

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
November 3, 2009 – 7pm

Convened 7:04pm

ROLL CALL

Present: Tim Brown, Chair
 Tom Anderson
 Bill Garrett
 Kathy Hamilton
 Phillip Lugar
 Marie Marston
 Greg Ruzicka

Staff: Laura Detweiler, Recreation & Senior Services Director
 Mark Harmon, General Services Director
 Sean Levin, Recreation Superintendent
 Teri Craig, Admin Asst

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Director Detweiler stated that the Coastal Commission had contacted staff regarding the China Cove volleyball court and that reported that they had a back log and requested an additional three months to give them time to do a full review. She noted that staff granted the request extending the review period through March 29, 2010.

Discussion ensued regarding the application process and Chair Brown stated that he believed it important to point out to the Coastal Commission that the area under review was for sand storage and was not a natural dune.

Director Detweiler stated that an issue was brought to the attention of staff last week regarding a gentleman that removed a majority of the vegetation at China Cove. The police responded and filed a vandalism report against the gentlemen. The case is being forwarded to the District Attorney. She went on to say that the Coastal Commission was notified of this incident and that the investigation is ongoing at this time and that the area looks drastically different from when the onsite meetings were held about the possible relocation of the volleyball court.

Director Detweiler stated that the Sunset Ridge draft EIR is available for public review and comments are being taken through December 11. She went on to say that the winter *Navigator* had been mailed and noted that the staff did a terrific job. In October staff hosted an Open House for the remodeled Community Youth Center in CdM with a weeklong of activities and concluded with a Movie in the Park. The natural amphitheatre of the park was used and over 300 people came to watch *Madagascar 2*. She noted that it was a great way to cap that week and re-introduce the Center to the community.

Director Harmon updated the Commission regarding the Ordinance of what types of materials could be burned in the fire rings. He reported that the Council approved the Ordinance unanimously at their last meeting. He noted that a comment had been made at the end of the discussion regarding the possible removal of the fire rings which generated quite a bit of interest from the community. He stated that staff would bring this issue back to the Commission with a report and discussion after the first of the year.

Discussion ensued among the Commission regarding the history of the fire pits and the process that would be taken regarding this matter.

Director Harmon stated that staff will research and gather information after the first of the year. He went on to say that the issue of retaining the fire pits was not part of what was approved by Council; only the amendment to the Ordinance of what materials can be burned which will provide the support to control and enforce their use.

Commissioner Hamilton thanked Director Harmon and staff for their excellent work in writing the Ordinance.

Chair Brown seconded that and commented on how long this had been an item of discussion. He expressed his opinion that that the Commission should be involved in any discussion regarding the possible removal of the fire pits. Director Hamilton stated that the process begins with the Commission.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Item pulled by Commissioner Garrett

2. Park & Operations Division Activity Report. *Receive/file monthly Activity Report for activities and upcoming projects.*

3. Recreation & Senior Services Activity Report. *Receive/file monthly Activity Report for activities and upcoming projects.*

Motion by Commissioner Ruzicka to accept items Consent Calendar items 1-2. Motion carried by acclamation.

1. Minutes of the September 1, 2009 regular meeting. Commissioner Garrett asked that his comments during the discussion of the nomination of Dr. Vandersloot for a Community Service Award be added.

Director Detweiler read Commissioner Garret's comments as the following into the minutes:

Commissioner Garrett stated that there were some previous City Council Members that were very opposed to that because of the law suit that Mr. Vandersloot filed against the City a few years ago. He noted that everyone should take that for what it is worth and that most of those council members are gone off the Council but there are some people that still have some bad feelings because of the law suit.

Motion by Commissioner Ruzicka to revise the October 6, 2009 to add the Commissioner Garrett's comments as stated. Motion carried by acclamation.

NEW ITEMS

Commissioner Marston asked to be recused from this item and excused herself from the room.

4. Request to Add Second Volleyball Court at Prospect Street – Superintendent Levin provided a staff report based on the application from Tom Higgs to add an additional volleyball court at the Prospect Street location. He went on to say that that staff had met with General Services and Lifeguard staff to discuss the proposed court location. Staff concluded that the court would not create any public safety or maintenance issues for the General Services or Lifeguard staff to conduct their day to day duties. The approximate cost for materials to install a beach volleyball court is \$200. He stated that he had received an email from Darlene Antonini stating her opposition with the placement of the additional volleyball court.

Discussion ensued regarding buffer zones; Superintendent Levin stated that this court is situated 174 feet from the nearest resident and that the policy states that it must be 50 feet.

Chair Brown opened the public discussion.

Darlene Antonini stated that she does have some concerns about congestion in the area but would supporting the request.

Commissioner Hamilton suggested that the volleyball players be mindful and respectful of the neighbors.

Tom Berka stated that he would be mindful and that he lives there and promises to take care of the neighbors and that the use would probably be by families.

Chair Brown closed the public discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Ruzicka to approve the request to add second volleyball court at Prospect Street and to direct staff to complete an application to the Coastal Commission for their approval to add the additional court. Motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Anderson, Brown, Garrett, Hamilton, Lugar, Ruzicka

Recuse: Marston

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Parks – Nothing to report.

RSS – Nothing to report.

Budget– Nothing to report

AD- Hoc

–Community Services Award – Superintendent Levin stated that he had received an application from Commissioner Ruzicka nominating Dr. Jan Vandersloot for the award. The two-member sub-committee did not agree and so the issue has been brought forward to the Commission for their consideration.

Chair Brown stated that this is not an appointment but an award that the Commission bestows for extraordinary interest or effort from a member of the community. He went on to say that he would like the Commission to discuss this before a vote is taken and reach consensus.

Commissioners Ruzicka and Lugar spoke in favor of awarding Dr. Jan Vandersloot the award for his time and efforts at Castaways Park and his work with trees.

Commissioner Garrett spoke in opposition of the award due to past history related to Dr. Vandersloot's involvement at Back Bay View Park. He noted that he wanted to make sure that the Commission was aware of the issues that had occurred as a result of his involvement.

Commissioners Anderson and Lugar spoke in favor of the award and that Dr. Vandersloot deserved this due of his efforts and commended him for being involved in his community and going the extra mile.

Discussion ensued regarding the written criteria of the award.

Superintendent Levin stated that one of the criteria is a financial donation and noted that Dr. Vandersloot clearly meets that with his recent donation of \$5,000 for Castaways Park. He went on to say that the nominee must be a resident of or work in the City and that you have to be an active volunteer for at least one year.

Chair Brown spoke further of the guidelines and the premise behind the award and asked the Commission to consider these thoughts and expressed his hope that the Commission can meet consensus and that a vote will not need to be taken.

Superintendent Levin stated that the Commissioner has never voted because the sub-committee has approved it and did not need a vote. He went on to say that the procedure should be reviewed because it states that the vote should be taken in closed session. Staff checked with the City Attorney and the Commission cannot legally meet in closed session due to Brown Act violations.

Commissioner Ruzicka stated that he was willing to connect his name to the award on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Garrett stated that he would abstain from the vote.

Director Detweiler suggested that the Commission vote on this matter and that a third person be appointed to the Committee so that there is a tie breaking vote. Furthermore the procedure needs to be looked at to fine tune the process and that the Commission agrees with the purpose behind the award.

Motion by Commissioner Lugar to give the Community Service Award to Dr. Jan Vandersloot at a future meeting.

Ayes: Anderson, Brown, Hamilton, Lugar, Marston, Ruzicka

Abstain: Garrett

Chair Brown appointed Commissioner Hamilton as the third member of the Community Service Award Committee.

—Youth Sports Liaison – Nothing to report

—China Cove Volleyball Court – Nothing to report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Fire Pits

ADJOURNED – 7:49pm

Submitted by: _____
Teri Craig, Admin Assistant