

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

June 23, 2016

The special meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, by Chair Simonson in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Members present: Chair Simonson, Commissioner Jose Garcia, Commissioner Bologna, Commissioner Inscoe, Commissioner Lopez, Commissioner Stephens, and Commissioner Israel.

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Brandon Garcia, and Commissioner DeFrain.

Staff present: Loretta McKinney, Director of Library and Community Services; Danielle Lopez, Assistant Director of Community Services; Janet Rulien, Administrative Coordinator; Karen Williams, Manager – Community Services; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Jose Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Bologna, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2016, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. EL CABALLO PARK NATURAL EXPLORATION AREA

Director McKinney referenced the staff report and noted that staff recommended the Commission consider the presentation provided by landscape architect Timothy Smith, President of Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture, Inc., provide appropriate comments regarding the project, and provide approval in concept.

Timothy Smith, President of Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture, Inc., provided the landscape and architectural plans for the Natural Exploration area for the El Caballo Park. He noted that the area would promote creativity and interaction through the use of natural materials from nature found on the site. He then provided an overview of the proposed materials and configurations as well as site conditions. He noted that they had already begun collecting materials, noting all work was

being performed by volunteers.

Marilyn Carpenter, Escondido, Board of Directors for the El Caballo Park Conservancy, stated that they were a dedicated diversified group who had considerable community involvement in obtaining City Council support for the Park master plan. She asked that the Commission approve the proposed conceptual plan, noting this would enable them to move forward with their plans to continue developing the Park. She felt funding sources would come forward once the public saw something tangible on the property.

Steve Berrol, President of the El Caballo Park Conservancy, Escondido, stated that while the Escondido Charitable Foundation understood that the 12-month deadline to complete the project could be surpassed, obtaining conceptual approval from the Commission would help meet the deadline. He then provided some background history regarding the formation of the El Caballo Park Conservancy and noted that one of the goals was to preserve the equestrian history and work in conjunction with the Humane Society. Mr. Berrol then read an excerpt from a research study, which outlined the benefits of natural play, that included enhancing the cognitive and behavioral skills of children and promoted better health. He noted that the Conservancy had met all the City requirements for leasing the land and creating the design and asked for Commission approval of the conceptual plan.

Commissioner Inscoe asked if the logs would be treated. Mr. Smith noted that the logs would be sanded and treated.

Commissioner Lopez referenced a study conducted in Australia that showed students did better all around when they had playground equipment. She and Mr. Berrol then discussed the terms for the lease on the land.

Commissioner Bologna commended the individuals involved with the project. He then asked if the donations were moving forward. Mr. Berrol noted that part of the difficulty in approaching potential funding sources was that no detailed plans had been developed, noting that there was some interest at the County level. He stated that they had already purchased liability insurance. He also elaborated that they had two grants pending with the County.

Commissioner Bologna asked if any seed funds were available from the original \$50,000. Mr. Berrol replied in the negative. He stated that the subject project would probably be exempt from needing an Environmental Impact Review. He also indicated that they had received \$24,500 from the Escondido Charitable Foundation.

Commissioner Israel was in favor of the project, feeling it would be a great resource for children and the community. She suggested looking at the Cal Wellness Foundation for potential funding.

Commissioner Jose Garcia thanked the individuals involved in the project. He questioned whether there would be a barrier between older and younger children as well as an area for parents to sit. Mr. Smith replied in the affirmative, noting that more seating could be added as needed.

Commissioner Israel questioned whether bathrooms would be a part of this project. Mr. Smith replied in the negative and stated that a Porta-Potty was currently located near the subject site.

Chairman Simonson asked if there were standards for natural material. Mr. Smith noted that deterioration of the wood is natural and would have to be replaced in the future, but that the US Safe Playground Safety Standards have been taken into consideration.

Chairman Simonson asked if signage was prevalent for the upcoming project. Mr. Smith replied in the negative.

Commissioner Stevens liked that the proposed design, feeling it would challenge children.

Commissioner Bologna was in favor of all of the proposed activities for the project.

Mr. Smith thanked Director McKinney and Jay Petrek for their help.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Israel, seconded by Commissioner Jose Garcia, to approve staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT PROPOSED PHOTO AND VIDEO POLICY STATEMENT

Assistant Director Lopez referenced the staff report and noted that staff's recommendation was for the Commission to receive and provide input on the Photo and Video Policy statement.

Commissioner Israel asked if individuals were questioning the subject language after it had been signed. Ms. Lopez replied in the negative, noting that the City was being proactive.

Commissioner Bologna questioned what would occur if an individual did not sign the waiver and happened to be in an area where a photo or video was taken. Ms. McKinney noted this was the reason for signage being posted stating that photos or videos might be taken.

Commissioner Inscoe asked if staff had instances where an individual did not want their photo taken. Ms. Lopez replied in the affirmative and indicated it was then noted in the person's file.

Commissioner Jose Garcia noted that churches were taking the same precautions.

Discussion ensued regarding a clarification of how publication photos were selected.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director McKinney noted that Coordinator Rulien would be sending out an Outlook appointment reminder to Commissioners of future meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Director McKinney asked if the Commission wanted to cancel the July 28 meeting. The Commission directed staff to cancel the July 28 meeting.

COMMISSION MEMBERS COMMENTS:

The Commissioners thanked staff for a job well done.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m. The next regular meeting was scheduled for October 27, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.


Loretta McKinney, Director of
Library and Community Services


Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk