



**Recreation and Park Commission  
City Hall – Community Chambers  
Wednesday, October 17, 2018  
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present: Tyson Hubbard - Chair, Travie Westlund – Vice Chair, Ira Bray, Cecilia Escamilla-Greenwald (7:17pm), Emily Griswold and Cheri Harrington

Commission Members Absent: None

Council Liaison Present: Dan Carson (6:55pm)

Public Present: Robin Dewey, Alan Hirsch, Joan Hogan, Seth Schroeder and Jane Wineman

Staff Present: Dale Sumersille, Christine Helweg, Martin Jones, Larry Corbett, , Anne Marquez, Jamie Elliott and Eli Smith.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hubbard at 6:31 pm.

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

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by I. Bray to approve the agenda, seconded by T. Westlund. The motion passed with a 5-0-1-0 vote.

AYES: Hubbard, Westlund, Bray, Griswold and Harrington

NOES: None

Absent: Greenwald

Abstentions: None

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

- D. Sumersille announced the hiring of three new employees. Justin Clarke, Parks Maintenance II at Playfields; Lisa Yoakum, Office Assistant II at Registration; Heather Doherty, Office Assistant II (75%) at Registration.
- D. Sumersille informed the Commission that the City Council approved the purchase of a new Paratransit Bus for Davis Community Transit (DCT).
- C. Helweg informed the Commission that staff was currently recruiting for vacancies for the Recreation & Parks Commission.
- E. Griswold made the following announcements – The neighborhood night out had 70 people in attendance to assist in generating ideas for the N Street Park; The Central Park Plant Sale will be on October 27, 2018 from 9am to 1pm; The final announcement was in recognition of T. Hubbard who was highlighted in the Sacramento Business Journal for his outstanding efforts in the business community.
- T. Hubbard thanked fellow Commissioners for their attendance of the joint City Council/Recreation & Parks Commission Meeting. Would like to add an item on next

month's agenda to further discuss the needs or wants of the Commission to be forwarded to City Council.

#### 4. Public Comment

- Alan Hirsch expressed concern about the Farmer's Market not being properly managed, specifically that the market is closing too early and the hours should be extended. Mr. Hirsch also suggested that the City should take over the management of the market and Thursday evening should be a consideration for additional operating hours to coincide with the downtown stores extended hours.

#### 5. Consent Calendar

- The following corrections were requested for the September 19, 2018 Commission minutes:
  - In section 3, McCall is to be changed to McPhaul
  - In section 6A C. Griswold is to be changed to C. Greenwald
  - In Section 6B E. Griswold would like to clarify her advocating for trees by reviewing the current condition of the trees and incorporating additional native grasses and plants into the bike pump final design.
  - In section 6B Blank is to be corrected to show Blake.

A motion was made by T. Westlund to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by E. Griswold. The motion passed with a 5-0-1-0 vote.

AYES: Hubbard, Westlund, Bray, Griswold and Harrington.

NOES: None

Absent: Greenwald

Abstentions: None

#### 6A. Presentation on 2018 summer season – Alternative Recreation & Inclusion Services.

The Commission received a presentation by Community Services Supervisor Anne Marquez and Community Services Program Coordinator Jamie Elliot regarding the success of this year's Alternative Recreation Summer Programs.

Testimonials:

- Joan Hogan and Jane Wineman spoke about how much the Alternative Recreation Program has benefitted their sons.
- Seth Schroeder has participated in 36 years of activities including bowling and weekend activities.
- Robin Dewey, the President of Team Davis spoke about the benefits the program has brought to numerous Davis residents.
- Currently there are 27 active participants and approximately 7 of those participants regularly show for trips.

Commissioner comments are as follows:

- C. Harrington stated that the Alternative Recreation Program makes a better place for families in Davis.
- T. Westlund feels it is a wonderful program and understands the difficulties of finding care for the participants.

- C. Greenwald inquired about the availability of grants for the participants of the program. Most of the participants that have applied for grants have received funding.
- D. Carson stated that this is a great program and his son, Glen Carson worked for the program 9 years ago.
- T. Hubbard stated that this is a program we should all be proud of; he also congratulated J. Elliott on her upcoming retirement.
- I. Bray would like to see if there is any fiscal relief for the participants' families and for the program.
- C. Harrington suggested utilizing webinars and enabling a 5-year plan to help guide the program by identifying strengths and weaknesses.

#### **6B. Discussion on the Downtown Davis Plan**

The Commission will discuss the latest design for the Downtown Davis Plan as it relates to parks and public spaces.

**Public Comment** - Alan Hirsch stated that the Davis Bike Museum should collaborate with a local store for increased hours of operation. Furthermore, the City should explore increased hours of operation for the Farmers Market to create more of a draw for visitors' downtown.

The Commission had the following comments:

- I. Bray is concerned with the overall lack of greenspace in the Downtown area.
- T. Westlund stated that there is a lot of criticism from Downtown business owners due to loss of parking spaces. Where will the lost revenue come from due to the loss of parking spaces for a public restroom?
- T. Hubbard would like to see a Tot Lot at the E Street Plaza.
- E. Griswold stated that the plan would include a new town square. If there is going to be a prominent central space, the City would benefit from a partnership with a non-profit to assist in programming. It is also important that the spaces being created are attractive and vibrant. It was also noted that green space was not called out as a sustainability measure; E. Griswold believes this should be more prominent. Central Park does not get any attention in the plan and should be considered more, as should the Davis Farmers Market.
- D. Carson stated that on Tuesday October 23, 2018 a Community Development meeting will be held at the Davis Senior Center. A specific plan for Downtown Davis will be released sometime in January 2019.
- I. Bray stated that there is a large amount of Bank square footage downtown; Commissioner Bray believes these buildings can be repurposed for public spaces.
- T. Hubbard would like to see the Downtown Davis Plan on the Recreation & Parks Commission agenda for the January 2019 meeting.
- C. Greenwald also inquired if there had been discussions with Farmers Market to expand as part of the Downtown Plan.

### **6C. Review and Update on City Council Goals 2018-2020**

The Commission will receive an update on the City Council Goals 2016-2018, and discuss new potential goals for 2018-2020.

Commission members made the following comments:

- T. Westlund stated there is a need to complete the landscape standards and procedures. There needs to be more emphasis placed on completing everyday maintenance items; moreover, on October 7, 2018 International Festival participants were witnessed standing in the root zone area of the Oak Tree at Central Park, there needs to additional action taken to protect this site.
- C. Harrington expressed interest in developing a committee to work with other Commissions to address Park issues. Goal 6 needs to include maintenance of existing structures.
- T. Hubbard stated that lights at the Dog Park and Sports Park are a viable asset.
- C. Greenwald agrees with Commissioner Westlund that there needs to be additional protection for the Oak Tree at Central Park.
- I. Bray expressed concern over the use of Open Space and City Lands under the Environmental Sustainability section, it may be more appropriate to lease building space downtown for office space instead of building on potential parkland. Expressed interest in the use of mapping services across the City for all Departments to use.
- E. Griswold expressed interest in working with Commissioner Harrington to form a sub-committee to provide feedback on City Council Goals.

A motion was made by C. Harrington to approve the formation of a sub-committee to provide feedback on City Council Goals for 2018-2020, seconded by E. Griswold. The motion passed with a 6-0-0-0 vote.

AYES: Hubbard, Westlund, Bray, Greenwald, Griswold and Harrington.

NOES: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

### **6D. Review and Discussion of Walnut Park**

The Commission selects a park location each month to review and discuss existing amenities and potential maintenance related issues. This is an informational item only – no specific action is being recommended.

Commissioners made the following comments:

- T. Westlund noted that behind the Tennis courts there is an overgrown hedge, additionally there are new tree plantings with no visible irrigation, there are no boundary markers for the dog exercise area and the restroom that was recently installed looks very nice.
- I. Bray commented on how nice the restrooms were, he also inquired to any issues with shared used between the City and DJUSD, which there is none.
- C. Harrington stated this is a great park; however, the restroom doors were locked during the day during her visit.

- E. Griswold is impressed with the Butterfly Sculpture and would like to see additional art in the parks.
- C. Greenwald would like to see the installation of shade structures in the park or planting of more trees along the soccer fields. Commissioner Greenwald also commented on the restroom doors being locked during the day.

#### **7. Commission and Staff Communications**

- E. Griswold met with D. Summersille and C. Helweg to discuss the status of the Volunteer Coordinator position, which has been filled. Commissioner Griswold also commended the efforts of D. Summersille in securing a tool trailer and Part-Time Volunteer Coordinator position.
- T. Hubbard had no updates; however, C. Helweg informed the Commission that the Aquatics Staff is currently reviewing the survey results and comments, an update will be provided possibly at the November 2018 Commission meeting.
- T. Hubbard would like to include an additional item to future meetings for Commissioners to discuss items they would like added to future agenda items. Chair Hubbard would also like to have discussions on the Farmers Market in early 2019.
- E. Griswold inquired about the special events usage at Central Park and would like to have additional discussions about public art in City Parks.

Commissioner T. Westlund moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by E. Griswold at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Martin Jones

Parks & General Services Superintendent