

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

January 23, 2014

The regular meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m., Thursday, by Chairman Bologna in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Members present: Chairman Bologna, Commissioner DuDeck, Commissioner Farwell, Commissioner Fralish, Commissioner Pitcher, Commissioner Russell, and Commissioner Simonson.

Commissioners absent: None

Staff present: Amy Shipley, Assistant Director of Community Services; Loretta McKinney, Director of the Library and Community Services; Karen Williams, Older Adult Services Manager; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Simonson, seconded by Commissioner Fralish, to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2013, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION: None.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. **Park Improvement Projects Update – Received.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **El Caballo Park Master Plan Draft including Presentation – Tim Smith, Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture, Inc.**

Ms. McKinney noted the Commission would review the El Caballo Park draft Master Plan that would be presented by Tim Smith of Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture. She noted that comments and suggestions made by the Commission would be taken to the Planning Commission in February and then forwarded on to City Council in March.

Tim Smith, Wynn-Smith Landscape Architecture, provided the El Caballo Master Plan (draft Master Plan link is available on City's website). He noted that the three community workshops, which were conducted as part of the Master Plan tasks, resulted in a variety of cultures and beliefs joining together and being represented and incorporated into the design of the Master Plan.

Rick Paul, Escondido, noted that the community meetings were well received. He stated that he had been involved with this project for three years, noting he was in favor of the project.

Steve Berrol, Escondido, President of the El Caballo Park Conservancy, noted that they had received 501c3 status, noting they were serious about moving forward with the project. He expressed his enthusiasm with the team efforts between the various community groups and individuals. He noted that the park footprint was approximately 20 acres with approximately 60 acres being hillside. He stated that he was in favor of the proposed plan, noting it would help preserve the area and at the same time provide great opportunities to the community.

Ben Cueva, Escondido, was in favor of the proposed project. He felt the project would help unite the community. He asked that the Commission support the project.

Deanne Sanderson, Escondido, President of Valley Center Vaqueros, stated that she was in favor of the project, feeling it would be a great opportunity for the community to experience riding and interacting with horses. She noted that Daley Ranch could provide a great opportunity for endurance rides and camping while providing a revenue source to the City.

Guillermo Muños, Escondido, expressed his enthusiasm with the work being done on the project. He felt it would help unite the community.

Sergio Contreras, Escondido, felt the proposed project would be a great asset to the Wounded Warrior Program.

Commissioner Fralish like the concept of recycling the eucalyptus trees and using community services groups to develop the project. She then spoke with Mr. Smith regarding the concept of having a caretaker living at the site.

Commissioner Pitcher asked if the overnight stay would accommodate recreational vehicles. Mr. Smith replied in the affirmative. Ms. McKinney noted that the Plan was a conceptual design and amendments could occur during the design development process.

Commissioner Pitcher asked if the lease to the existing arena was exclusive. Ms.

McKinney noted that this matter was in negotiations at the time and there was no information available.

Commissioner Farwell asked how the involved groups were selected for community discussion. Mr. Smith noted that notice was sent out through the water bills as well as being posted in various media venues throughout the City, noting no one group or person was chosen.

Chairman Bologna noted he was in favor of the project being constructed in phases. He thanked Mr. Muños, Mr. Paul, and Mr. Cueva for their input. He was in favor of the proposed community hall, using drought tolerant landscape, and overnight camping. He then discussed the proposed parking with Mr. Smith. He also felt the project would help put Escondido on the map as another activity offered in the City.

Mr. Smith noted that the 22 acres included the dog parks.

The Commission endorsed the Master Plan as presented and recommended its continuance to the City Council for their review.

UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ITEMS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

Future Agenda Items:

Ms. McKinney noted that the Commission had two terms expiring and application forms must be filled out by February 13. She noted that Commissioner Pitcher would be up for reassignment. She then thanked Commissioner Russell for her service on the Commission. She also asked that the Commission look out for a potential youth commissioner. She stated that staff would be reporting the status of the BMX proposal and renaming of Sand Lake in April.

Park Development Projects – No longer a regular agenda item.

Recreation Programs:

Ms. McKinney referenced an ad in the Sunday newspaper for La Costa Glen in Carlsbad, advertising quality of life. Noting that the ad used the availability of swimming pools, walking trails and libraries as an enticement to purchase long-term care at the La Costa Glen facility.

Older Adults Projects/Programs:

Ms. Williams noted they had completed the grant project for the Senior Center Nutrition Program. She then invited the Commission to attend the annual volunteer luncheon at the Senior Center on April 24th.

Chairman Bologna and staff discussed the status of the sign package for the Senior Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Site Committee

Revenue & Operations Review

Community Activities

Facility Use

No reports.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: The Commission thanked Commissioner Russell for her services on the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for April 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Loretta McKinney, Director of
Library and Community Services

Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk