

Community Services Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Redding City Hall
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, California
July 9, 2008, 4:03 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Community Services Advisory Commissioner Leona McCoach opened the meeting with the following commissioner present; Gerrine Peckenpaugh.

Also present were Community Services Director Kimberly Niemer, Support Services Director Gerry Kersten, Police Chief Leonard Moty, Assistant to the City Manager Greg Clark , Parks Superintendent Dan Cannon, Community Projects Manager Terry Hanson, Community Projects Manager Chris Glover, Tourism Officer Bob Warren, Tourism Development Representative Angela Udovich and Executive Assistant Mari Szynal.

PROJECTS UPDATES

Community Projects Manager Glover provided updates on the following projects:

Rivercrest Park

Construction has been progressing nicely, with the concrete poured and playground equipment installed within the past week.

Bikeway Plan Revision

The City has been working with Shasta County Public Health and local cycling groups to develop an assessment of existing roads to map their condition and suitability as bike routes.

Community Services Director Niemer provided updates on the following projects:

Freedom Festival

The July 4 Freedom Festival was cancelled because of air quality issues and lack of fire protection resources in the city due to the recent wildfires. Staff is currently working with all parties involved to select a new date in either September or October.

Recreation Summer Programming

The recent air quality problems has proved challenging as most of the recreation programs are held outside. Staff has been modifying some of the activities and the Redding School District has opened gymnasiums for program use.

New this summer is an open gym at Big League Dreams (BLD) on Saturdays from 7 to 11 pm. BLD is providing the facility and Recreation staff are providing the supervision. Everyone is welcome to come.

Recreation Superintendent Position

With Gordon Carpenter's retirement, the position of Recreation Superintendent will be held open through the summer to offset budget reductions.

No action was required on these informational items.

Commissioner Susan Hinz arrived at 4:20pm.

PRESENTATION BY BOB WARREN, TOURISM OFFICER

Director Kersten observed that a significant part of the local economy is driven by tourism. Tourism Officer Bob Warren and Tourism Development Representative Angela Udovich presented an update to the Commission on the efforts being made to market the city and region. They noted that this year, in particular, the economy has presented some challenges to this effort.

Tourism Officer Warren indicated the new Tourism Marketing Business Improvement District is providing additional funds for marketing shoulder seasons as well as niche opportunities such as group tours as well as I-5 corridor billboards.

The process of branding Redding to attract visitors to the area took off with the opening of the Sundial Bridge. Hundreds of articles have been written about the bridge in the past four years and it has become a major component of the Redding brand.

As the internet becomes a larger component of travel planning, the Visitors Bureau has focused attention on improvements to their website and increasing their search engine ranking.

No action was required on this informational item.

The Community Services Advisory Commission re-convened at 4:38 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Hinz, McCoach and Peckenpaugh.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Director Niemer welcomed recent appointee to the Commission, Susan Hinz. With the resignation of the Chair and Vice-Chair, it would be necessary to appoint replacements for these positions to finish out their terms.

Motion: That Commissioner Peckenpaugh be appointed to Chair. (Made by Commissioner McCoach, Seconded by Commissioner Hinz)

AYES: Commissioners Hinz, McCoach and Peckenpaugh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Salter and Waybright

Motion: That Commissioner McCoach be appointed to Vice Chair. (Made by Commissioner Peckenpaugh, Seconded by Commissioner Hinz)

AYES: Commissioners McCoach, Peckenpaugh and Waybright

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Salter and Waybright

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

The [minutes from the regular meeting on May 14, 2008](#), the monthly [Recreation Division Activity Report](#), the [Convention Center Activity Report](#), the [Convention Center Calendar](#), the [Convention Center Capital Projects List](#) were presented.

Motion: To approve Consent Calendar. (Made by Commissioner Hinz, Seconded by Commissioner McCoach)

AYES: Commissioners Hinz, McCoach and Peckenpaugh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Salter and Waybright

PUBLIC COMMENT: REVIEW RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE SUNDIAL BRIDGE

Community Projects Manager Hanson noted that since opening on July 4, 2004, the Sundial Bridge has experienced a significant number of visitors, both local residents and visitors. While there are

spikes in use depending on the weather and the hour of the day, people visit the Bridge throughout the year. A conservative estimate of annual use is 375,000 people. Bridge visitors walk, run, skate and bike, these varied uses sometimes create some conflicts.

There has been no detailed survey of how many walkers, bicyclist, people with dogs, photographers etc, are using the Bridge. Much of the time, all of these activities co-exist as the various user groups recognize the need to modify how they use the Bridge to accommodate heavy traffic. The cyclists slow down or stop. Pedestrians stop or move to the side to allow cyclists to pass. However, there have been a few reported near misses and a few contacts between cyclists, dogs and pedestrians. At the May 14, 2008 meeting, the Commission directed staff to set a public hearing to take testimony from the public on regulations pertaining to the Sundial Bridge. The following options were presented to the Commission by staff:

- 1 Post a reduced speed of 5 mph for the Bridge for bicycle users.
- 2 Invest in a significant public education campaign.
- 3 Provide more signage to encourage safe multi-use of the Bridge and Trail system.
- 4 Require cyclist to walk their bike across the Bridge.
- 5 Direct staff to modify the surface of the Bridge to create a center-divided Bridge deck and require (via signage) that all users stay to the right of the center line based on their direction of travel.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh opened the floor to public comment on this agenda item. Notice of request for comment was posted on both ends of the Sundial Bridge and provided to member of groups with the local bicycling community.

- Dan Frank noted that when he has brought visitors to the Bridge there have been some close calls and he requested that the speed be limited to 5 mph on the Bridge. Three other speakers supported this idea.
- Bob Kinhead requested that bikers be required to walk their bikes across the Bridge. Three other speakers supported this idea.
- Steve Layton from Shasta County Public Health urged the Commission to consider posting No Smoking signs for the Bridge area. This idea was supported by three other speakers.
- Ron Largent spoke in favor of Options 1 - 3. This was supported by four other speakers.
- James Koenigsaecker urged that any new signage installed be multi-lingual, as many of the Bridge's visitors are tourists.
- Sara Sundquist discourages the idea of closing the Bridge to bicycles. This idea was supported by four other speakers.
- Peter Alexander suggested there be a map with restroom and water fountain locations for the Sacramento River Trail. He offered the option of letting the bicyclists and pedestrians police themselves.

- Doug Holt, representing the Shasta Wheelmen, noted that the cleats on his shoes cause the bridge surface to be very slippery, which would cause an even bigger problem should he fall on the Bridge while walking his bike. The pedestrians who meander from side-to-side with their dogs on a long leash present a hazard to the bicyclists. Mr. Holt urged more signage regarding Bridge etiquette be posted beginning in the parking lot.
- Joe Slavens related a recent incident when his family was walking on the Bridge. His 2-year old daughter was hit by another child on a bicycle. The other child was 6-years old and he knows how difficult it is to get children of that age to follow a straight line while riding their bicycle. This accident was no one's fault, but his daughter is now traumatized by what happened and his family will not return to the Bridge as long as bicycles are allowed on it. Mr. Slavens is strongly against allowing bicycles on the bridge.
- Allen Kost suggested that the trail and the bridge need to be treated as one. Bicycles need to yield to pedestrians, there should be a 5 mph limit on the Bridge, bikes should stay on the right except to pass, the City should remove the planters as they cause a bottleneck.

Commissioner McCoach advised that as a bicyclist she has walked across the bridge with her cleats and is aware of how slippery that can be. That bicyclists and pedestrians share the responsibility to stay aware of the movement of others around them. She can see that improved signage and a map of the trail system would be very beneficial.

Commissioner Hinz inquired into whether roller bladers or skateboarders are banned from the Bridge. Community Project Manager Hanson replied that roller bladers have full use of the trail system but skateboarding is not allowed.

Commissioner Hinz observed that better education for all users of the Bridge would be very helpful for all. She asked how staff would monitor compliance with Options 1 and 3. Community Projects Manager Hanson related signage could be added and outreach to education local user groups.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh observed that the aesthetics of the Bridge invite people to look up and around - that people are not necessarily irresponsible but are mesmerized by the structure. She believes that bicycles should be walked across the Bridge in the interest of safety for all. Commissioner Peckenpaugh further stated that having lanes on the Bridge would not work in the long run.

Motion: To move forward with Options 1, 2 and 3 as outlined on the Sundial Bridge Background and Regulatory Options report attachment. (Made by Commissioner McCoach, Seconded by Commissioner Hinz)

AYES: Commissioners Hinz and McCoach

NOES: Commissioner Peckenpaugh

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Salter and Waybright

CONSIDERATION OF LOCATION FOR NEW POLICE STATION

Director Niemer related that the city is working to find a location to build a new police station, including a City Council-appointed citizen's committee which has convened over the past few months and recently reported their findings back to the City Council. It is extremely likely that the building will be located within the Civic Center campus, which is defined by the ACID canal, Market Street, Cypress and Parkview Avenues. Siting the building at this location is part of the original plan put forth several years ago when the decision was made to build City Hall. The vision at that time was for a Civic Center Campus which would include other local government uses on the site. A public safety building was one of the projected uses.

The architect who completed the site assessment for the new police building has indicated that six-acres is the necessary amount of space to contain this facility. Staff has looked at the options for siting the facility at South City Park, Tiger Field, and the Softball Park. A list for the Commission outlining the pros and cons of each one was attached to the report.

Director Niemer noted that with the assumption the public safety facility is moving to the Civic Center campus and the assumption that the CalFire property will not be available, this is an opportunity for the Commission to be pro-actively involved with a decision which will have to be made. Staff is bringing this issue to the Commission for a recommendation to the City Council, who will make the final decision.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh that there were two requests for public comment on this agenda item.

- Susan Hobson noted that her home looks down on the park area and she had received no notification that this item was up for consideration. Due to the impact on her sightlines, her preference would be the CalFire site or the Softball Park. However, she feels that the City would be remiss to give up this greenspace in the center of the city. She is concerned that placing the building in South City Park would lower her property values.
- Gary Cadd asked that the Commission not pick a site at this time and let the City Council look at some of the options which have arisen. He felt that the City should wait until they have the money in hand before building.

Commissioner McCoach inquired into what steps have been taken to hold discussion with CalFire regarding their site. Police Chief Moty mentioned that staff has been working with CalFire for three years in an effort to acquire the site. CalFire supports moving their facility out to Airport Road but there are many layers to working with state government. The City is still pursuing this site, as this is the most logical and best location for the police station. Staff has requested two site plans from the architect, one which includes the CalFire location.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh asked what impact the police station location would have on the current Recreation building. Director Niemer pointed out that the Recreation building is outside the building footprint proposed. However, the Recreation building is beyond its useful life and there may be an opportunity to relocate to the new police station.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh noted her concern that there is currently a visual barrier with the railing at the corner of Parkview and Market and she wondered whether the building might present additional problems. Chief Moty assured the Commission that they would not build that close to the street and the aesthetics of the surrounding area would be maintained as much as possible.

Commissioner Hinz requested information on whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) had been conducted yet. Chief Moty related that would be part of the package down the road and that it was too early in the process to have that in place. A preliminary review of the CalFire location showed minor issues, which have all been addressed, and it is expected that only minor issues would arise at South City Park.

Commissioner McCoach inquired into whether tennis courts could be relocated in the downtown area. Director Niemer noted that there are currently tennis courts at Sequoia Middle School, which also serves the downtown area.

Commissioner Hinz expressed her concerns about the lack of neighborhood notification and the EIR not yet being performed and observed that perhaps the best course of action would be to decline to make any recommendation at this time, based upon the information that is available. Director Niemer noted there is a General Plan compliance process which all departments must go through and this is the time when neighbors would be contacted for their input. She commented that this item was brought to the Commission to address prior concerns regarding timeliness of notification on issues within the Commission's purview.

Commissioner McCoach stated that she would have a hard time as a park commissioner recommending that park space be used for a building site. She felt that sending a recommendation about this parcel to City Council would be sending the message that the Commission does not care about retaining park land. The Commissioner would like to look at other sites rather than focusing on South City Park. She strongly believes that the city needs green spaces in its downtown core and there is no other location downtown to relocate this park.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh noted she needs more specific information regarding the building and the site before a recommendation could be made.

Director Niemer relayed that the Commission meeting in August would be a field trip to various park locations and the Civic Center Campus would be included in that trip.

Motion: To decline at this time to make a recommendation to the City Council for the placement of a public safety building at South City Park. (Made by Commissioner McCoach, Seconded by Commissioner Hinz)

AYES: Commissioners Hinz, McCoach and Peckenpaugh

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Salter and Waybright

PUBLIC COMMENT: RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Director Niemer recalled that in May staff presented the first draft of the Recreation Strategic plan. The preparation of this plan included assistance from several focus groups consisting of recreation program participants (parents), Recreation program staff, volunteer coaches, and our partners in the community. These focus groups, along with the Recreation management team, brought forward priorities for the next three to five years. The draft plan was distributed for comment to all those who participated in the focus groups and other community partners.

Director Niemer noted that staff have begun working on some of the items outlined in the Strategic Plan. A more specific workplan and timeline has been postponed until a full-time superintendent is hired and s/he can work with the supervisors to develop that piece of the plan. One of the items mentioned by a few of the reviewers was improvements to the website to provide quick, easy access and last week's Grand Jury report also noted that the city's website should be updated. Over the last year the Community Services Department has spent a fair amount of resources toward renovating their webpages and recently hired a part-time marketing coordinator with an expertise in web design.

Commissioner McCoach inquired into whether the city partners with groups to provide events such as hikes to Lassen National Park. Director Niemer noted that this idea was brought forth in the Plan and would be something Recreation would look at developing. Two major areas of focus will be whole-family events that are affordable and more programming for teens.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh opened the floor to public comment on this agenda item. Notice of request for comment was posted on the Community Services and Recreation websites and distributed to interested community partners.

No public comment was forthcoming at this meeting.

Director Niemer mentioned that the Recreation Strategic Plan would be brought back to Commission for adoption at a later date.

No action was required on this informational item.

UPDATE ON SACRAMENTO RIVER PARKWAY PROJECT

Community Projects Manager Hanson recalled that in February, 2007 the City received a \$1,669,000 state grant through the Proposition 50 River Parkways Program for improvements along the Sacramento River between the Sundial Bridge and Highway 44. The city's partners in completing this project are Turtle Bay Exploration Park and the non-profit environmental restoration group, River Partners. Recent improvements to the City's and Bureau of Land Management trail system allow users to access over 16 miles of river between Shasta Dam and the Sundial Bridge. This project will connect that system to the Mt. Shasta Mall, the hotels on Hilltop Drive and east Redding.

The grant and other funds allow us to complete the following components of our Sacramento River Parkway project:

- Riparian Restoration
- Way Finding and Environmental Interpretation
- Trail Extension
- Trail Repair and Overlay

The trail work is under design and all of the improvements are expected to be completed by Spring 2009.

One of the benefits of this project is the wayfinding and interpretive signage. This effort is a partnership with Turtle Bay and will include resin panels. There will be a touch-screen kiosk located at both ends of the Sundial Bridge which will provide maps, local information, and whatever other relevant information for the amenities in the area.

No action was required on this informational item.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at the hour of 6:34 p.m. Commissioner Peckenpaugh declared the meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Peckenpaugh