



REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 28, 2012
7:00p.m.

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

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Management Assistant at 510-559-7000. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the city to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFT 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

1. Roll Call

- a. Chair - Manish Doshi, Leslie Goldstein, Seth Kaplan, Steve Lipson, Robin Mitchell, Margo Takemiya.

2. Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements

Commissioner Takemiya reported that the second season of 10 and Under Tennis has started and that there are 44 participants.

Chair Doshi reported that the soccer season has started, and play will begin when it stops raining.

3. Oral Communications From The Public: None

4. Council Liaison Report: Councilmember Rebecca Benassini

Councilmember Benassini reported at the March 6, 2012, Council meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility Project Memorandum of Understanding. This project includes cities and transportation agencies along the I80 corridor in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Cal Trans plans include incident management, ramp metering, and information posted along the highway.

She said that at the March 20 meeting, the Council discussed labor negotiations.

5. Approval of Minutes: (Action: Approve) Exhibit 1
Meeting Minutes from February 22, 2012

Commissioner Goldstein moved to accept the minutes, and Commissioner Takemiya seconded the motion. The motion carried with Chair Doshi abstaining, having missed the last meeting.

Commissioner Goldstein asked about joint School Board/City Council meeting, which had been postponed until April 3, 2012.

6. West Contra Costa Unified School District Discussion and Update on Recreational Facilities in El Cerrito: E. Keith Holtslander, West Contra Costa Unified School District

Commissioner Takemiya asked about the black surface and white lines of the El Cerrito High School tennis courts, and was assured that when the rain stops, the courts will be re-surfaced with conventional tennis court colors. She also asked about an agreement between the City and School District about public use of the high school facilities. Holtslander stated the School District legal department is working on an agreement. He also stated that facility use permits for the high school baseball and soccer fields are currently being processed. The WCCUSD facilities person is Rina Prasad. There have been issues regarding facilities in the past. Holtslander advised that these issues should be addressed by the principal of the school, then Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent for Operations.

Commissioner Takemiya asked about the use of school property for a Quick Start court. She asked about a plot of land north of the Harding tennis courts. Holtslander thought it was a possibility. He suggested submitting a site plan to the school district.

Commissioner Lipson asked about the changes to the El Cerrito High School ball diamond backstop. Holtslander replied that the backstop has not been approved by the State architect. Discussion followed about whether it is either the design, structure, height or width that is the issue. Commissioner Lipson added that the field is not a regulation field. Commissioner Goldstein stated she would like to see unlocked gates on the weekends as a policy in the joint use agreement.

Discussion followed about the re-construction of Fairmont School. Holtstader explained that it is still in the design development phase. Even though the design phase is almost done, because of budget issues, the construction will not be soon.

Holtslander explained that the Portola Middle School demolition is out for bids. Light demolition should start in May. Heavy demolition should be completed by the fall. The school district will hydro seed the graded lot of the Portola field, but it has always been the understanding that any turf installation would be the City's responsibility. He explained that he was aware of some minor water leaking in the gym wall.

7. Endorse Installation of Community Garden Planter Boxes at Fairmont Park: (Action: Approve)

Commissioner Mitchell explained that the community Garden Group has about ten active members, and 100 people on the e-mail list. They have been researching other communities' gardens. Their proposed site is near Fairmont elementary School, which seems to be underutilized.

In a common organizational model the City maintains the infrastructure, grant money covers the cost of materials and tools, and volunteers organize work parties. Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Manager, had applied unsuccessfully for an Urban Greening Grant through Proposition 84. Because the grant application fell short in the area of public interest, Mitchell thought that Earth Day planter boxes would generate public interest so that in the next opportunity would be an Urban Greening Grant in 2013.

The Community Garden held a public meeting in September 2011, they displayed a schematic of a community garden project. About thirty people attended.

The Earth Day planter box project would be at Fairmont, with two planter boxes, trellis entry way and sign. The Community Garden Group is deciding what to plant, considering California natives and what is deer proof. The whole thing will be assembled to allow de-construction, and will use re-cycled materials.

Chair Doshi asked about whether the BART construction will interfere. Commissioner Kaplan endorsed the use of recycled wood, redwood or not. Commissioner Mitchell concurred.

Commissioner Kaplan moved to endorse installation of a community Garden Planter boxes at Fairmont Earth Day. Commissioner Lipson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell added that their group is considering looking for a larger non-profit sponsor. This would facilitate their taking donations.

8. Discussion of Measure WW Funds Prioritization Process: Christopher Jones, Acting Recreation Director

This item has been tabled pending additional information. Jones explained that there may be future opportunities such as a Proposition 84 grant and the City's strategic plan that WW projects can be pooled with that may be advantageous. More information on these opportunities will be available within the next few months.

9. Public Works Update: Bill Driscoll, Maintenance Superintendent

Driscoll reported that City Staff has been working with volunteer groups to prepare various sports fields.

The City of Richmond met with El Cerrito's maintenance staff about Central Park to discuss the maintenance agreement. The park is in both cities, and both cities have shared maintenance costs.

Jones explained the long-standing maintenance agreement. The costs are shared, but El Cerrito does the programming for the ball field. Richmond's baseball leagues have expressed a desire to use Central Park but explained that many Richmond residents participate in El Cerrito leagues.

Driscoll reported that there have been complaints about dogs in lower Canyon Trail. Dogs are digging up the field, and Chair Doshi asked for a dirt-filler pile to fill the divits.

Driscoll reported that a new sign has been installed at Huber Park. When Commissioner Kaplan asked

about the eroded area, Driscoll stated some large rock had been installed to stabilize it. He also explained that area is potentially part of the WW project.

10. Staff Update

- a. Jones announced the delivery of the Spring Summer Brochure to residents' homes.
- b. The Recreation Department is offering a Spring Break camp which is about half full.
- c. He announced that if there is any interest to attend the Parks and Recreation Commissioners Conference, the City Manager has authorized reimbursement.
- d. He explained that there is an e-mail system that will automatically e-mail participants when there is a changes in field conditions.
- e. City council has filled the seventh vacancy on the Park and Recreation Commission. Mike Aaronian will be joining the Commission in June.

11. Items For Next Agenda

- a. Possibility of re-inviting Mr. Mixer. Jones said he would be able to forward questions and concerns to the school district.
- b. Update on agreement with WCCUSD about facility use and system for how the WCCUSD will be issuing permits.

12. Meeting Adjournment

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