



**Recreation and Park Commission
Davis Senior Center Valente Room, 646 A Street
Thursday, January 21, 2016
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present: Ira Bray (Chair), Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald (Vice Chair), Will Arnold, Emily Griswold and Travie Westlund

Commission Members Absent: None

Council Liaison Present: None

Public Present: Alan Hirsch, Joe Pickens and Matt Zeisler

Staff Present: Christine Helweg, Martin Jones, Anne Marquez, and Dale Sumersille

Chair Ira Bray called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by C. Escamilla-Greenwald, seconded by W. Arnold, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously. Introduction of D. Sumersille, new Parks & Community Services Director.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2015.

A motion was made by T. Westlund, seconded by W. Arnold, to approve the meeting minutes as presented by staff. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comments

Alan Hirsh-Nishi Project - Consider park design being proposed as part of the project, specifically the Platinum LEED Standard, and how parks are to be funded.

Matt Zeisler/Joe Pickens - Davis Bike Park Alliance, remain interested in developing an off road bike track and would like to request that they be placed on the February agenda for further discussion.

4. Written Communications

- a. Parks & Community Services Organization Chart - Brief summary provided by D. Sumersille
- b. Summer Registration – D. Sumersille provided an update on new procedures being implemented this summer season to ease registration access.

5. Teen Services Grant Funding Recommendations

Community Services Supervisor Anne Marquez provided a brief history of the Teen Services Grant program, and provided the Commission with the current funding recommendations from the Grants Subcommittee.

Representatives of ACME, Pence, and Davis Shakespeare Ensemble spoke during Public Comment related to proposed funding recommendations. Rob Salas, Davis Shakespeare Ensemble requested that the Commission re-consider the Subcommittee's funding recommendations for this coming year. The Pence Gallery also would like to encourage the City to find a long term funding source for the Teen Services Grants in order to continue this highly beneficial program for teens.

Commission Comments:

T. Westlund – no further commentary at this time.

C. Greenwald – Encouraged Davis Shakespeare Ensemble to re-look at how their productions can involve teens more as leaders and not just as participants.

E. Griswold – Looking at the impact for the value and the number of teens served, Davis Shakespeare Ensemble application was vague as to the number of teens served. Also looking at the quality of the experience for the teens, would like to see more applicants in other areas than the Arts (i.e. environmental leadership).

I. Bray - Limited teen service organizations, would like to consider DSE request for funding this year.

A motion was made by I. Bray to divide the existing funding available for 2016 between all three applicants. The motion failed due to a lack of second.

A second motion was made by W. Arnold, seconded by C. Greenwald to approve the Subcommittee's funding recommendations for the upcoming 2016 Teen Services Grant cycle. The motion passed by a 4-1 vote and I. Bray voting nay.

6. Gandhi Sculpture Proposal

Rachel Hartsough, Arts & Culture Manager, gave the Commission an overview and history of the proposed sculpture to be located in Central Park. Sham Goyal, Indo-American community spokesperson also provided some additional information regarding their proposal for the purchase and installation of the sculpture.

Commission Comments:

E. Griswold - Looks like a reasonable proposal, like the idea of plantings and bench seating in the surrounding area.

C. Greenwald - Simply likes the idea and appropriate for peaceful location, very touching, statement for non-tolerance of hate, wonderful proposal.

W. Arnold - Very much supportive of the proposal, love the idea to promote generational conversations and promotion of peace.

T. Westlund - No real objections, Gandhi was an advocate for civil disobedience, there is some religious connotation, setting a precedent/opening the door to future religious sculpture.

I. Bray – Supports the proposal

A motion was made by C. Greenwald, seconded by W. Arnold, to approve staff's recommendation to accept the Gandhi sculpture as a gift of Public Art and locate it in Central Park.

7. Sports Complex Task Force

PCS Director Dale Summersille gave the Commission an overview and current status of the proposed Sports Task Force that has been approved by the City Council.

Commissioner Comments

T. Westlund – he will be the default selection if no one else on the Commission is interested.

I. Bray – Not interested at this time, overly committed for time.

W. Arnold - Very interested in being considered for the Task Force, and would be honored to be selected to serve in this capacity.

C. Greenwald – Is also very interested in being considered to serve on the Task Force.

E. Griswold - Not interested at this time.

After some brief discussion amongst Commission members, C. Greenwald graciously stated that she would serve as an alternate to W. Arnold.

A motion was made by E. Griswold, seconded by T. Westlund to approve Will Arnold as the primary appointment and Cecilia Greenwald as the Alternate for the Sports Task Force. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Commission Announcements

T. Westlund - None

W. Arnold - Announced his candidacy for City Council.

C. Greenwald - None

E. Griswold – acknowledged potential new Commissioner in audience – Mr. Jones, who recently submitted an application to the City Clerk's office. Emily also thanked Parks Superintendent Martin Jones for attending the Central Park Gardens meeting recently.

I. Bray – inquired about a recent article regarding the condition of the Civic Pool showers and announced the upcoming CPRS Annual Conference to be held in Long Beach in March 2016.

9. Liaison Reports

City Council – None

FBC – Continuing their review of the Nishi project and the Cost of Service & Fee study

OSHC - no report

10. Staff Reports

Major Project Updates – PCS Director Dale Sumersille provided the Commission with an update on several of the major department projects. A written summary will be sent to the Commission following this meeting.

Reminder that on August 13, the Davis Farmers' Market will be celebrating their Anniversary. Parks staff are assisting in making some improvements to the park grounds such as painting of the Pavilion, planting of flowers, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. by consensus

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg, Community Services Superintendent