

Community Services Advisory Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Redding Civic Center  
777 Cypress Avenue  
Redding, California  
September 13, 2006, 4:05 p.m.

## MINUTES

### 1. Attendance

Community Services Advisory Commissioner Peckenpaugh opened the meeting with the following commissioners present: Bandell and Parker. Absent were Commissioners McCoach and Waybright.

Also present were Community Services Director Niemer, Support Services Director Kersten, Development Services Director Hamilton, Recreation Superintendent Carpenter, Parks Superintendent Cannon and Community Services Executive Assistant Szynal.

### 2. Public Comment

None presented.

### 3. Consent Calendar

The [minutes from the regular meeting on June 14, 2006](#), the [minutes from the regular meeting on July 12, 2006](#), the monthly [Recreation Division Activity Report](#), the [Convention Center Activity Report](#), [Capital Projects List](#) and [Calendar](#) were presented.

**MOTION:** To approve Consent Calendar. (Made by Commissioner Bandell, Seconded by Commissioner Parker)

AYES: Commissioners Bandell, Parker and Peckenpaugh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners McCoach and Waybright

### 4. Oasis Specific Plan Status Report

Development Services Director Jim Hamilton presented an overview of the history of the Oasis Road Specific Plan (Specific Plan) and its application to future park space in the northeast quadrant of the City. The Specific Plan, the subject of numerous public meetings and hearings over the past five years, encompasses 700 acres and includes open space, commercial and

residential. Director Hamilton explained the differences between the three land use alternative options for this area (see attachment). After hearing all the public input, two years ago the Planning Commission sent to the City Council a land use option called the Planning Commission alternative, which identified several additional parks. However, the City Council selected a different alternative. Upon completion of the Environmental Impact Report, the Planning Commission took another look at the Specific Plan in their most recent meeting. The Planning Commission maintained their recommendation on land use for this area. Staff will be going to City Council in September with options for the Oasis Specific Plan. The Planning Commission's recommendation, which is consistent with the General Plan, will be presented as well as the City Council's previous preferred alternative and an environmentally superior option.

Commissioners discussed with Director Hamilton the differences between the three alternative plans as they apply to parks, trails and open space. Commissioner Bandell expressed concern regarding the relative dearth of park space within the Specific Plan. After discussion to gain better understanding of the three land use alternatives, the Commissioners agreed with the Planning Commission's recommendation, as it pertained to parks, trails and open space.

**MOTION:** Direct staff to include in their report to City Council that the Commission agrees with the Planning Commission recommendations. Encourage City Council to reconsider Planning Commission's recommendation regarding park siting and supporting the three parks and the acreage recommended. (Made by Commissioner Bandell, Seconded by Commissioner Parker)

AYES: Commissioners Bandell, Parker and Peckenpaugh  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Commissioners McCoach and Waybright

## **5. Parks Maintenance Division Workload Update**

Support Services Director Gerry Kersten provided the Commission with an outline of Park Maintenance areas of responsibilities. The Parks Division is responsible for the maintenance of parks, trails, athletic fields, water features, roadway medians, all of the City street trees (approximately 20,600), thousands of trees in the City's open spaces and green belts, along with the administration of all City landscape maintenance districts. Parks also assists with many special projects: ADA projects, safety projects, set-up for Recreation programs (i.e., Spooky Lagoon, regional swim meets), civic events such as Ducky Derby and the Arts and Crafts Fair. The Parks Superintendent is the resident consultant for new landscaping projects and their amenities.

Director Kersten noted the increased workload is a combination of major increases in park sites and acreage along with a slight decrease in staff. It was pointed out that the acreage itself does not paint a complete picture, as the complexity of the acreage is the real driver (i.e., turf areas, water features, lakes, landscape medians). Director Kersten praised the parks maintenance workers and the pride they take in their work.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh expressed her amazement at how much is done with the current number of parks employees. Commissioner Bandell received clarification that while the landscape districts are not directly maintained by parks staff, the contractors are managed by the Parks Superintendent.

Commissioners discussed their role in providing a policy statement or standards to give guidance on city landscape. Commissioners indicated staff might provide language which could be considered for adoption by the Commission and sent to City Council.

No action was required on this informational item.

## **6. Benton Dog Park Status Report**

Director Niemer provided a summary of the history of the Benton Dog Park and its status as a park. In 1927, the City acquired 400 acres in the area near Placer and Airpark Drive. In 1975, the City developed a small pocket park on that corner and around 1982, the park was expanded, the play equipment removed and the site converted to the single use (dog park) that is there today. In 1996, the City Council listed the dog park as surplus property, subject to relocating the dog park, if it were to be sold. However, the site is not actively marketed and still remains part of the Benton AirPark property. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must approve any disposal or use of the site. Current trends see the FAA desiring larger buffers and space around airports. The park itself is not a designated park in the General Plan, as it's ownership is held elsewhere. Nevertheless, staff does not see any risk to the dog park closing in the short or mid-term. Therefore, staff feels comfortable recommending moving forward with the Benton Dog Park Association (BDPA) on an improvement plan which would entail a modest investment.

In early May, Director Niemer responded to the BDPA on the list of improvements they presented in the Spring, including information on which items would be eligible for park development funding. Staff has not received a reply from the BDPA since the response was sent on May 3, 2006. Park Development funding is available for functions which increase capacity or expands the use of parks. Commissioner Bandell recalled his understanding that the BDPA would return to Commission with suggestions on how to improve the park. He noted that his expectation was that the BDPA would present the Commission with a list of suggestions, including a budget and work plan.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh expressed her concern that the drainage problem be addressed before the rainy season starts (in 4 to 6 weeks). Director Niemer noted that a combination of current department workload and staffing level may preclude this item being handled within that timeframe. Upon discussion, an agreement was reached with the BDPA, Director Kersten and Parks Superintendent Cannon on resolution of the drainage problem prior to the rainy season, with the BDPA paying a maximum of \$2,000 toward the resolution.

Director Peckenpaugh inquired into the status of the airport fence being moved, which would allow a perimeter walking trail to be fully established. Director Niemer mentioned she will be making a site visit with the contractor to provide grading so work on the perimeter trail can

begin. Discussion took place on using the leftover fencing to create a small dog area within the dog park. It was noted that this discussion needs to include the Training Club.

BDPA President Jan Katz presented a list of three items which they consider immediate priorities: lack of proper drainage, inadequate lighting and not enough trees or bushes for shade.

The second item of priority is the lighting - in the parking lot and the park itself. There is no lighting in the parking lot and the park currently has a coin-operated box which allows for lighting (four quarters for 1 hour of light). This box does not always function and to reach it you must cross a dark patch. Many people, particularly women, do not feel it is a safe situation. The BDPA would like the City to consider installation of lights in the parking lot and replace the coin box with a timer to light the park up until 10:00 p.m.

Director Niemer noted she has spoken with a City electrical technician regarding installation of another lamp on one of the existing poles in the parking lot and was told that this is not feasible. The coin-operated lighting was installed at the dog park based on staff's experience at South City Park with a timer. The lights at that park would frequently be turned on as a prank, which would result in calls from neighbors. It was felt that using the coin-operated box at the Benton Dog Park would be a good compromise. The Northern California Dog Club paid for the lights in partnership with the City a number of years ago, with the agreement that the lights would be on in the park on Tuesday night when the Dog Club is there. The coin-operated box is a way to make use of these fixtures every day, although the funds collected do not cover the entire cost of the electricity used.

Commissioner Bandell observed the lighting request could be separated into two issues, safety in the parking lot and lighting in the park itself. It was requested that Director Niemer receive clarification from the City Attorney whether park development funds would be available to fund parking lot lighting. Park Superintendent Cannon offered to research the cost of solar lighting for the parking lot.

## **7. Projects Updates**

Director Niemer provided updates on the following projects:

### Vista Ridge Park

Irrigation will be laid during the next month and a future community work day will be planned. Staff expect to dedicate the park by the end of this calendar year.

### Caldwell Memorial

The Rotary Club has laid decomposed granite and installed picnic tables at the site.

### Churn Creek Clean Up

This community-based clean up of the 17 miles of Churn Creek is planned for Saturday, September 16, with many groups coming forward to assist.

No action was required on these informational items.

**8. Directors' Comments**

Director Niemer indicated that the Youth Action Council has adopted Foxtail Park, which is located at the far end of Cypress Avenue, off of Heather Lane. The group is spending some of their project money to clean and brighten up this park. They will be holding a Saturday workday soon.

The Community Services Department is seeking to reclassify the two planner positions to project manager, to more accurately reflect the work that they actually perform.

It was noted that the dedication for the new Purple Heart monument on the south side of City Council Chambers on September 6 included a visit by Governor Schwarzenegger.

**9. Commissioners' Comments**

None presented.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business, at the hour of 6:06 p.m. Commissioner Peckenpaugh declared the meeting adjourned.

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GERRINE PECKENPAUGH, Acting Chair