



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 6:30 PM
Menlo Park Senior Center
100 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

The meeting was called to order by Chair K. Kox at 6:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: James Cebrian, Kristin Cox, Marianne Palefsky (arrived at 6:38), Thomas Stanwood, Christopher Harris, Elidia Tafoya (arrived at 7:08)

Absent: Tom Cecil

Staff: Derek Schweigart, Assistant Director for Community Services

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

B. REGULAR BUSINESS

B1. Approval of minutes for the July 23, 2014 meeting

ACTION: Motion/Second (Cebrian/Stanwood) to approve the minutes for the June meeting. Motion passes with all present members in favor.

B2. Discuss and provide feedback on the proposed Library Landscaping Project

Jesse Quirion, Public Works Director, introduced Brian Fletcher from the Callander and Associates Landscape Architecture Company. They presented a plan that includes replacement of most of the landscaping around the Library.

Commission members provided the following feedback:

- Commissioners expressed concern about some of the proposed materials, such as pebbles, as they may scatter around the campus.
- Commissioners were not clear whether the plan would provide ample space for reading and leisure outside the Library.

Commission Chair moved onto item D1.

D1. Report on Fremont Park Pine Tree Removal and Replacement/Existing Tree Reuse Options

The Commission is supportive of preserving some parts of the fallen tree at the current park location and explore reshaping parts to make different objects such as play structure and outdoor furniture. In addition, the Commission was also in favor of

repurposing some of the tree wood to make furniture that may be auctioned off to generate funds for the purchase of a new tree.

Chair moved onto item C2.

C. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

C2. Bedwell-Bayfront Subcommittee will provide update on the committee's work (Palefsky)

The subcommittee members pointed out that the city's ability to redevelop and attract new businesses is dependent upon the live-work-play space ratio. They brought up the importance of the park's maintenance and visitors' safety. The members are interested in contracting ranger services and would like to review the past contracts between the City and service providers. The Commission members were interested in learning about maintenance costs and ranger-services costs. They will bring this item for discussion again before the current maintenance contract expires in 2015.

C1. Present and discuss City Council feedback with regard to the Commission's work plan goals (Palefsky)

The City Council was supportive of changing the Commission's charter to Parks, Recreation and Art Commission. The commission members discussed the feedback from the Council and agreed that adding art to the commission's purview at this time would be premature without further exploration and consideration.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

D2. Presentation of Belle Haven Neighborhood Action Plan Update

Subcommittee members spoke about feedback they gathered in community meetings. Belle Haven residents would like to see concrete benefit from the local companies, such as Facebook, in terms of employment.

Chair moved onto item B3.

B3. Discuss and approve Quarterly Report to City Council

No action was made on this item. The members appointed Thomas Stanwood to present the Commission's Quarterly Report to City Council

D3. Community Services Department Director's Update and Announcements

There was no discussion on this item.

E. ADJOURNMENT – 9:35 P.M

Prepared by: Jelena Gaines

Minutes were approved by the Commission at the meeting of Wednesday, October 22, 2014.