

A Special Meeting Of The Park And Recreation Commission
IPM Task Force
Wednesday March 28, 2007
Albany City Hall
Council Chambers
1000 San Pablo Ave.
7:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order:** 7:26 p.m. Task Force Members Present: Chair Wishner, Piller, Glasner, Mattson, Thomas, Carlsen, Fabian, and Linden.

Staff present: Melinda Chinn

- II. Public Forum:** None

- III. Review of Minutes:**

- IV. Correspondence:** None

- V. Director's Report:** Director Chinn stated that the Maintenance Supervisor position was close to being filled after being vacant for approximately a year and Dennis Smith had been chosen as the interim Director of Recreation and Community Services.

- VI. Review and discussion related to:**

1.IPM policy first draft: Chair Wishner suggested each of the Task Force members write down what they thought the basic philosophical principles of the IPM policy should be, and the basic goals of IPM policy in the City of Albany, to help begin the discussion on the first section of the draft.

Member Mattson stated that her basic goal for the policy would be to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides, that the City should be a model for citizens and as such should have an ongoing program to study the latest IPM information and research to put into practice and provide education for the public. Member Linden stated that the most important thing was to maintain human and environmental health and the goal would be to structure decision-making to accomplish this. Member Fabian stated that the principle and goal would be to maintain the current practice of not using pesticides and chemicals. Member Thomas stated that the goal would be to eliminate the use of pesticides as far as possible.

Member Glasner stated that there should be a formalized policy, whichever path the Task Force decided to take, and to integrate practices into design and maintenance that were preventative. She further stated that there should be an open process to deal with problems as they arose. Member Carlsen stated that the principle should be what is stated in the Master Plan, which was to limit the use of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides as much as possible. There should be formalized rules and procedures to deal with organic methods of maintenance and upkeep, and rules and procedures set up to deal with troublesome issues that may need the limited use of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides when deemed necessary.

Member Piller stated that the mission of the policy should be consistent with the source document, the Master Plan, and the City's long-standing practice of not using pesticides or chemicals. Chair Wishner stated that the notion of stewardship should be included and ongoing sources for staff education. Methods for community participation and information as well as the addition of an advisor or consultant for IPM, like the City arborist, should also be included in section one.

Chair Wishner suggested returning to the draft to determine if everything the Task Force deemed important had now been mentioned for inclusion in section one, as well as the order and priority of the items. Member Piller stated that the sub-committee should take the additions and priorities, add them in and come back with another revision. Member Carlsen stated that he would want a true reference and criteria established in advance for the implementation committee to work with if the situation arose where they may need to consider the limited use of pesticides or herbicides as a last resort.

Member Linden stated that in the first paragraph the best intentions of the City should be stated in a positive manner. Member Carlsen stated that fertilizers still needed to be addressed and it was his understanding that organic fertilizers needed to be applied more often, which may lead to run-off problems, and were more expensive. Member Linden stated that from her experience, application of organic fertilizers more often was not necessarily needed, and the purpose was to promote health and healthy soil.

Chair Wishner stated that she had two suggestions. The first referred to Member Linden's proposal that the first paragraph needed to be a positive principal statement, the second had to do with Member Carlsen's idea that the implementation committee needed to have direction for the decision making process. Chair Wishner stated that she felt the sub-committee could rework the first paragraph and that she would ask Chris Geiger from San Francisco to share their method for decision-making and Steve Ash as well.

Chair Wishner questioned if the Task Force had any other points to address in section one. Member Carlsen stressed that beyond just the precautionary principle, there needed to be rigorous standards. Member Linden wanted to be sure that researching current practices to keep up with the most recent information was important. She further stated that fertilizers needed to be added to the list in section one.

Public Comment: Mark Bowman stated that he felt he was on the same page as the Task Force on most of the draft document but asked that all options be left open. He trusted the Public Works Dept. to continue their good work in using non-chemical options.

Chair Wishner questioned whether the Task Force had suggestions for section three. It was decided to strike the bold italicized phrase regarding the specific three to five year transition for moving to full organic fertilizers on the ball fields in favor of giving the implementation committee the authority to determine how to handle it in another section of the document. It was also noted that the implementation committee would not necessarily be the body to be the educational outreach for the community.

Chair Wishner stated that the sub-committee would keep working on the draft after taking into account the direction from the evenings discussion.

VII. Set future meeting(s): Wed., April 18, 2007, 7:30p.m.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.