

Community Services Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Redding City Hall
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, California
January 14, 2009, 3:08 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

The meeting opened with the following Commissioners present; Leona McCoach, Adam McElvain, Judy Salter and Jason Waybright.

Absent was Commissioner Susan Hinz.

Also present were Community Services Director Kimberly Niemer, Support Services Director Gerry Kersten, Community Projects Manager Terry Hanson, Park Superintendent Dan Cannon and Executive Assistant Mari Szyal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Director Niemer reported that per the Redding Municipal Code, the Commission re-organizes each year.

MOTION: That Commissioner Salter be appointed to Chair and Commissioner Hinz to Vice Chair. (Made by Commissioner McCoach, Seconded by Commissioner Waybright)

AYES: Commissioners McCoach, McElvain, Salter and Waybright

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Hinz

CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes from the meeting on December 16, 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 McCoach, Seconded by Commissioner Waybright)

AYES: Commissioners McCoach, McElvain, Salter and Waybright
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Hinz

PRESENTATION ON PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Director Niemer introduced Recreation Supervisor Teresa Urricelqui who oversees the contract classes, day camp and preschool programs. She is here to present an overview of the summer preschool program.

Supervisor Urricelqui related that the community requested more activities be offered in the summer for 3 to 5 year old children. Staff looked at model programs and decided hands-on, messy activities would be the best. They worked with the current preschool coordinator to create class descriptions and curriculum, including GEMS in the curriculum-(Great Explorations in Math and Science), and chose the Martin Luther King Jr. Center as the location.

There is an outdoor play area at this location which is located in full sun. Staff received a grant from First 5 Shasta to cover the cost of a shade structure and equipment (misting system, tables, microscopes, science equipment, musical instruments, and art supplies.)

This past summer was the first year for the program, which was very well received by the community. Six weeks of camp were offered, with two classes each day lasting two hours per class. There were 155 participants with 10 of the children receiving scholarships through the fee assistance program.

The summer program this past year was such a great success that parents have requested additional time. The classes will run for three hours during the summer of 2009 and new curriculum has been added.

No action was required on this informational item.

PRESENTATION ON HEALTHY SHASTA PARTNERSHIP

Director Niemer presented an update on the city's role in the Healthy Shasta Partnership. This community coalition was founded with Shasta County Public Health and Mercy Medical Center as the lead agencies. Partners include Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Simpson University, The McConnell Foundation, the City of Redding and many other cornerstone organizations in the community. The partners were motivated to make policy and systemic changes to promote health and fitness improvements in their organizations and the community.

Director Niemer then provided details on the five initiatives which Healthy Shasta selected to focus on for the next five years.

- Healthy Schools
 - Three schools with varying demographics are participating in this initiative, which include a thorough assessment of the 1,000 students (blood pressure, BMI, etc.) to set a baseline for the study. Looking at the food systems; what is the cafeteria serving, providing free breakfast regardless of eligibility. Looking at the physical environment; is it possible for students to walk to school safely, are there places for them to park their bike, is the play equipment adequate, are there trails on campus. Providing parenting classes on nutrition and physical fitness. Overall improving the opportunities for these children to make healthier choices.

This is the first year of the study, which will continue for three years. The goal is to discover which of these programs are most effective and encourage the school districts to adopt these policies districtwide.
- Food Systems
 - Looking at the community to determine if we have access to healthy, affordable food.
 - Looking at vending machines and how to bring healthier options to customers.
 - Promoting the local food like farmer's markets and the Farm Trail in Happy Valley.
- 'Walk the Talk'
 - Each partner set one goal for their organization that contributes to making healthy eating and physical activity choices easier. The Walk The Talk goal chosen by the City of Redding was to update the bikeway plan. Mercy Medical Center has been working on a stairway program - encouraging staff to take the stairs rather than the elevator. Shasta County has an initiative to encourage employees to walk more.
- Walking/Biking
 - The Community Services Department has been working with a committee of approximately 20 people to evaluate and map bike routes, conduct cyclist counts at 23 intersections and create commuter maps.

- Healthy Communities/Built Environment
 - Planning design standards and planning zoning issues which encourage trails, park development and connectivity. It has been proven through numerous studies that no matter the climate, when people live closer to parks, to trails and amenities they will walk more and be healthier.

Commissioner McCoach inquired where the County stands on building parks. Director Niemer noted the County is holding a public workshop in February as they work toward development of a Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan.

Commissioner Salter requested information on what the Commission can do to help promote these initiatives, especially with the City Council. Director Niemer noted that staff could provide regular updates on the status of the initiatives. The Commission can make recommendation to the City Council in the form of a letter.

Commissioner Salter noted she is concerned about the lack of connectivity between neighborhoods and the impact on residents who wish to walk/bike to other locations. Director Niemer observed that during the past several years, when building new subdivisions the city has made a point of requiring connectivity be maintained.

No action was required on this informational item.

PRESENTATION ON PARK MAINTENANCE

Director Kersten noted that at the December 16, 2008, meeting the Commissioners requested detailed information on park maintenance costs in order to make more informed decisions regarding the refurbishment of existing or development of new parks in the city. He noted that park maintenance involves more than the landscaping in city parks. It also involves maintenance of boat ramp facilities, tennis courts, ball fields, trails, water features, the Redding Aquatic Center, the landscaping around city facilities (i.e., City Hall, the Redding Library, the police station), and landscaped medians.

Commissioner Salter inquired whether park maintenance is prioritized based on usage of a particular park? Park Superintendent Dan Cannon noted that with recent budget reductions in staff and parks maintenance improvements it will be necessary to increase the length of time between visits to all parks. Another step which will be taken to assist with this effort will be to increase the length of time between watering.

Superintendent Cannon presented a table showing maintenance costs for 15 areas, listing the square footage, the utility costs and the labor/material costs. He then broke this out to total costs per square foot, which would allow the Commissioners to estimate the maintenance costs for the parks under consideration in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Commissioner McCoach inquired into the option of utilizing the prison work release program to assist with maintenance. Superintendent Cannon provided background on these efforts in the past

and why it would not be feasible to utilize this particular program but noted that the City makes heavy use of the Police Department's community clean-up crew and the Sugar Pine crews.

Superintendent Cannon discussed a pilot program utilizing an automatic watering system which monitors the amount of hydration in shrubs and turf and adjusts the water schedule and amount accordingly.

No action was required on this informational item.

PROJECTS UPDATES

Community Services Director Niemer provided updates on the following projects:

River Bend

Staff recently met with the owners of River Bend Golf Course and they agreed that if the acquisition moves forward they would agree to a no cost lease.

No action was required on this informational item.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner McCoach inquired as to the status of the work on the Convention Center concrete floor. Director Kersten responded that this has become a long, drawn-out legal issue. Most recently they went to arbitration and the vendor has not responded to the decision.

Commissioner Salter indicated her preference to receiving the Commission packets via email, to save on delivery costs. The other Commissioners supported this change. Director Niemer noted that occasionally attachments (brochures, large maps, etc.) which are not conducive to email will be hand delivered.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at the hour of 5:15 p.m. Chair Salter declared the meeting adjourned.

Chair Salter