

CITY OF YUBA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

Regular Meeting
April 16, 2008 – 5:30 p.m.
Conference Room – Littlejohn/Madden House
1300 Franklin Road, Yuba City

I. CALL TO ORDER

II.

The City of Yuba City Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Blake at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Recreation Department.

III. ROLL CALL

IV.

Commissioners Present:
Michele Blake, Clarine Musfelt and Vaughn Minnix

Commissioners Absent:
Richard Garmire, Lynne Koll,

Staff Present:
Brad McIntire, Interim Parks & Recreation Director

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 20, 2008 Regular Meeting – Copy submitted
Commissioner Minnix moved to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2008 Regular Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Musfelt, and passed unanimously.

V. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS

Public comment was invited regarding items of interest within the City's jurisdiction whether or not agendized for this meeting. No public comments were offered.

Tina Lavy with the Substance Abuse Coalition Steering Commission was in attendance. She wanted to present the Commission with a token of appreciation for being instrumental in the passing of the ordinance to make Gauche Aquatic Park tobacco free.

Mr. McIntire stated the Coalition was in attendance at Gauche Aquatic Park for a national event that is held once a year, "Kick Butt", with a wide range of activities being held on that day. The organization took students from River Valley High School to the park and showed them what the park had to offer and activities available. Along the way they picked up cigarette butts throughout the facility. Commissioner Minnix asked if there were any cigarette butts in the playground areas, and Ms. Lavy stated there were quite a few. Chairperson Blake stated that one of the efforts of the tobacco control program is also to decrease litter, not just tobacco smoke. Ms. Lavy stated it made the students aware that this is a problem by how much they did pick up, and hopefully this will deter them from starting to smoke.

On behalf of staff, Mr. McIntire thanked Ms. Lavy for all her efforts in this program and for educating staff of this problem. He stated that this baseline will be important in six months when this is reviewed and staff will be reporting back to City Council regarding this item. Staff may ask the Substance Abuse Coalition Steering Commission to appear at that time.

Ms. Lavy again thanked the Commission for their support.

VI. BUSINESS FOR THE COMMISSION

While Mr. Mathes was setting up for his presentation, Mr. McIntire moved to the Items for Information and Discussion (see below).

A. Park Master Plan

Mr. McIntire asked that through this process, the Commission to get input regarding parks while the Commission is out in the community. He stated he would be checking with them periodically to see if they have any input or have heard any input that could be vital to this process.

The Park Facilities Master Plan presentation agenda item was introduced by Mr. McIntire. He outlined the steps taken to date, the City's goals for updating the City's General Plan, as well as creating a Facilities Master Plan report plus an Operations & Maintenance Manual with Facilities Guidelines, based on Impact Fees adopted in 2007 by City Council.

Matt Mathes, ASLA of the firm Jacobs Carter Burgess, presented the consultants progress over the first four months of the eight month assignment. He provided a 10-page handout with the proposed level of service standards (Table 1) as well as the community needs assessment (Table 2) compared to the parks standards along with park classification descriptions. He also showed slides that provided general examples and images of four existing park categories, plus the specialized open space category defined primarily for Feather River parcels. Additional discussion topics intended for the upcoming community workshop were also presented.

The Yuba City parks system is approximately half in place for parks and open space compared to the number of acres needed for the build out population projected for 130,000 residents. Since the current city population at 73,000 residents is approximately half of ultimate population size, the City has done an excellent job in securing the total amount of parks and open space land to date. However, the types, sizes and kinds of land needed next will be different compared to the collection of mostly small to medium sized existing park sites. There is currently a need for several large park parcels (20+ acres). A near term emphasis for city staff will be to secure new lands needed mostly in the western half of the study area, for proper geographic distribution of sites to meet the facility needs of a balanced overall parks and recreation system.

During the slide presentation, the Commissioners asked several questions about the existing and proposed policies and definitions for the existing park categories, as well as the proposed new categories – Mini Parks and Active Sports Complex. The new category of Mini Parks is intended to recognize how existing small parks are currently recognized as City owned and City maintained sites while any new small park sites (Mini Parks) would not be developed, owned or maintained by City. Maintenance costs compared to limited beneficial use of small sites is the reason for the proposed category. The Active Sports Complex category criteria is proposed to be incorporated into the operations and maintenance guidelines document so the criteria can apply to any one of three applicable park and open space categories – Community Park, City Park or Specialized Open Space sites.

Regarding the five draft park planning maps intended for park plan reports, the Commissioners reviewed all maps and had comments regarding the Proposed City Trail Map (Figure 6). A suggestion during the discussion was to create a looped trail that ties into the existing Feather River open space sites. The proposed trail corridor would also connect with existing parks, proposed parks as well as existing trails and proposed trails. Matt Mathes explained that a “loop trail” concept featuring riverfront trails could be similar to concepts planned in Portland, Oregon, Puyallup, Washington and Marysville, California.

Commissioners commented that a looped trail concept could enable community events such as 5K, 10K and marathon races for residents, as well as help attract visitors. Commissioners noted that a defined trail route course for community events exists in Marysville. It was suggested the proposed Yuba City future trail corridor be wide enough for soft trails for equestrian or walking, as well as a paved multi-use trail. It was suggested that a new trail corridor alignment be defined around the northern, western and southern city perimeter to connect with larger sized proposed park sites along the Sphere of Influence boundary (ultimate city limits). Brad McIntire requested for the consultants to revise the draft Proposed City Trail Map (Figure 6) as discussed at the April 16 meeting to share with the Commissioners.

Regarding overall schedule and next steps, the proposed date and format for the community workshop was established. June 18 would be the preferred meeting date for the community workshop, considering advance notice for attendees as well as time for the Commissioners to preview the content and format of discussion topics. The May 21 Regular Meeting will be used to prepare for the June 18 community meeting planned to start at 7 p.m., after the Commission’s normal 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting. Matt Mathes thanked the Commission for providing guidance and comments on the draft plan materials. The agenda item discussion ended at 7:15 p.m.

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

A. Tobacco Ordinance Update

Mr. McIntire stated City Council approved the Tobacco Free ordinance for Gauche Aquatic Park. Once an ordinance is approved by City Council, it can be implemented 45 days from the date of approval. During this period of time, signs will be made and be ready to install at the end of this time period. This time allows for anyone to appeal the ordinance.

B. Parks & Recreation Report – Brad McIntire

Mr. McIntire stated since the last meeting the department has started the Mighty Mite Soccer program, which is new this year, with 240 participants. With the multi-use facility agreement with Yuba City Unified School District, the department has the opportunity to use the all-weather turf football fields at both River Valley and Yuba City High Schools.

Mighty Mite T-Ball is going to begin shortly, along with the Track & Field program. The Hershey Track Meet is coming up soon, and will be discussed at the next meeting.

The municipal pool at Sam Brannan Park has been demolished with one building remaining at the facility. This will be used by the Parks crew to house some of their maintenance and operations equipment. A plan will be presented to the Commission at its next meeting to look at the benches, shade structure and sand volleyball court. Gray Avenue School was asked for their input on these additions as the pool was used by the school, and it is no longer there for their use.

The water feature project at Shanghai Garden Park began on Monday, April 14th and should be completed by the end of July.

City Council approved the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission for the playground equipment at Holly Tree Park. This will be installed and completed by the end of July as well.

Bids are being obtained for a walkway at Kingwood Park. Staff is proposing two bocce ball courts to be built at that park. Since the Senior Center is so close to this facility, seniors were surveyed and this is what they would like to see built at the park.

City staff is trying to make each park unique, and will be obtaining input from the community when parks are renovated/built. Part of the Parks Master Plan is to standardized certain components in the park (i.e. shade structures/type of shade, benches, etc.), but to also make each park unique in its own way. In going through this process, Mr. McIntire has had the opportunity to familiarize himself with the parks.

Commissioner Minnix asked about Kingwood Park and Mr. McIntire explained that this park is near the Senior Center. Staff will be implementing some walking programs and other activities where staff will be able to take advantage of the additions to the park.

Mr. McIntire moved to Item VI. Business for the Commission – Park Master Plan (see above).

C. Agenda Items for the Next Commission Meeting

1. June 18th Community Workshop

VIII. TREE ADVISORY BOARD

None

IX. NEXT COMMISSION DATE

Regular Meeting – May 21, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. – Littlejohn Madden House, 1300 Franklin Road, Yuba City.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Blake adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad McIntire
Interim Parks & Recreation Director

BM/bg