



**Recreation and Park Commission  
Civic Center – Community Chambers  
Wednesday, January 17, 2018  
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present: Emily Griswold - Chair, Ira Bray, Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald (arrived at 6:52pm), Stephanie Koop (arrived at 6:39pm), Osman Mufti, Travie Westlund and Cheri Harrington (Alternate)

Commission Members Absent: Tyson Hubbard

Council Liaison Present: Will Arnold (arrived at 6:44pm)

Public Present: Greg Stoner and Lois Wok

Staff Present: Christine Helweg and Martin Jones

The meeting was called to order by Chair Griswold at 6:32 pm.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Chair introduced two new Commissioners, Osman Mufti and Cheri Harrington. Commissioners took a few minutes to introduce themselves and a little about their backgrounds and interests in being on the Commission.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by I. Bray, seconded by T. Westlund, to approve the agenda and defer Item #7A until February 2018. The motion passed with a 6-0-2-0 vote.

AYES: Bray, Griswold, Koop, Mufti, Harrington and Westlund

NOES: None

Absent: Hubbard and Greenwald

Abstentions: None

**3. Brief Announcements from Commissioners, Liaisons and Staff**

Parks & General Services Superintendent Martin Jones made the following announcement:

- Due to a recent car break-in at Toad Hollow Park, residents are being reminded to lock their vehicles and secure their belongings while visiting the park. Davis Police have been notified of the occurrences and Parks staff will post signs in the next couple of weeks reminding patrons to secure their property.
- Commissioner Bray informed the Commission that a low maintenance restroom option, Portland Loo, should be considered by the City for the downtown area, and possibly even in the parks.

**4. Public Comment**

Resident Greg Stoner from Davis Aquatic Masters (DAM) expressed confusion regarding items that have been pulled from the agenda. After further discussion his questions related to

items listed under Written Communications.

## **5. Written Communications**

Parks and General Services Superintendent Martin Jones highlighted a couple of park projects listed in the Director's Project update, including the draft Landscape and Maintenance Standards. The Commission expressed interest in reviewing the draft when completed and having the ability to provide input as to the proposed standards.

## **6. Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by I. Bray, seconded by C. Greenwald, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion passed with a 5-0-1-2 vote. O. Mufti and C. Harrington abstained from the motion due to them not being present at the Commission meeting.

AYES: Bray, Greenwald, Griswold, Koop, and Westlund

NOES: None

Absent: Hubbard

Abstentions: Mufti and Harrington (Alternate)

## **7A. Designate the Chair and Vice Chair Positions for the 2018 Calendar Year**

Item deferred to next regular Commission meeting.

## **7B. Proposed Land and Water Conservation Grant – Central Park Splashpad Project**

Parks & Recreation Assistant Director Christine Helweg provided an overview of the Central Park Splashpad Project and highlighted key areas of improvement to the Farmers Market pavilion and Central Park development proposal that would include new turf and an upgraded irrigation system.

Commission members had the following comments:

- Would the larger footprint of the splashpad negatively affect the current seating for Farmer's Market?
- Are there other higher priority projects that the proposed funds should or could be used for?
- Concerned about potential mechanical failures and suggested the City look closely at warranty and vendor selection process.
- The community fundraising should be pursued to help the City offset as much of the costs as possible, and to potentially complete the project in one phase to maximize water conservation and overall project savings.
- Supports the project but is concerned about the UV system and longevity of water health. Also has concerns about the use of the water in the community gardens and maintenance of the sub-surface drip irrigation under the new turf replacement.

Resident and former Mayor Lois Wolk spoke to the Commission regarding the proposed splashpad in Central Park. Ms. Wolk provided a brief history of the previous water feature and how the proposed new structure would provide greater benefits to the residents and the environment through a water recycling system that will be utilized for the Central Park irrigation system.

**7C. Volunteer/Community Education Coordinator – Letter of Support**

Chair Emily Griswold reviewed a subcommittee report on the City's past and current efforts with volunteer engagement. The subcommittee's request was to ask the Commission for their recommendation to authorize the Chair to send a Letter of Support for the City Manager and City Council to consider a Volunteer/Community Education Coordinator position within the Parks & Community Services Department for FY2018-2019.

Commission members had the following comments:

- What will be the funding source for the position, will there be a cost sharing with Public Works?
- Would like to see volunteers from youth groups to participate in the program for long-term benefits to the community.
- Supportive of the program, believes the position is needed.

A motion was made by I. Bray, seconded by C. Greenwald, to support the establishment of the Volunteer/Community Education position with designated roles and responsibilities as identified in the subcommittee's report, and to authorize the Chair to draft a letter stating the Commission's support for the position. The motion passed with a 7-0-1-0 vote.

AYES: Bray, Greenwald, Griswold, Harrington, Koop, Mufti and Westlund

NOES: None

Absent: T. Hubbard

Abstentions: None

**8. Commission and Staff Communications**

- a. City Council Liaison – W. Arnold gave a brief announcement that City Council was moving forward on amending the Park Maintenance Tax.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Helweg

Parks & Community Services Assistant Director