Memorial Park would take place on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Wishner stated that the Arts Committee was clearly on track for full installation by Oct. 2007.

**4.2 Ordinance for Public Art information:** Nan Wishner, Chair of the Public Arts Subcommittee, stated that many cities had an ordinance that levied a percentage cost on new construction to provide a stream of money for art projects to add art to landscape of cities. The developers were given a choice to pay the money to an Art Committee and leave the choosing of the place and project to them, or they could choose to have the art on their developed property as long as it was in public view. She further stated that the ordinance chosen by the Art Committee for approval by the City provided for both options. The typical range of percentage was 1-2%. The proposed City ordinance was asking 1.75% for private projects and 1.5% for public projects. 15% of the fund would go to administrative tasks.

Director Chinn stated that Planning Manager Jeff Bond, had received the draft of the ordinance from the Arts Committee and would be reviewing it and meeting with both the Arts Committee to discuss his suggestions, and with the Planning and Zoning Commission. It would most likely be ready to go before the Council for approval in May. She further stated that the Planning Commission suggested the possibility of developing an Art Master Plan for the City.

**Public Comment:** Mark Bowman questioned whether the neighborhoods would have any input into the chosen art. Chair Wishner stated that there was always public process in all the park projects.

## **5. Integrated Pest Management Program**

**5.2 Community Input Meeting:** Chair of the IPM Task Force Nan Wishner reported that there was a Community Input Day planned for Mon. evening Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:45 pm at the Albany Senior Center. The meeting would include a presentation by IPM consultant Steven Ash. The group would then divide into breakout groups to discuss pest problems and develop strategies for dealing with them. The Task Force would provide a survey for the community to share their views on aesthetics and chemical use, charts, information and pictures to determine a sense of community tolerance for pests and the hurdles they would be willing to go through before a chemical solution was reached on City property.

Commissioner Kindle stated that he thought it would be beneficial for the IPM policy to include the proposed public garden and the participants to be under obligation to follow the IPM rules set up by the City.

**5.1 Status report on the IPM Task Force:** Chair Wishner stated that the Task Force would move forward with the drafting process based on information ascertained from the Community Meeting, and should be ready to submit the draft to the Commission by April or May. Commissioner Piller stated that although it had taken longer than the original six-month anticipated timeline for completion of the Task Force assignment, it would be completed in under a year. He further stated that that any additions or changes to the Task Force membership at this point would likely slow down the completion process.

Commissioner Piller made a motion to confirm the composition of the Task Force as two members of the Commission and six members of the public as well as acknowledgment that the original timeline of six months set by the Commission was ambitious, but it was now expected that completion of the charge would be June 2007. Commissioner Kindle seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** Mark Bowman questioned what the public garden rules would be with regard to IPM and the use of chemicals. Chair Linden stated that the rules regarding the garden would be in contract form for the participants, but the Task Force needed to complete it's charge first before recommending exactly what those rules would be.

Motion approved all in favor.

## **6. Student Commissioner Discussion**

**6.1 Discussion and possible recommendation regarding Commissioner Kindle's idea regarding the possibility of a student commissioner (non-voting):** Commissioner Kindle stated that the teenage population in the City was under represented and wanted to recommend to the Council that they appoint a student to the Park and Recreation Commission from the high school student council.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kindle to ask the City Council to appoint a non-voting teen resident member of high school age to the Parks and Recreation Commission, and that the Council give the Commission authority to take in applications and make recommendations to the Council for the position. Motion seconded by Commissioner Mullarkey.

**Public Comment:** Mark Bowman questioned whether the student could receive extra credit for the position. Director Chinn stated that it would be up to the student to ask the School Board for extra credit.

Motion approved all in favor.

Commissioner Piller thanked Commissioner Kindle for four years of service to the Parks and Recreation Commission, as it was possibly his last meeting, and particularly thanked him for his work on the Master Plan. Commissioner Kindle stated that he wanted to continue Commission work for the school district.

**VII. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner So. All in favor. 9:04pm

**Next Regular Meeting– Thursday Feb. 8, 2007 @ 7:15 pm**