

An Informational Meeting Of The Park And Recreation Commission
IPM Task Force
Wednesday February 21, 2007
Albany Senior Center
846 Masonic Ave.
7:30 p.m.

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

Staff present: Melinda Chinn, Richard Cunningham and Robin Mariona

- II. Public Forum:** James Shinnerer introduced himself as a member of the public.

- III. Review of Minutes:** Chair Wishner stated that evening would be an information only meeting due to inadequate notification, so minutes from Sept 27, Jan 11, and Jan 17 would be reviewed at the next meeting.

- IV. Correspondence: None**

- V. Director's Report:** Director Chinn reported that the turf type for Memorial Field had been decided to be 10% bluegrass and 90% tall fescue.

- VI. Review and discussion related to:**

1. Update from January Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting: Chair Wishner reported that the Commission requested the Task Force be completed with their charged tasks by June 2007 and asked that community garden standards be addressed in the final policy.

2. Community IPM Event that was held Jan. 29, 2007: Chair Wishner thanked all the members and staff for participating. She questioned whether the Task Force felt that there should be another meeting planned given the low attendance, and were they able to gather the intended information from the public sufficiently for their process.

Member Thomas stated that she could have done more to advertise the Jan. event and should they do another she could do more. Member Piller stated that outreach was important, but another meeting would slow the pace of the process down and the surveys may be sufficient further public information. There were 66 surveys returned from all 3 locations. Member Mattson suggested publishing the survey in the paper to elicit more public opinion.

Chair Wishner stated that she was wrestling with the thought that they had not had a thorough enough public process. Member Mattson suggested that those members with time could attend Albany organization meetings to talk about the Task Force and bring surveys for the members to fill out. Director Chinn stated that Member Mattson's idea was a good one rather than going through the time it would take for another meeting.

Public Comment: Mr. Shinnerer stated that putting an article in the Journal about IPM might be a good idea.

There was some discussion among the members about how to reach out to other groups such as the PTA, some field user groups and the Master Plan group. Members divided up the local schools to get on the PTA agendas and give them the surveys. Member Carlsen agreed to contact the field user groups to ask them to go to the City website and take the survey. The survey boxes in the City Hall, Community Center and Senior Center would be left out for one more month. Member Linden suggested an article in the Journal about the Task Force with pictures and contact people.

3. Survey response tabulation method: Chair Wishner stated that the yes/no questions were fairly easy, but the comments would need to be typed up by someone. Director Chinn stated that a volunteer tally and type the responses and Member Mattson stated that she would put in some time at tabulation.

4. SF IPM conference that was held Feb. 13, 2007: Chair Wishner stated that it was a very good conference with a keynote speaker from a design firm. The notion of sustainability was his primary focus and the idea that very small amounts of chemicals can have a profound response. She participated in the tour of the grounds where they were experiencing almost no weed problems without the use of synthetic fertilizer, composting, native plant landscaping and a restoration site. Manager Cunningham attended a presentation on weed control that was informative.

5. IPM policy draft: Chair Wishner stated that the drafting group would bring back an outline with headings, a first section and a range of language for the Task Force to review by late March. She questioned whether the Task Force felt they had gathered any information from the breakout groups. Member Piller stated that the turnout was so small the conclusions drawn were not necessarily representative of the community. Member Carlsen stated that his group did not rule out harsher methods if other treatments were not effective over time.

Chair Wishner stated that the draft would be circulated and collection of the survey would take place before the next meeting

VII. Set future meeting(s): Wed., March 21, 2007, 7:30p.m.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.