

Community Services Advisory Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Redding City Hall  
777 Cypress Avenue  
Redding, California  
April 8, 2009, 3:13 p.m.

## **MINUTES**

### **ATTENDANCE**

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

Also present were Councilperson Mary Stegall, Community Services Director Kimberly Niemer, Support Services Director Gerry Kersten, Management Analyst Matthew McCallum and Executive Assistant Mari Szynal.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The minutes from the meeting on February 11, 2009, 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 Hinz, McCoach, McElvain, Salter and Waybright

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** None

### **PRESENTATION BY NICK SCOMA OF REDDING BMX**

Director Niemer observed that Nick Scoma has been working with staff for several years on his goal to develop a BMX facility here in Redding. The Redding BMX group has adopted Cascade Park

off Girvan and have been fundraising toward their goal of building a concrete BMX park.

Nick Scoma presented some additional background information on Redding BMX and discussed their strategy for meeting their goal. While fundraising through Benefit BBQ's will continue, the group will also be looking for donors, in-kind donations and applying for grants.

Director Niemer noted that the Redding BMX group will return to the Commission with a request to receive a commitment to utilize park land for a future BMX facility. This will allow them to apply for grants which require that a site be already designated. In addition, Cascade Park may not be the final location for this facility, as there are several others which would work as well. This presentation is to provide the Commission with the background information for this future request.

Commissioner Waybright inquired into whether the layout of the proposed facility would be able to accommodate other improvements at either Cascade or the other parks in consideration. Nick Scoma reassured the Commission that the layout of the facility has not been determined and would be open to suggestion.

Chair Salter asked about the maintenance costs for this type of facility. Director Kersten noted that the current skatepark in Caldwell Park required relatively little maintenance. If there are any concerns, it might be with graffiti. However, there has been relatively little graffiti at the skatepark.

A neighbor of Cascade Park, Chris Christenson, addressed the Commission regarding the park. He noted that he has lived in the neighborhood for 21 years and walks through the park at least once a day. The Redding BMX group does a good job of policing their own. The best the park ever looked was after Redding BMX conducted their park clean-up this past January. However, there has been a neighborhood gang of teens hanging around at the park who leave behind empty bottles of beer and other trash. When park staff have confronted people who are riding their ATV's or motorcycles on the lawn, they are being threatened with physical repercussions. This type of activity is more prevalent at night and it has become a gathering place for groups who play their music loud and are doing drugs or underage drinking. The vandalism which occurs from digging holes with their vehicles and crossing Olney Creek (which has an impact on the wildlife) is a problem for the neighborhood. Mr. Christensen inquired whether some large boulders and/or fencing could be put into place to help prevent this problem from re-occurring.

Director Kersten took note of Mr. Christensen's concerns.

Chair Salter asked what the next steps are for the BMX facility. Director Niemer responded that staff would return to Commission with some possible park locations, listing the pros and cons of each, and prioritizing them.

Commissioner Waybright inquired where BMX riders are currently riding. Director Niemer observed that at Turtle Bay East - at the top of Bechelli Lane - there are numerous dirt jumps which have been created, and there is a facility in Shasta Lake City.

Two parents of children (ages 12, 13 & 19) who are involved with Redding BMX noted that there is a huge demand for a BMX facility. The group has taught the children safety and helped them to

improve their skills.

No action was required on this informational item.

## **PRESENTATION OF 2009 COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK PLAN**

Director Niemer related that every February a meeting is held with the Community Services Department staff to review the previous year's accomplishments and present the coming year's goals. This is especially beneficial with the Recreation Division and the Administrative Division in separate locations, as it helps keep everyone apprised. Director Niemer proceeded to provide the Commission with some background information on the listed items.

No action was required on this informational item.

## **DISCUSSION OF HEALTHY COMMUNITY STRATEGIES**

Director Niemer recalled the discussion at the February meeting regarding that while resources are scarce during the economic downturn, there are programmatic and policy projects which can continue. Health and fitness activities appear to be the 'hot ticket' items for the community at this time, possibly in response to the increase in childhood obesity. Staff would be looking to the Commission for some guidance on which areas they are interested in supporting. Chair Salter noted that the Commissioners were provided with four documents (*Leadership Action Strategies, Combating Childhood Obesity, Move More, Strategies for Creating Healthy Eating and Active Living Environments*) to help them prioritize their top 10 choices out of all the ideas presented and they were to be prepared to discuss at this meeting.

In the interest of time, Chair Salter requested that the Commissioners email to Executive Assistant Szynal their Top 10 priorities by end of day on Monday, April 13. Commissioner McElvain volunteered to work with Szynal to compile a Top Ten Strategies list for the Commission to discuss at the next meeting.

## **UPDATE ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CENTER**

Director Niemer apprised the Commissioners of the recent events at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center (MLK). While the afterschool program is being conducted by Recreation staff, a Blue Ribbon Committee has been established to develop the *MLK Jr. Center Action Plan*. It was felt necessary to look at revising the programming at the Center as participation at the Center has declined over the past year.

Five meetings and a field trip to review Sacramento-area community center programs are planned for the Committee during April and May. Focus groups will be convened and comprised of program participants (both children and parents), neighborhood residents and the MLK Board.

The data gathered from the focus groups will be presented to the Blue Ribbon Committee and all these efforts will culminate in a draft *Action Plan*. This Plan will provide a framework for programming at the Center, including a review and update of Center policies; programming priorities and goals; and an outreach program to increase awareness of the MLK Jr. Community Center activities within the surrounding neighborhood. The Plan will then be submitted for review to the Shasta County Multi-Cultural Advisory Board and the Community Services Advisory Commission at their regularly scheduled June meetings.

No action was required on this informational item.

## **PROJECTS UPDATES**

Community Services Director Niemer provided updates on the following projects:

### Highland Park

The Highland Park map was approved by the Planning Commission, however the trail component was not included.

No action was required on this informational item.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Chair Salter requested that staff be sure to update last month's speaker, Leah Sullivan, regarding placement of additional trash cans in Rivercrest Park. Director Niemer noted that Park Superintendent Cannon was handling this and she would follow-up with him.

## **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, at the hour of 4:58 p.m. Chair Salter declared the meeting adjourned.

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Chair Salter