

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY & OLDER ADULT SERVICES COMMISSION

October 25, 2012

The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order at 6:33 p.m., Thursday, by Chairman Bologna in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Members present: Commissioner Fralish, Chairman Bologna, Commissioner Pitcher, Commissioner Russell, Commissioner DuDeck, Commissioner Garcia, Youth Representative, and Commissioner Farwell.

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Nelson and Commissioner Burrows.

Staff present: Jerry Van Leeuwen, Director of Community Services; Amy Shipley, Older Adult Services Manager; Jay Paul, Associate Planner; Jay Petrek, Principal Planner; Peter Ritchie, Recreation Supervisor; Corinne Triol, Administrative Coordinator; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

SWEARING IN: Joseph Garcia, Youth Representative, was sworn in by Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Fralish, seconded by Commissioner Pitcher, to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2012, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION:

1. Set Community Services Meeting Schedule for 2013

Ms. Shipley and the Commission discussed the tentative meeting schedule for 2013. The 2013 meeting schedule was set as follows: January 24, April 25, July 25, and October 24.

PRESENTATION:

1. Park Designs by future Park Planners – (Alexandria White & Lydia Barajas

Alexandria White and Lydia Barajas provided a presentation outlining the amenities

in Balboa Park (San Diego), Brooklyn Bridge (New York), Boston Common, (Boston, Massachusetts), Riverwalk Park (San Antonio, Texas), Central Park (New York), Gardens by the Bay (Singapore), and Burns Park (North Little Rock, Arkansas). The presentation focused on the interactive features and public art of each park.

2. Bike & Trails Master Plan

Mr. Paul provided an overview of the Bicycle Facilities Master Plan as well as the funding mechanisms for the plan and requested input.

Discussion ensued regarding a clarification of the proposed colored concrete sections in relation to creating awareness of bicyclists.

Commissioner Pitcher asked if parking at Grape Day Park would be eliminated with the subject plan. Mr. Paul replied in the negative.

3. Great Western Park & Playground

Peter Ritchie, Escondido Sports Center Supervisor, noted that he had been lobbying for a playground near the sports center for a period of time, noting that there was no place for the younger children to play when their family or older sibling was using the center. He noted that he had heard that some funding might be available using matching funds for parks. He stated that he had learned about Great Western Playground using a concept called "Pathways for Play", which he felt would be a great fit for the entire park as well as being a great way to utilize the park's amenities such as Queen Califia's Magical Circle. He then introduced Nate Younker and Dave Farson to the Commission.

Nate Younker, Local Representative for GameTime, noted that Playcore was the research side of GameTime, noting that GameTime was the actual manufacturer for the equipment. He then introduced Dave Farson to the Commission.

Dave Farson, GameTime, provided an overview of Pathways for Play, noting their focus was to encourage users under the age of 18 to use the trails and get them out to nature. He stated that they had collaborative partnership with Play Core. He indicated that they put together an advisory board to develop their program, which extended play value through using the park systems. He then referenced various designs using play pockets, welcome signage, and playground equipment. He also stated that Kit Carson Park might be a great location for a national demonstration park.

Chairman Bologna felt the proposed concept would benefit the community. He then asked if Los Angeles had a similar park. Mr. Younker noted that this was a new concept, which was taking off quickly.

Mr. Ritchie noted that this was the first time he heard of a national demonstration park, noting his view that Kit Carson Park as a play destination was a great concept if the funding was available.

Mr. Farson noted that to become a demonstration park site three play pockets would be needed.

Commissioner Farwell and Mr. Ritchie discussed potential locations for play pockets.

Commissioner Farwell questioned whether the subject proposal would help take care of the need for play equipment near the sports center. Mr. Ritchie replied in the affirmative, noting that there was no place for the children to play.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mr. Van Leeuwen provided an overview of the recreation budget. He stated that Mr. Petrek had been assigned to the El Caballo Park project.

Mr. Petrek provided an overview of the General Plan update in relation to the parks and trails, and inventory of developed and undeveloped parkland. He also provided an update on the El Caballo Park Master Plan, noting that the City Council had authorized \$50,000 for a master plan. He then provided an overview of the process for the master plan.

Mr. Van Leeuwen introduced Karen Youel, noting she had brought in \$1.3 million in grant funding to the City.

Discussion ensued regarding the timing and process for putting out to bid the playground equipment in Grape Day Park, the projected improvements for James Stone Pool, and Washington Park's tennis courts.

Commissioner Pitcher asked if the tennis courts at Washington Park were underutilized. Mr. Van Leeuwen noted that they were looking at repurposing the tennis courts depending on the amount of use.

Discussion ensued regarding an update on the Jesmond Dene lighting project.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Van Leeuwen provided the update and noted that Escondido Charitable Foundation received a \$10,000 grant for "Escondido Rocks" which focused on creating a positive image for Escondido's students by being active in school and being active in at least one activity.

Mr. Van Leeuwen noted that he would be retiring at the end of December. The Commission thanked Mr. Van Leeuwen for his services to the City.

Commissioner Russell and staff discussed Kit Carson Park in relationship to the General Plan. Additional discussions ensued regarding the status of the batting cage concept for Kit Carson Park.

2. RECREATION UPDATE

Ms. Shipley provided the update and noted that Families on Foot was well received with over 200 participants.

Mr. Van Leeuwen provided the mid-year financial update, noting that the need for the recreation reserve was greater than expected. He stated the feeling was that the reserves would not have to be drawn on in 2014, noting that staff was working very hard to accomplish this.

Ms. Shipley provided an update on the Veteran's Cup, noting that they wanted to come back next year.

3. OLDER ADULT SERVICES UPDATE

Ms. Shipley provided the update and noted that Mary Rodelo from Housing was a new staff member at the Senior Center. She stated that the Wellness Expo was well received. She noted that the craft store at the Senior Center was now closed and being used as a multi-use room, which had been well received by the community. She indicated that the Older Adult division was getting ready for holiday season's programs. She also noted that they had been approached by an acting company to do a fundraiser for older adults and scholarships.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Site Committee – DuDeck, Pitcher, and Fralish. Alternate – Farwell.
Revenue & Operations Review – Bologna, and Nelson. Alternate – Burrows.
Community Activities – Garcia, Russell, and Farwell. Alternate – Pitcher.
Facility Use – Bologna, and Fralish,

Chairman Bologna was the acting alternate for all subcommittees.

UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL ACTION – Continued to the next meeting.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.

ITEMS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

Future Agenda Item – Ms. Shipley noted that Senior Service Council was putting together a strategic plan for older adults with a presentation to follow in January.

Recreation Programs – No discussion.

Development Projects – No discussion.

Older Adults Projects/Programs – No discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of AMGEN tour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Site Committee

Revenue, Operation Review

Community Activities

Facility Use

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner DuDeck asked if the City had any community gardening programs where adults interacted with students. Ms. Shipley noted that San Marcos had a program, noting her view that this might be worth researching.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for January 24, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.



Jerry Van Leeuwen, Director of
Community Services

Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk