



**Recreation and Park Commission**  
**Davis Joint Unified School District, East Conference Room**  
**526 B Street**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2009**  
**MINUTES**

Commission Members Present: Michael Bartolic, Michael Beckman, Roger Gambatese, Lorraine Hwang (Chair), Susan Sabatier (Vice-Chair) and Nicole Slaton

Commission Members Absent: Robert Glassburner and Nathaniel Leachman

Council Liaison Present: Lamar Heystek

Staff Present: Elvia Garcia-Ayala, Anne Brunette, Donna Silva, and Christine Helweg

Vice Chair S. Sabatier called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Approved by consensus

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of November 6 and December 4, 2008 were approved by consensus, with the following revisions: Under heading "Parks and Facilities Master Plan Update and Discussion," change the spelling of the word "principles," and add the start time of the meetings.

The minutes of November 20, 2008 were approved by consensus with no revisions.

**3. Public Communications**

Thee Kilpatrick, resident, expressed concerns about the poor lighting at the Chestnut Park Tennis courts. He felt that the court lighting is very dim and was inadequate for play during nighttime hours. This item was referred to the Parks and General Services Department for further follow up.

Ken Topper, Lewis Planned Communities, spoke briefly and presented a letter to the Commission regarding information relative to the Parks and Facilities Master Plan Status Report to be discussed later in the agenda.

**4. Written Communications**

Letter from Ken Topper, Lewis Planned Communities, was presented to the Commission at the start of the meeting regarding information relative to the Parks and Facilities Master Plan Status Report to be discussed later in the agenda.

**5. All-Weather Synthetic Turf Soccer Field**

Ann Brunette, Property Management Coordinator, provided the Commission with an update on the planning and bid process for the all-weather synthetic turf soccer field to be constructed at Playfields Park. The final bid came in under budget at \$770,000, which will allow the City the opportunity to add in some of special amenities, such as additional shade structures and misting stations. Target date to begin construction is February 1, 2009, and is anticipated to be complete in 4-5 months. Staff will be bringing a proposed Facility Use policy for approval by the Commission in March or April.

**6. Parks and Facilities Master Plan Update and Discussion**

Ann Brunette, Property Management Coordinator, led a discussion with the Commission on Guiding Principles for how decisions and priorities would be determined and discussed guidelines, policies, level of service and projects to be incorporated into the Master Plan Update. The Commission provided general feedback to staff, and requested that staff return to the Commission at the next meeting with modifications to the Guiding Principles prior to taking any formal action. The Commission deferred their discussion on the Housing Element component of the staff report until their next regular meeting.

**7. Report on Short-term Budget Challenges and Long Range Planning Priorities**

Community Services Director, Elvia Garcia-Ayala, and Superintendent Helweg presented an overview of the City's current budget challenges for this current fiscal year and for 2009-2010. Information was provided to the Commission as to the direction given all departments in the City to prepare 7% and 10% budget reduction scenarios in light of the current budget forecasts. For the Community Services Department the 7% and 10% scenarios would decrease the department's overall budget by \$312,000 and \$440,000 respectively.

The Commission reviewed a draft list of programs and services for division 47 that had been divided into four categories (mandated, fundamental core, core support, and desirable services). Staff requested the Commission's input on the placement of programs and services within each of these categories as a secondary means to the Cost Recovery policy to assist staff in the development of the budget reduction scenarios.

Lastly, the Commission was asked to provide feedback regarding potential guidelines as presented in the staff report that would provide yet another tool for staff to utilize in the development of the budget reduction scenarios. Commissioners expressed their desire to place primary emphasis on guideline #6, followed by guideline #10. The Commission did not have any additional objections and/or comments regarding any of the other guidelines.

Several of the commissioners and Councilmember Heystek expressed their dissatisfaction that the information being discussed this evening was not more inclusive of other divisions and other department reduction proposals. Superintendent Helweg explained that the budget process and timeline does not allow for commission input and recommendations, and the information being presented this evening was an attempt by staff to provide the commission an opportunity to have some input early on in the process as reduction scenarios were being completed by the end of January for City Manager review.

A few of the commissioners expressed their interest in consideration of raising program fees and or cost recovery levels in lieu of eliminating programs and services overall. The Commission also expressed their concerns for teen programming and that we (City) need to have a broader discussion about the level of commitment to our teens.

Motion #1 - Motion was made by S. Sabatier, seconded by L. Hwang to recommend that City Council direct the Community Services Department to prepare budget reduction scenarios reflecting 3% and 5% reductions instead of the 7% and 10% previously proposed in light of the fact that the Community Services Department has been fiscally responsible for the past three years by fully implementing multiple cost recovery policies and procedures that have reduced the general fund subsidy by \$168,000. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Commissioner Announcements/Comments**

None.

**9. Liaison/Staff Reports**

- No City Council Liaison report
- Finance & Budget Commission (FBC) – no report
- Open Space and Habitat Commission – no report
- Upcoming Commission Meetings – Thursday, February 19, 2009

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson L. Hwang at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg  
Community Services Superintendent