



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SYNOPSIS

GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, December 2, 2009
5:00 P.M.**

**City Hall
Room W-120
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113**

MIKE FLAUGHER, CHAIR
JULIE MATSUSHIMA
MELANIE RICHARDSON
WINSTON CHEW

ROBERT LEVY

JAMES KIM, VICE CHAIR
LESLEE HAMILTON
ERIK KARSTAN SMITH
JOSE CASTRO, JR

(a) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm

Present: Chair Flaughner, Vice Chair Kim, Commissioners Castro, Levy
Matsushima, Richardson, Chew and Smith
Excused Absence: Commissioner Hamilton

(1) Attendance Report

(b) ORDERS OF THE DAY

Deputy Director, Mark Marney, requested that item i be heard before Oral Communications.

Mark Marney, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services said the Greenprint is going to City Council on Tuesday, December 8th. He said that a supplemental Council memo incorporated comments about the Willow Glen Spur and Doerr Park.

Julie Edmonds-Mares, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services stated that the City budget had a shortfall of about \$100 million. The overall

framework for making up the deficit was 1/3 through employee wage and benefit concessions, 1/3 through new revenues and 1/3 through efficiencies and service reductions. Each department was also asked to look at what a budget with 35 percent service reductions would look like.

(c) CEREMONIAL ITEMS

None

(d) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Persons wishing to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda may do so under Oral Communications. Speakers are limited to 2 minutes. All statements that require a response may be placed on the agenda for a future meeting and may be referred to staff for review and reply in writing.

Michael LaRocca, public, spoke in opposition to the Midtown Specific Plan.

(e) CONSENT CALENDAR

(1) The revised October 7, 2009 Synopsis was approved.

(2) Approval of November 4, 2009
The November 4th Synopsis was submitted incorrectly, so it was recommended the synopsis be carried over to next month to approve.

It was moved by Commissioner Kim, seconded by Commissioner Flaughner and voted unanimously that approval of the November Synopsis be deferred to the next meeting.

(3) The January 20, 2010 date was approved for the next Parks Commission meeting.

(f) COUNCIL AND COMMISSION REPORTS

(1) Council Liaison

Stephanie Holm, District 10, had nothing to report.

(2) Senior Citizens Commission

Frances Jones spoke and wished all of the Commissioners a safe and wonderful Holiday.

(3) Youth Commission

Nicholas Taxera apologized for missing several Parks meetings. The Youth Commission

is proposing a Youth Bill of Rights to the City Council. The Commission meets every second Saturday of the month at the Willow Glen Library, 1:00pm-2:00pm.

(g) PUBLIC HEARING

(1) Status of Potential Park Deferrals

Deputy Director Mark Marney spoke about the memo to Council dated June 29, 2009 with an update of the analysis of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services' capital projects that is underway to address anticipated budget shortfalls in Fiscal Year 2010-2011 and beyond. Last year some significant projects were deferred. Happy Hollow was deferred 6 months, and the opening of 2 community centers was delayed into next fiscal year.

Carlos DaSilva, West Evergreen NAC, stated that there has been funding for two years and PRNS has dragged their feet on building the West Evergreen Park. He said that PRNS has done everything in their power to stop or stall when it comes to projects in East San Jose.

Robert Sandovar, West Evergreen NAC, stated that many hours were spent designing the park and they would like to have it done and completed. PRNS are dragging their feet again. They had many volunteers assist in the park design. They would like to see the park started sometime this year before 2010.

Khanh Nguyen, public, said please stop delaying the West Evergreen Park project.

Jose Aranda, West Evergreen NAC, stated they know the funding is there. They are worried that the money might be shifted by the City for whatever reason. They are tired of convincing their residents to be patient. They need to see results.

Nancy Thomas, Newhall Neighborhood Park Project, stated she has 50 volunteers ready to provide maintenance services to get this park going. The children in the area have no place to play. They really want the park and they will do anything to make that happen.

Ning Fan, Newhall Neighborhood Park Project, stated she really wants to work with PRNS to get this going without further delay. They have plenty of volunteers.

Lisa Charpontier, Newhall Neighborhood Association, stated they have over 60 volunteers to get this project going.

Michael LaRocca, Burbank Neighborhood Association, said these 6 items that are going to be deferred are going to cost \$50,000 to maintain for each, let us try to do something while we can. The community is here to help to get these things done. The Bascom library community center is built ahead of schedule but is not going to open.

Kathrin Brenner, San Jose State student, stated she is a caregiver for an elderly person in a wheelchair. She is from Germany and they have a lot of playgrounds that are wheelchair accessible to wheelchair bound caregivers as well as children.

Deputy Director Mark Marney stated that there are significant budget issues. There are a large number of sites that PRNS maintains to best of their ability. They have not been able to keep up with the maintenance side of things. The goal of tonight is to discuss options and opportunities and the approach that has been initiated. PRNS is looking for input on this.

Julie Edmonds-Mares, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services stated that the City budget has a big shortfall.

Commissioner Matsushima stated we should utilize the volunteers. Commissioner Smith stated it is good to see so many people stepping up. Commissioner Levy asked if there is a middle ground to provide minimally developed parks that might require less maintenance. Commissioner Richardson asked if usable parks can be built that require minimal maintenance. Commissioner Kim asked about private partnerships and other ideas. Commissioner Castro stated not only can people within the community volunteer time they can also contribute to services. We can sit down with them and establish a timeframe and ask if these are things needed in order for us to incorporate a park with minimum requirements. It is a matter of political will. Commissioner Chew stated there is a lot of passion in the volunteers. Commissioner Flaughter stated that funds could disappear for older parks and asked about a mechanism to organize volunteers.

- (2) Evelyn Velez-Rosario, Parks Manager, made a presentation on proposed guidelines for Universally Accessible Playgrounds (UAP). UAP was first coined in 1997 by the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University and is a standard recognized nationwide. Universal design principles are equitable use, flexibility, simple and intuitive use, range of sensory experience, safe design, easy to maneuver, and appropriate size and space. Children with disabilities live in every neighborhood so all playgrounds should ultimately have enhanced accessibility, but some playgrounds deserve special attention. The proposed guidelines identify four levels of accessibility based on the playground's location and use: school-serving playgrounds, community-serving playgrounds, neighborhood-serving playgrounds, and regional park playgrounds.

(h) ACTION ITEMS

(1) Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Matsushima asked Deputy Director Mark Marney about the budget. He suggested coming back to that item after the RDA budget goes forward next week.

PRNS will be talking to the Council offices about priority projects in their District in January.

Deputy Director Mark Marney discussed possible dates the Parks Commission can schedule a tour of Happy Hollow as a group with or without the Planning Commission.

Deputy Director Mark Marney discussed Grant opportunities under Proposition 84 and some of the guidelines associated with it. PRNS is seeking projects and strategies based on the requirements and timeline of that bond.

Commissioner Smith moved to accept the workplan, seconded by Commissioner Kim and voted unanimously to approve the workplan.

- (2) Barbara Goldstein, Director of Art from the Office of Cultural Affairs gave a brief overview of the draft Monument policy. Deputy Director Mark Marney stated proposed monuments should have some relevance to their setting. PRNS has a separate policy for smaller elements like benches and tree dedications. The policy is going to CEDC on December 14.

Commissioner Levy moved to accept the report with an addendum that an additional policy will soon be following how to handle smaller monuments, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and voted unanimously to approve the policy.

(i) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This item was moved and heard before Oral Communications

(j) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- (1) Chair Flaughner stated Penitencia Creek Reach 6, Mabury Road to King Road is open. The remaining reach of trail to be developed is from King Road to Coyote Creek, mostly within the Flea Market Property.

(k) CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – Time Certain 6:30 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 6:33 p.m. and immediately reconvened as the Citizen's Oversight Committee. The Citizen's Oversight Committee adjourned at 7:15 p.m. and immediately reconvened as the Parks and Recreation Committee (See Separate Synopsis).

(l) LIAISON REPORTS

None

(m) CORRESPONDENCE

None

(n) ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm. The next general Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2010.

To request an accommodation or alternative format for City-sponsored meetings or printed materials, please call 408-793-5505 or 408-294-9337 (TTY) as soon as possible, but at least three business days before the meeting.
For questions, please contact Mary Taylor at (408) 793-4186.

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body will be available for public inspection in the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department at San José City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 9th Floor, San José, CA 95113 at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body.