

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 7:00p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall Council Chambers 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito

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## 1. Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Commissioners Present: Chair - Manish Doshi, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson, Margo

Takemiya, Robin Mitchell

Commissioners Excused: Commissioner Goldstein

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Jawad

Staff Present: Jerry Bradshaw, Public Works Director; Bridget Cooney, Aquatics Supervisor; Tony Gokoffsky, Associate Engineer; Christopher Jones, Program Supervisor II; Monica Kortz, Recreation Director; Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Manager; Lori Teachout, Management Assistant

2. Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements
Kortz reported that the Annual Egg Hunt on April 23, 2011 was well-attended.

Chair Doshi commented on a recent incident involving a West Contra Costa Youth Soccer league coach that was reported in the *West County Times*. There was an allegation of inappropriate action with a young child. El Cerrito Youth Soccer has asked the coach to resign until the issue is resolved. The child involved in the incident was not a soccer participant.

## 3. Oral Communications From The Public

Robert Studdiford, chair of the West Contra Costa Unified School District Bond Oversight Committee, spoke in favor of retention of the Portola Middle School Gymnasium, for future evening and daytime usage. He vouched for school district assets (bond funds) which could be used for this and believed the Recreation Department and school district could work together.

Commissioner Lipson arrived at 7:25 pm.

4. Council Liaison Report: Councilmember Greg Lyman Councilmember Lyman reported that on Saturday, March 5, the City Council met to evaluate the mission statement and goals for the City. At the March 7 Council Meeting, it was announced that it was American Red Cross month. Two El Cerrito women, were recognized as Women of the Year. Kim Honda of Contra Costa College, and Willa Sudduth of Assembly District 14 were honored. The Council took up several actions concerning the Redevelopment Agency reacting to the State's threat to Redevelopment funds. On March 21, the Council approved resolutions for the conveyance of real property from the Redevelopment Area to the El Cerrito Municipal Corporation.

The Council voted to extend the Measure A parcel tax at existing rates. On Monday, April 4, 2011 the City Council made a proclamation for Earth Day. On Saturday, April 9, 2011, Council concluded work on its mission statement, and set goals for the year.

- Approval of Minutes: (Action: Approve)
   Exhibit 1: Meeting Minutes from March 1, 2011
   Commissioner Takemiya moved to approve the minutes from March 1, 2011.
   Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.
- Bridget Cooney, Aquatics Supervisor gave an overview of the Swim Center Programs. Bridget Cooney, Aquatics Supervisor described the many programs at the swim center: lap swim, water aerobics, youth and adult swim teams, recreation swim, Splash Park, swim lessons, masters water polo, lifeguard training, and babysitting training.

Councilmember Lyman arrived at 7:30 pm.

The Splash Park opened In October 2010. The First 5 Grant program paid for vouchers for free swim lessons. The Aquatics Staff looks forward to serving community. Chair Doshi asked if First Aid Training was available to groups, and Cooney said that her Staff would be interested in providing that service.

7. Update Huber Park: Tony Gokoffski, Associate Engineer, Jerry Bradshaw, City Engineer / Public Works Director Gokoffski met with the Huber park neighborhood about improvements over year ago, and prepared a spreadsheet with all of their suggestions and costs. He reviewed their requests.

Melanie Mintz arrived at 7:45 p.m.

The budget for Huber Park repairs is about \$125,000. He plans to meet with the neighborhood one more time and develop a design.

Bradshaw reported that there had been a mini landslide, near Park Way. There are seasonal heavy rains which the current drainage cannot handle. The lighting project at Creekside Park, is underway and will be completed within a few months.

Chair Doshi asked if Huber Park was from our original Measure WW wish list, and asked if funding could be increased for this. Bradshaw advised that if funding were to be increased, there would be greater ADA constraints.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there was any coordination with the Trail Trekkers? Bradshaw stated interest in coordinating with them and seeing to what level the

Trekkers would be interested in participating.

Commissioner Kaplan reported that Earth Day volunteers did a clean up effort at Huber Park. Volunteers removed silt and added sand to the sandbox, and definitely showed a willingness to volunteer.

 Recommend to the City Council that the Park and Recreation Commission is in support of acquiring or providing joint use of the Portola Gymnasium with the West Contra Costa Unified School District: (Action: Approve) Monica Kortz, Recreation Director

Kortz reported that the issue of the Portola gym usage has come up at the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board meetings.

Commissioner Takemiya made a motion that this Commission strongly recommend to the City Council that the City and the School District work together in the operation of the Portola Gym. Commissioner Lipson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 9. Recommend to the City Council support of Proposition 84 application and the development of an Urban Greening Plan: (Action: Approve) Commissioner Mitchell moved that this Commission recommend to the City Council support of Proposition 84 and the development of an Urban Greening Master Plan. Commissioner Kaplan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mintz asked with whom she would be in touch with as she works on this grant. Commissioners Mitchell and Doshi volunteered to act as liaisons.
- 10. Community Garden Presentation: Commissioner Robin Mitchell and Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Manager

Commissioner Mitchell gave a presentation on Community Gardens. Her presentation included the benefits of a Community Garden, and examples of other gardens. She explained that the Senior Center has garden boxes. All the neighboring gardens have a waiting list. At Earth Day they gave away all of their seedlings.

In El Cerrito the one area that stood out was Fairmont Park. A community garden could be run by a grant and volunteer group. In San Francisco city staff manages their gardens. Previously they were managed by a non-profit, and now operate by the City as a normal park.

The proposed plan for the Fairmont Park area is half garden and half park. The Fairmont School and Ohlone Greenway Master Plan architect was contacted to put together a plan and cost. Chair Doshi stated a Community Garden would get a lot of support.

Mintz explained that the Fairmont area fits more of the profile of a Community Garden. The water tank site was considered, but in terms of population density and accessibility Fairmont was better suited.

11. Recommend to the City Council the FY 2011-12 Recreation Master Fee Schedule: (Action: Approve) Christopher Jones, Supervisor II and Monica Kortz, Recreation Director

Jones explained that this year there is a request for a 4% fee increase in the Master Fee Schedule. Last year the increase was 3%. The 1% will be used to fund a capital improvement purchase of a new recreation software system for the next 5 years.

Chair Doshi stated he was in favor of small annual increases.

Commissioner Kaplan moved to recommend we approve proposed fee increases. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## 12. Staff Report: Monica Kortz

- a) Kortz announced that the City's July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration and the Splash Park received the California Parks and Recreation Society Awards of Excellence.
- b) Because of a major overhaul at the Mira Vista Country Club this year's annual golf tournament will be at Tilden Park.
- c) The cracks at the Arlington Tennis Courts have been filled, and the Cerrito Vista Tennis Courts have been resurfaced.
- d) The Community Center Parking lot will be slurry sealed this weekend and re-striped.
- e) El Cerrito Youth Baseball needs to obtain the necessary permits for the batting cage.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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