



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, July 9, 2009, Albany Community Center
Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Ave., 7:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 2009

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

For persons desiring to address the Commission/Committee/Board on an item that is not on the agenda please note that each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. The Brown Act limits the Committee's ability to take and/or discuss items that are not on the agenda; therefore, such items are normally referred to staff for comment or to a future agenda.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

6. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

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| 6-1 | Codornices Creek project between Kains and San Pablo: | The Commission will review proposals before they are presented to City Council re the Codornices Creek project between Kains and San Pablo |
| 6-2 | Buchanan Bicycle Path Plan: | The Plan currently includes several alternatives; the Commission will discuss and make a recommendation to Council as to which alternative they support. |
| 6-3 | BART update from Rich: | Staff to update the Commission on the BART retrofit project. |
| 6-4 | BMX Proposal: | A presentation by Stephen Blodgett, East Bay BMX, soliciting support for a regional BMX facility to be located in Berkeley. |
| 6-5 | Hours/Days No Dogs at Memorial Park Ball Field: | Per the new City ordinance, the Commission will discuss the hours/days in which no dogs will be allowed at the Memorial Park ball field. |
| 6-6 | OV Sports Field Update: | Staff to update the Commission on the Oceanview Sports Field improvements, which include a batting cage and bullpen. |
| 6-7 | Treescape in Albany: | Discuss the possibility of having a unified Treescape Policy for the City. |
| 6-8 | Tree Task Force Update: | Tree Task Force to update Commission on recent meetings. |
| 6-9 | Next Meeting: | No Commission meeting in August. Next meeting scheduled for September 10, 2009. |

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(Commission/Committee/Board Member announcement of requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items).

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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A Regular Meeting of the Parks And Recreation Commission Minutes
Thursday, June 11, 2009
Albany Community Center
Edith Stone Room, 1249 Marin Ave.
7:30 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:04p.m. Commissioners present: Chair Pilch, Commissioners Class, Kindle, Linden, and Trout (7:25). Excused: Commissioners Como And Mullarkey.

Staff present: Director Penelope Leach, Community Development Director Ann Chaney and Robin Mariona.

- 2. Approval of Minutes:**

Motion:

Motion to approve minutes from May 2009 as amended made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Class.

Motion carried all in favor.

- 3. Public Comment:** Peter Blodgett stated that regional BMX riders needed a venue for local youth, which he proposed be located at Caesar Chavez Park in Berkeley. Mr. Blodgett handed out promotional materials for the Commission to review and agreed to return in July, when the item would be on the agenda. He hoped that the City would support the idea, as Berkeley and Richmond had already done.
- 4. Announcements/Communications:** Chair Pilch stated that a member of the public had commented that when the City was involved in projects, it was important to keep the impact on the streetscape and street trees in mind, and asked that discussion be placed on July's agenda. Chair Pilch reminded the Commissioners that Voices to Vision community participation meetings were being held until the end of June and encouraged everyone's participation. Finally, Chair Pilch stated that he had represented for the Commission at the Green Albany Day event. He stated that comments included plant restoration on Albany Hill and more space for community gardens.
- 5. Director's Report:** Director Leach stated that City Engineer Barry Whittaker had passed away, and a memorial service for him would be held at the Community Center on Saturday June 13th at 12:30pm. She stated that he had been well liked and admired, and all would miss him.

Director Leach stated that the Waterfront Committee would be discussing dogs at the waterfront during their next meeting on Monday 6/15, if any Commissioners wanted to attend. She stated that she had received some emails that she would forward on to the Commissioners.

Director Leach stated that some of the ADA concerns mentioned at the May meeting had been addressed including; the cutout areas on the fixed ADA beds, handicapped parking and ADA ramps around the City. She stated that paths in the Ocean View Garden would be laid with concrete as soon as there were enough City projects to do several at one time.

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

6-1. Buchanan Bicycle Plan: Commission will review Plan and recommend alternatives to staff to present at the Traffic and Safety meeting. Community Development Director Ann Chaney distributed a handout to the Commission summarizing the bicycle route alternatives by segment as discussed in May's meeting, and an arborist report regarding possible tree removal. Property owners were being notified of possible tree removals as well.

Director Chaney stated that in segment one along Cornell, Traffic and Safety preferred the removal of street trees, kept parking and added bulb outs for new trees. The next segment from San Pablo to Jackson would be a Class 1 path with no trees removed. The segment from Jackson to Ocean View was the most difficult section and Traffic and Safety preferred Alternative 1 which would take out some trees, widened the sidewalk, and replant trees in bulb outs. Alternative 2 was the preferred plan for the last segment from Taylor to Buchanan. She stated that there would be one new traffic light at Pierce St., and a new dedicated right turn on eastbound Buchanan at the Gill Tract.

Commissioner Kindle stated concerns about safety hazards and less play area at Ocean View School. Commissioner Linden recommended posting notices on the trees that were possibly going to be removed, as well as notifying the owners.

Director Chaney stated that once a project description had been developed, the environmental process would take place. She stated that the Traffic and Safety Commission would meet on the last Thursday of the month, and it might be helpful if a Commissioner could be there.

Chair Pilch stated that the bicycle path created an opportunity to design a streetscape on Buchanan St. He suggested proactive planting, preserving spaces where trees could be planted with a design in mind, mid block and corner bulb outs, and bicycle racks. He finally encouraged the public and Commissioners to attend the Traffic and Safety meeting.

6-2. Community Garden Policy Modifications: The Ocean View Community Gardens members are requesting minor policy changes. Director Leach stated that there were some minor changes to the policy that were underlined in the staff report including; hours per month, locking of the gates, plot plan and diagram, adding to the steering committee, list of specific maintenance tasks, and first rights for relocation.

Motion:

Motion to approve changes to the Community Garden policy made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Class. Motion carried 4 in favor and 1 abstention.

Chair Pilch asked that the specific list of maintenance tasks be provided to the Commission in July.

6-3. Prop 40 Funds: Staff to recommend two projects for the remaining balance of Proposition 40 per capita funds: (1) a permanent stage at Memorial Park and (2) a rubberized surface at Ocean View Park to cover a portion of the play area. Director Leach encouraged the Commission to use the \$51,000 remaining balance, for the permanent stage at Memorial Park and the rubberized surface at Ocean View. She stated that the dimensions for the stage would be 35ft X 25ft X 15ft. located along the pathway to the Veteran's Building, would not impact any space for community gardens and the design would come back to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Linden stated that she would recommend walking the area designated for the stage before making a decision. Director Leach stated that it would be helpful to take care of the stage before the fall concert series, and using Prop 40 funds would take these two tasks off the Prop WW list.

Public Comment: Clay Larson asked a question regarding the cost of the stage, which was explained as an addition to the design with a step up and a ramp. Francisco Papalia stated that the stage was a good idea and a budget for the addition of electrical should be added.

Commissioner Kindle stated that the Arts Committee should participate in the design of the stage. Commissioner Linden asked that the decision be extended until July. Commissioner Trout urged the Commission not to postpone the decision and Commissioner Class stated that the electrical power should be added to the package.

Motion:

Motion to approve Prop 40 money for the rubberized surface at Ocean View and the stage at Memorial Park with electrical if possible made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Trout. Motion carried 4 in favor and 1 no.

6-4. Measure WW: Commission to recommend projects to Council for the use of WW funds. Chair Pilch stated that options for the funds had been discussed at length, and it was time to decide on recommendations to Council from the lists of projects generated by the Commission, the Waterfront Committee and from staff.

The Commission agreed that each Commissioner would choose 5 five projects with a total of 15 points to designate toward the projects that they favored. The most favored project would receive 5 points, then 4, 3, 2 and 1 in descending order of value and importance to each Commissioner. The Commission further agreed to use the maximum amount of the funds to get the greatest value.

Public Comment: Cathy Huell stated that she leaned toward the 3 projects recommended by the Waterfront Committee including trail improvement, bulb safety and cove and triangle improvement..

Pierce St. resident Robert Hamner stated that a group of neighbors had met with CALTRANS regarding the proposed park. He stated they appeared open to continued negotiations, but required top dollar for the purchase of the land. Another Pierce St. resident stated that CALTRANS wanted to find a creative solution if possible, and renewed a sense of urgency to take the opportunity to create park space. Both residents urged the Commission to designate WW funds for a Pierce St. park.

Another Pierce St. resident stated that CALTRANS did not think that the City had negotiated in good faith as their appraisal had not met CALTRANS standards, and hoped that the City would be more proactive.

Member of the Waterfront Committee, Francisco Papalia, stated that there were projects that could be eliminated from the list, by virtue of the fact that some projects could be funded through other sources including; the bathroom at the waterfront and the Bay Trail. He urged the Commission to fund the cove and triangle.

Clay Larson urged the Commission to fund the waterfront trail.

Commissioner Trout stated that two projects stood out for him; Pierce St, as it was the most underserved area of the City, though there were practical roadblocks, and the Ohlone Greenway, as it served the greatest number for the greatest good. Commissioner Kindle favored the Ohlone Greenway, the staff recommended project and the surfaces at Ocean View. Commissioner Class stated that determination of entitlement rights at Pierce St was critical. Chair Pilch stated that projects important to him were; Teen Center, Ohlone Greenway/community gardens, money aside for Pierce St purchase with concern for logistics, Ocean View play area and Bulb clean up.

Chair Pilch stated that staff would tally the totals, as each Commissioner verbally read their list. Director Leach stated that the final tallies were:

\$456,000 - Pierce St.

\$120,00 - Teen Center

\$125,000 - Ohlone Greenway

\$50,000 - Waterfront cove and triangle

\$20,000 - ADA improvements

\$771,000 Total

The Commission agreed that Council should know that the Commission agreed; to spend the entire amount on 5 projects, that the full vote would be presented to Council, the \$125,000 for the Greenway was a theoretical amount, the Pierce St allocation should be qualified with a timeframe by Council and the 6th project, the Waterfront Trail, was hard to leave off. The Commission further agreed that it was important to recommend that Council discover the entitlement rights to the Pierce St. property through a legal opinion and follow up on the CALTRANS meetings regarding the sound wall issue.

Motion:

Motion to recommend to Council, the top 5 projects with dollar amounts attached made by Commissioner Kindle and seconded by Commissioner Class. Motion carried all in favor.

6-5. Tree Task Force Update: Update from the Tree Task Force. Commissioner Trout stated that the next meeting would take place on June 17th at 7:30

6-6. Next Meeting: The Commission will discuss any conflicts with the meeting date and time for the July 9, 2009 meeting. The Commission had no conflicts with July 9th.

7. Future Agenda Items: Dog issues including times and dates for dogs at Memorial Park, update on Ocean View.

8. Adjournment: 10:10pm

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CITY OF ALBANY
Parks and Recreation Commission
STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: July 10, 2009

SUBJECT: The Commission will determine which days/times no dogs are allowed on the ball field area at Memorial Park.

REPORT BY: Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Per previous discussions select two afternoons/evenings per week when no dogs are allowed in the Memorial Park ball field area.

BACKGROUND

At the January 2009 Commission meeting, the Commission recommended that staff hold community meetings for each of Albany's parks: Memorial Park, Ocean View Park, the Ohlone Greenway, and Terrace Park. The purpose of the meetings was to hear from the community concerns regarding dogs in Albany's parks. On a number of occasions over the years, the Commission has heard from concerned citizens regarding how best to share the limited park space with the large number of dogs in Albany's parks. There have been concerns raised regarding safety, the need for a leash law, limiting hours in the parks when owners can bring their dogs to the parks, etc.

Neighbors within 150 feet of each park were sent notices with the dates, times, and location for all four of the meetings. Additionally, volunteers handed out flyers along the Ohlone Greenway, the information was posted on signs at each of the parks, and the information regarding the meetings was highlighted on the City's website.

As would be expected the meeting pertaining to Terrace Park and Memorial Park were well attended as the Commission has historically heard from neighbors frequenting Terrace and Memorial parks the most. There were no attendees at the Ocean View Park meeting except for staff and the assigned Dog ad Hoc Committee member. There were only two in attendance at the Ohlone Greenway meeting.

The Albany Dog ad Hoc Committee held two special meetings regarding the issues being raised at the Commission meetings. They support the Commission's recommendations contained in this staff report.

Residents from the Memorial Park meeting and the Terrace Park meeting highly recommended two things: (1) better signage listing the applicable City ordinances regarding dogs; and (2) doggie-bag dispensers strategically located in the parks where the dogs play and exercise.

There are currently two applicable ordinances:

- (1) It shall be unlawful for the guardian/owner to fail to immediately remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner any feces deposited by their dog. (Municipal Code 10-3.2)
- (2) Dogs must be under proper control and supervision of a capable person. (Municipal Code 10-4.2)

Staff is making arrangements to post signs with the above ordinances at each of the parks. Staff will also be adding to the signs the message, "Help keep our parks clean by placing trash in the proper receptacle."

Regarding the doggie bag stations, stations have been installed at Oceanview, Memorial, and Terrace Park.

DISCUSSION

At the Memorial Park meeting, citizens came to a consensus that they would be supportive of having two afternoon/evenings per week where no dogs were allowed in the park until after dark. Having a cut-off time of dark seemed to appeal to attendees as they reasoned that most families with their children would not play at the park after dark, but some dog owners might like to be in the park after dark. As a reminder, the City's current ordinance allows people to be in Memorial Park until 11:00 p.m. It should be mentioned that the discussion centered on the ball field area at Memorial Park.

Staff and the Commissioners recognized that without an ordinance, having times when dogs were not allowed in the park would be difficult to enforce; therefore, the Commission voted to recommend to Council and Council approved the following ordinance.

It shall be unlawful for dogs to be in designated areas during designated times and days in Albany's parks as set forth by the Albany City Council. The specific days, areas, and hours shall be adopted by resolution after considering recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Commission. At no time shall dogs be permitted inside the play structure areas at any of Albany's parks.

The ordinance was officially adopted at the June 15, 2009, Council meeting. Given that only the ball field at Memorial Park has been suggested to have days/times when no dogs are allowed, the Commission needs to determine what those days/times will be.

**CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: July 10, 2009

SUBJECT: Oceanview Field Improvements Update

REPORTED BY: Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

RECOMMENDATION

Information only.

BACKGROUND

In an effort to make the City's two fields, Memorial Field and Oceanview Field, equal in terms of amenities, the City will be constructing a batting cage and a bullpen at Oceanview. Memorial currently has a batting cage and bullpen. The Commission recommended the improvement to Council and Council approved them at the October 20, 2008, Council meeting.

The design work for the improvements was completed in December 2008; however, the project has been delayed for a number of reasons. Initially, the project was to be funded by State Park grants, but those funds were frozen in December 2008. Council approved using Measure R funds in February 2009, so that the project could be completed before the 2010 softball/baseball spring season. The City went out to bid for the project in February 2009; however, the bids came in high that expected. Additionally, due to changes in staff, the project has been further delayed.

Staff investigated using volunteer help to save costs, but after further review has elected to modify the project to allow the project to move forward and be constructed by a contractor. The two modifications being made are: (1) clay will be used as the surface inside the batting cage instead of concrete; and (2) a wood boarder will be used instead of concrete boarder around the bullpen. These two modifications will bring down the cost of the project. Given the modifications from the original plans, staff will go out for an informal bid by the end of July. Given that this is a relatively small project, once construction begins, the project should only take a couple of weeks to complete. Staff will ensure that construction does not disrupt the soccer season.

