



**Recreation and Park Commission
City Hall – Community Chambers
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present: Cheri Harrington – Chair, Emily Griswold – Vice Chair, Bruce Harland, Timm Herdt, Tyson Hubbard, Robert Ono, Darci Silbaugh and Erik Vink (6:49 pm).

Commission Members Absent: None

Council Liaison Present: Dan Carson

Public Present: Kelly McCrory, Josh Lutzker, Michelle Weiss, Simon Pitfield and Rob Stevenson

Staff Present: Christine Helweg, Dale Sumersille, Martin Jones, Rachel Hartsough, Mark Baginski (Verde Design) and Teifion Rice-Evans (Economic & Planning Systems)

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by E. Griswold to approve the agenda, seconded by R. Ono. The motion passed with a 7-0-1-0 vote.

AYES: Harrington, Griswold, Harland, Herdt, Hubbard, Ono, Silbaugh and Vink.

NOES: None

Absent: Vink

Abstentions: None

3. Brief Announcements from Commissioners, Liaisons and Staff

Christine Helweg made the following announcements:

- Recruitment for the Aquatics Project Coordinator closed at the end of December 2019. There are 11 candidates that will be interviewed for the position this next week.
- Recruitment for the Gymnastics/Outdoor Education Coordinator position also closed in December 2019, and 11 candidates were invited to interview next week. Both positions are anticipated to be filled by the end of February 2020.

D. Sumersille made the following announcements:

- The Urban Forest Technician is anticipated to be filled in the next two weeks.
- The Memorial Tree Grove planting will begin in March 2020 at the Wolk Grove.
- Funding for the Davis Manor Project was not selected to be funded by the State Green Infrastructure Grant.

- Playground renovations to begin next week at Willow Creek Park, followed by Nothstar Mini Park.
- Attended the Finance & Budget Commission last Monday, January 13, 2020 to highlight the PCS budget and the Aquatics Economics & Financial Analysis Phase I presentation.
- Recruitment for the Community Gardens Coordinator has closed and staff is in the process of reviewing applications. Interviews are scheduled for early February.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Consent Calendar

E. Griswold inquired about the planned shade structure at the Arroyo Pool Complex. D. Summersille informed the Commission that the City is currently working with Stantec, an On-Call Landscape Architect Firm to develop plans for a shade structure between the aquatics complex and playground area. Community outreach will be completed in the near future.

A motion was made by T. Herdt to approve the Consent Calendar, which was seconded by B. Harland. The motion passed with a 5-0-1-2 vote.

AYES: Griswold, Harland, Herdt, Hubbard and Ono

NOES: None

Absent: Vink

Abstentions: Harrington, Silbaugh

6. Regular Agenda Items

A. Discussion on the Proposed Park Location for the Placement of the City's Newly Acquired Public Art Piece – *Frog Totem*

The Commission received a brief presentation by Rachel Hartsough, Arts and Culture Manager on the Frog Totem created by Mary McChesney. The Commissioners were asked to recommend proposed park locations for the permanent placement of the City's newly acquired Public Art piece. There is a moderate fiscal impact on this project that includes transporting and placement of the sculpture in a designated City park. Funds for this work would come from the Municipal Arts budget, unless they can be incorporated into existing parks projects.

The following recommendations were provided by the Commission:

- Near a water feature.
- Along the greenbelt by Patwin Elementary School.
- At either Richards Boulevard @ Olive Drive, along the trail at F Street and Anderson or at the Julie Partansky Deck at Northstar Park.
- At Toad Hollow Dog Park or at the West Pond, along the Putah Creek Channel.
- Consider using the Arts in Parks sub-committee of the Commission to further identify locations.

B. Sports Complex Economic & Financial Analysis

The Commission received a presentation by the consultant team of EPS and Verde Design on Phase I of the Sports Complex Economic & Financial Analysis. The consultant team was

seeking feedback from the Commission and public prior to presenting to the City Council in February or March.

Public Comment:

- Josh Luzker from Davis Legacy stated that there is a need for additional synthetic turf fields in Davis, currently there is only one light field to play during the winter. He suggested placing synthetic turf in the outfields at Playfields for additional soccer play during the winter months.
- Kelly McCrory, formally of Davis Little League and a member of the Sports Complex Task Force, stated that the report presented does not reflect the needs of T-Ball. Baseball is neglected in Davis. There is no practice field and teams only play 2/3 schedules. There is a need for larger fields at least 6-8 fields. User groups need to be consulted on the design of any proposed complex.
- Michelle Weiss, Chair of the Finance & Budget Commission, stated that the City would only receive maybe 10% of tournament revenue and asked that the consultant group work with the Finance & Budget Commission in generating Phase 2 of the report. Furthermore, Ms. Weiss questioned if the consultant team could look into designating fields for specific uses and updating existing fields.
- Rob Stevenson, Davis Little League, stated that there is definitely a need for additional baseball fields and there is a lot of inefficiency for booking fields with the current reservation system.
- Simon Pitfield, Davis Fencing Club, stated that there are not enough facilities in Davis to house his club, which is currently located next door to a Cannabis dispensary. He is looking to move the U.S. Olympic Fencing Team to Davis and would like to host future tournaments; however, a ten thousand square foot facility would be required and there is a shortage in Davis.

The following recommendations were provided by the Commission:

- Additional information is needed to thoroughly consider all options.
- Small tournaments are economically favorable.
- Currently there are not enough sufficient facilities to meet the demand of the user groups. There needs to be a consensus on a new sports facility.
- Additional community input is needed for a sports complex.
- The current reservation system needs to be improved and we need to make better use of the fields we currently have.

(Commission Vink left the meeting at approximately 8:15pm)

A motion was made by D. Silbaugh that the Commission recommend a narrower scope for Phase II, that includes more economic development data for uses of existing fields, and that explores opportunities for other non-traditional sports. Seconded by R. Ono.

A revised motion was made by D. Silbaugh that City Council authorize staff to continue with Phase II, taking into consideration the comments made by the Commission for a deeper analysis of the project, including how to best meet the needs of local community sports teams and economic focus on developing existing fields. Seconded by E. Griswold.

A third motion was made by C. Harrington that City Council authorize staff to continue with Phase II, taking into consideration how to better meet the needs of local community sports teams by improving/expanding on existing fields and more detailed economic impact analysis. Seconded by T. Herdt. The motion passed 6-1-1-0.

AYES: Griswold, Harland, Harrington, Herdt, Ono and Silbaugh

NOES: Hubbard

Absent: Vink

Abstentions: None

C. Designate the Chair and Vice Chair Positions for the 2020 Calendar Term

Commissioner Tyson Hubbard nominated Commissioner Timm Herdt for the position of Chairperson. The motion was seconded by D. Silbaugh. The motion passed 6-0-1-0.

AYES: Griswold, Harland, Harrington, Herdt, Hubbard, Ono and Silbaugh

NOES: None

Absent: Vink

Abstentions: None

Commissioner Bruce Harland nominated Commissioner Darci Silbaugh as the Vice Chair. The motion was second T. Hubbard. The motion passed 6-0-1-0.

AYES: Griswold, Harland, Harrington, Herdt, Hubbard, Ono and Silbaugh

NOES: None

Absent: Vink

Abstentions: None

7. Commission Comments and Staff Communications

A. City Council Liaison - No report.

B. Aquatic Economic Analysis – No report.

C. Art in Public Spaces – No report.

D. Parks Maintenance Standards – Commissioner Vink has joined the Parks Maintenance Standards sub-committee.

E. Volunteer Engagement Sub-committee – Commissioner Griswold stated that the group has not met as a group, but she has met with the City’s Volunteer Coordinator Kellie Vitaich.

8. Future Agenda Items

- Teen Leadership Council to present before the Commission in February 2020. Additionally, Rob Cain, City Urban Forest Manager will present before the Commission.

Commissioner R. Ono moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by T. Herdt at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Martin Jones

Parks Superintendent