

Community Services Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Redding City Hall
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, California
October 10, 2007, 4:04 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Community Services Advisory Commissioner McCoach opened the meeting with the following commissioners present: Parker, Peckenpaugh and Waybright.

Absent was Commissioner Bandell.

Also present were Community Services Director Niemer, Support Services Director Kersten, Community Projects Manager Hanson, Community Projects Manager Glover, Management Analyst McCallum and Executive Assistant Szynal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Fennell, one of two artists selected during the Open Call to Artists last Spring to bring new sculptures to The Sculpture Park at City Hall, presented sketches of the two pieces he will be constructing on-site. While Chris builds large-scale pieces out of wood, his work benefits from his degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Fine Arts.

The Fish will be modeled on an art deco design, where visitors will be able to step in through the mouth of the fish, sit on a bench and look up through the tail. The Wave will be constructed from milled lumber donated by Sierra Pacific. The wood is bolted together with lag screws.

These pieces along with two others from David Mudgett will be in place for two years on pads which were built specifically for that purpose.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The [minutes from the regular meeting on September 12, 2007](#), the monthly [Recreation Division Activity Report](#), the [Convention Center Activity Report](#), the [Convention Center Calendar](#) and the [Convention Center Capital Projects List](#) were presented.

Motion: To approve Consent Calendar. (Made by Commissioner Waybright, Seconded by Commissioner Parker)

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

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING GRANT TO BDPA FOR WALKING TRAIL

Director Niemer recalled that at a meeting earlier this year the Commission, acting as the Board of the Redding Parks Fund, approved a grant to the Benton Dog Park Association (BDPA) to use funds for fencing to create the small dog park. To their credit, the BDPA was able to get the fencing donated and are now requesting the redirection of those same funds.

The BDPA would like to use the \$1,000 to build a demonstration section of a perimeter walking trail. This trail would be an all-weather path to use as for exercise, which would be particularly useful during the rainy season when the park is soggy and muddy. They would then get sponsorships to add future segments.

As this request is for a different purpose than the original proposal, staff is seeking direction from the Commission relative to this change of scope.

Commissioner McCoach inquired as to who would construct the path?

Director Niemer noted the details have not been finalized, however, it is likely that a landscape contractor would be hired and City staff would oversee the project.

Motion: Acting as the Board of the Redding Parks Fund, to approve the request for the Benton Dog Park Association to use funds not to exceed \$1,000 to develop a perimeter walking trail. (Made by Commissioner Waybright, Seconded by Commissioner Parker)

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

CONSIDERATION OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR SACRAMENTO RIVER PARKWAY

Community Projects Manager Terry Hanson provided an overview of the application currently being prepared to send to the State's Resources Agency for a \$2.6M grant.

Community Projects Manager Hanson noted that is important to understand is that over the last 15 years, the City has enjoyed great partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management, The McConnell Foundation, Turtle Bay and, more recently, Caltrans, in terms of extending the River Trail into more of a Parkway between Shasta Dam and Red Bluff. That project is becoming a great success.

A few years ago the city applied for and received a grant to build Phase I of the Sacramento River Parkway. Phase One centers around Turtle Bay Exploration Park and extends the River Trail from the Sundial Bridge to Highway 44. Turtle Bay is managing the environmental restoration portion, using both goats and mechanical means to remove invasive species. The City is working on trail improvements such as covered kiosks and designing the interpretive signage. It is expected that the trail component will be under construction in the Spring or Summer of 2008.

Also in Spring 2008, Caltrans will begin construction on the Dana-to-Downtown project which includes 1 mile of 12 ft-wide bikeway from our trail component at Hwy 44 across the Sacramento River to the Mt. Shasta Mall.

The grant we are requesting approval to apply for will allow the City to:

1. Connect the Caltrans Bikeway (as well as the Sacramento River Trail) to both North Bechelli Lane and Palisades Avenue.
2. Improve public access at Turtle Bay East. (The existing gravel parking area will be paved, a picnic shelter constructed and drinking fountains and trash receptacles added. In addition we will develop a scenic overlook with auto-focused binoculars.)
3. Restore 30-acres of riparian habitat on City-owned land at Turtle Bay East.
4. Install environmental interpretive signage and a wayfinding program at Turtle Bay East and on the Caltrans bikeway.

The successful conclusion of these two phases will add three miles of trail and two miles of riverfront being restored.

Motion: To recommend to City Council that the grant application be approved. (Made by Commissioner Parker, Seconded by Commissioner Peckenpaugh)

AYES: Commissioners McCoach, Parker, Peckenpaugh and Waybright

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Bandell

RECREATION EVALUATION UPDATE

Director Niemer recalled that at the last Commission meeting she introduced the Strategic Planning effort which has begun in the Recreation Division. She noted the final format has not yet been worked out and the process to get there is multi-faceted.

Currently analysis is being conducted on program participation, revenue and expense. This research is being conducted for different age groups and locations. As we move forward with the strategic planning this information will allow the Commission to make decisions and provide direction to staff.

Staff will provide the Commissioners with reading material on research which has been conducted relative to different age groups.

This four to six month process will involve staff working with the Commission, in a manner similar to the Parks Master Plan and also conducting focus groups. The focus groups will be comprised of; Participant parents, non-users, organization partners, people in the business community, members of the Youth Action Council.

Our primary goal is to be a model provider of recreation services – walking the talk. Focusing on physical activity, nutrition and asset building will be key to this.

No action was required on this informational item.

Commissioner Parker left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

PARK FEE UPDATE

Management Analyst McCallum noted that the residential construction market continues to remain sluggish, and most national indicators suggest it will remain so through 2009 at the earliest. Under the circumstances, the City's Park Funds remain in good shape and continue to fully fund all the activities detailed on the CIP with a positive cash balance.

Any decrease in revenue will cause delays to the planned project expenditures. However, for the most part, these dedicated expenditures are tied to park development projects located in subdivisions which are not yet under construction. Therefore, despite the schedule outlined in the CIP, most of the projects listed will not move forward until the developers initiate construction of the new subdivisions, and the park fees generated by these projects essentially offset park construction costs.

Based on these statistics, you can expect staff to be more conservative on beginning any new projects.

No action was required on this informational item.

PROJECTS UPDATES

Community Projects Manager Glover provided updates on the following projects:

Northridge Park

This small neighborhood park recently received a facelift when the City installed a new park sign and benches. New play equipment was installed by a local developer.

Foxtail Park

A Community Development Block Grant was received to replace the play equipment in this small, older pocket park in the Enterprise neighborhood. An RFP is currently out for the play equipment and to solve a drainage issue by building an above-grade fall

zone. Staff will involve the Youth Action Council on the selection of the play equipment.

Subdivisions

The Crest at Knighton Road

This planned development has proposed a trail system, a scenic overlook and a vernal pool area with a nature walk around it. Staff is proposing play equipment, a shade structure and a few other amenities. On the east side of the property is the Clover Creek floodplain.

No action was required on these informational items.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Niemer related a request from the City Manger to preview the Commission regarding a request by the Shasta County Superior Court to move the courthouse to an area immediately west of the Civic Center. The Court has been in discussion with Shasta County for several years regarding the current courthouse. The Judges would like to partner with the City to apply for a grant. This decision is time-sensitive as they must file the grant application by end of this month. The area under consideration includes the current Softball field.

Commissioner Parker observed that the park space is heavily used by residents of Parkview and other neighborhoods. Adding a large building to this space would have a negative impact on that design.

Commissioner McCoach expressed strong concerns about moving the softball field miles away from the Parkview neighborhood. The current park space provides much needed green space and play area for Parkview and the loss of that space would be detrimental.

The Commissioners elected to send a [letter to the City Council](#) voicing their concerns on the impact this move would have not only on the park setting but also on the downtown area and the Parkview neighborhood. Commissioner Parker offered to draft the letter.

Director Niemer noted that the Magnolia Park playground has been installed by the Shasta County Office of Education and they are using this site to test for longevity a new rubberized bark product.

The bids on Rivercrest Park both came in over budget. Staff is working on revising the packet to be re-bid.

Director Niemer was recently assigned to be the City liaison with the Redding Library. There is a natural fit between Community Services and the Library. Along with a new director, the

library has a very active advisory committee. One of the things staff will be looking to do is to incorporate an asset building approach to the programs presented by the library.

Staff is working on setting up a two-day field trip to review programs and facilities in preparation for design of the Lake Boulevard Community Center. Director Niemer inquired into whether there are any commissioners interested in participating in this overnight road trip to the Bay area, interviewing program people and looking at facilities. Commissioner McCoach offered to participate, depending on the dates.

The City will recognize the Creek Cleanup committee members at the next council meeting. This cleanup in September brought out 400 volunteers who collected 30 tons of trash and green waste from westside tributaries.

Director Kersten provided an update on the repair of Fantasy Fountain. He noted that the cushion course has been laid and the contractor is currently working on it. It is expected to be complete within the next month.

Currently only \$100,000 is budgeted for tourism promotion of the Greater Redding area. This money goes much further because of the relationships that have been built up over the years. The hotel association is proposing a new Tourism Assessment Fee Business Improvement District (BID). If the City will commit to an additional \$100,000 for tourism, the new BID will also commit \$100,000 plus an additional 1% assessment fee (which would come to approximately \$400,000). With the caveat that this money all be used for advertising and nothing else. If proposal this is accepted by the City Council, we would go from a budget of \$100,000 to being able to spend \$700,000 on promotion and advertising of Redding.

No action was required on these informational items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at the hour of 5:48 p.m. Commissioner McCoach declared the meeting adjourned.

LEONA McCOACH, Chair