



**Recreation and Park Commission
City Hall – Community Chambers
Wednesday, December 18, 2019
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present: Emily Griswold – Vice Chair, Bruce Harland, Timm Herdt, Tyson Hubbard (6:39 pm), Robert Ono and Erik Vink (6:38 pm).

Commission Members Absent: Cheri Harrington and Darci Silbaugh

Council Liaison Present: Dan Carson

Public Present: Maggie Seifert, Alan Hirsch, David Robinson

Staff Present: Christine Helweg, Dale Sumersille and Martin Jones.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Griswold at 6:34 pm.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by R. Ono to approve the agenda, seconded by T. Herdt. The motion passed with a 6-0-2-0 vote.

AYES: Griswold, Harland, Herdt, Hubbard, Ono and Vink

NOES: None

Absent: Harrington, Silbaugh

Abstentions: None

3. Brief Announcements from Commissioners, Liaisons and Staff

- Assistant Director Christine Helweg made the following announcements:
 - The Department is currently recruiting for two Community Services Coordinator positions. First round of interviews will begin after the New Year for both positions.
- Director Dale Sumersille made the following announcements:
 - Justis Nichols (formerly the Urban Forestry Technician) has been selected as the new Urban Forest Supervisor.
 - Recruitment for his vacant Urban Forest Technician position closed December 16, 2019, staff are currently reviewing applications. First round of interviews are anticipated in late January.
- E. Griswold discussed the current decision made by City Council regarding the respite center that will be housed at 1717 5th Street. Griswold stated that many people have expressed concerns over Cedar Park and N Street Park regarding potential improvements to make the parks safer. D. Carson informed the Commissioners that the City would like to complete a monthly evaluation of the Respite Center to assess productivity. Carson

further stated that City Council would like the Respite Center to be completed in a way that residents of Davis Manor feel comfortable.

4. Public Comment

- Maggie Seifert expressed the following three points for consideration:
 - i. There needs to be additional Yoga classes offered by the City for the aging population of Davis, as the current classes are consistently full and are only offered early in the morning. Additionally, the programs are too expensive and the cost should be reduced or provided free of charge for seniors on fixed incomes.
 - ii. The City needs to develop Activity Centers for teens that they can use to socialize, only sports programs are currently offered.
 - iii. There is a need for increased upkeep of tree debris (Pine/Redwood Tree needles) along the Green Meadows Greenbelt, a neighbor has expressed concerns about too many needles collecting in her gutters.
- Alan Hirsch expressed concerns over Central Park, specifically the proposed Natalie Corona Splash Pad Memorial that Hirsch states is too large for the area. Additionally, there is a need to plant additional trees for increased shade and the Farmers Market needs extended business hours.

5. Consent Calendar

A motion was made by E. Vink to approve the meeting minutes from the consent calendar, which was seconded by T. Hubbard. The motion passed with a 5-0-2-1 vote.

AYES: Griswold, Herdt, Hubbard, Ono and Vink

NOES: None

Absent: Harrington, Silbaugh

Abstentions: Harland

6. Regular Agenda Items

A. Review and Discussion on the Proposed Shasta Memorial Tree Grove

The Commission received a brief presentation by Dale Sumersille and David Robinson, a City of Davis Tree Commissioner and Board Member of Tree Davis on the Tree Davis plan for improvements and turf conversions in the Shasta Memorial Grove located on Shasta Drive and south of University Retirement Community.

- There is a minimal fiscal impact on this project that is limited to irrigation work.
- Staff and Tree Davis are currently working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this project. The MOU for this project will require Tree Davis to maintain the area on a quarterly basis.
- Project goal is to begin planting in March 2020.
- Robinson would like the final design to be small to allow for maturity; there will be three small groves, Wolk Grove, Pinnacles Grove and Shasta Grove.

B. Presentation on FY2019-2021 Parks & Community Services Budget

The Commission received a brief overview of the Department's FY2019-2021 Operating Budget and a timeline for the upcoming revisions for FY2020-2021 by Dale Sumersille, Parks & Community Services Director, Christine Helweg, Parks & Community Services Assistant Director and Martin Jones, Parks Superintendent.

7. Commission Comments and Staff Communications

A. City Council Liaison (D. Carson)

- D. Carson informed the Commissioners that City Council supports staff recommendations for the Natalie Corona Memorial Splash Pad, which could be funded through potential sources such as private, public or state funding.
- One of the new Focus Items for the City Council is Public Noticing & Community Engagement, which fits right in with what the Recreation & Park Commission has been discussing these last few months.

B. Aquatic Economic Analysis (C. Harrington, T. Hubbard, E. Vink)

- C. Helweg informed the Commissioners that there will not be a joint meeting with the Finance and Budget Commission at this time, and the item will advance to City Council for further direction on Phase II of the project. If the City Council approves funding for Phase II, then a joint meeting may be scheduled at a later date when more detailed financial data is available.

C. Art in Public Spaces (B. Harland, C. Harrington, E. Griswold)

- Rachel Hartsough will give a presentation on the Frog Totem in January 2020.

D. Parks Maintenance Standards (R. Ono)

- A meeting with City staff is scheduled for Friday, December 20, 2019 to discuss the Parks Operations/Maintenance Standards.

E. Volunteer Engagement (E. Griswold, T. Herdt, D. Silbaugh)

- E. Griswold inquired when would be the best time to meet with Kelly Vitaich, Volunteer Coordinator.

8. Future Agenda Items

- B. Harland would like to have a discussion on additional senior services in April 2020.

Commissioner B. Harland moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by R. Ono at 8:10 pm. The motion passed with a 6-0-2-0 vote.

AYES: Griswold, Harland, Herdt, Hubbard, Ono and Vink

NOES: None

Absent: Harrington, Silbaugh

Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted:

Martin Jones

Parks Superintendent