



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA CONVENED
CONVENED THIS 9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2015, AT 6:30 P.M.
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET**

1.ROLL CALL

Chair Arturo Salinas convened the Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena City Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Staff R. Martin called the roll. Present were Commission Members Taylor, Rosen, and Chair Salinas.

Absent: Excused members; Commissioner Mike Gin and City Council Liaison Diana Mahmud. Vice Chair Zavala not present at roll call.

Other Officials and Staff present: Community Services Director/ Staff Liaison Pautsch and Staff R. Martin.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
JANUARY , 2015.**

MOTION: Commission approved the minutes of the regular January 12th meeting. By unanimous voice vote, the motion passed. Abstain: None

(Taylor, Rosen)

3.PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NONE.

4.CONCEPTUAL DOG PARK PLANS

Community Services Director Pautsch presents a second Dog Park conceptual plan layout in which she compares to the original. The new second layout has a larger area of woodchips verses a small area of Decompressed Granite, where as the original had the reverse (Small Woodchip area, and small DG area). She also noted that the location of

the woodchips would differ from the conceptual plan. They plan to have it more South of the entire park on Stoney Dr. rather than the entrance. She also presents an altered estimate budget for the Dog Park. New estimate budget has been reduced by \$96k in amenities. For the now two different concepts there are two different cost estimates. The original concept with more woodchips than DG would estimate \$385k in cost, and the second concept with more DG than woodchips with estimate \$408k in cost. (Woodchips are \$1.50 per square foot and DG is \$3 per square foot in cost). Director Pautsch reminds the Commission that no grass is being considered because water conservation and the drought. She does introduce a new alternative called K9 Grass that will be presented shortly by the next speaker. She lets the commission know that that alternative will be \$10 per square foot.

Commissioner Rosen asks if there will be a separation between the woodchips and DG. So it is worth having two different surfaces. Director Pautsch reassures the Commission that dogs will prefer one over the other and will avoid a surface they are not comfortable with. Also, these are special woodchips specifically made for park surfaces that when compressed are an ADA surface. (Easily accessible for wheelchairs)

Chair Salinas has concerns about dogs consuming the woodchips also touches on the plan to add amenities as budget allows once Dog Park has already been realized. Director Pautsch comments that there is no preventing dogs from chewing on the woodchips, it is normal for a dog park surface. She reminds Commission that the current conceptual plan is all the city can do for now and there are groups like FRIENDS OF THE DOG PARK as well as others who will be happy to help with either fundraising and/or sponsoring amenities in the future.

Commissioner Rosen wants to clarify which concept the city will be moving forward with. Director Pautsch has decided that the city will move on with the second concept plan that is more DG and less woodchips per the public input of the January Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

At this time, the floor has been opened for any public comments on the current Agenda Item.

Public Comment: Janet Boyle inquires if there is any chemical treatment on the woodchips for the Dog Park. Dogs are more adverse to the chemicals on the woodchips rather than the woodchips themselves.

Director Pautsch addresses that there is no chemicals on the woodchips, they are specifically made for dog park surfaces. But more information will be obtained when planning stages begin.

5. FRIENDS OF THE DOG PARK

Shannon Roddy, head of FRIENDS OF SOUTH PASADENA DOG PARK, presents both the Pro's and Con's of having a manufactured grass surface called K-9 Grass. First, expresses that this dog park will benefit the community very much. K-9 grass is specifically made for dog parks, therefore does not have the same chemical or cosmetic issues that AstroTurf may have. The base is meant for drainage and easily cleaned, no dirt, durable, grass blades are antimicrobial, low cost maintenance and a onetime installation. It will not need replenishing like woodchips and DG would every 4-6 weeks. K-9 Grass has a 12-15 year lifespan with very minimal maintenance. Cost will be about triple that of woodchips or DG. Forever Long Co. has offered to solicit cooperate sponsorship and help with promotion to help with cost. Also, this product will have a 10 year product warranty.

They do recommend a water-chlorine solution for maintenance. Once dry, it is non-toxic to both animals and humans. He suggest for commission to visit www.K9grass.com for more information.

Commissioner Rosen asks what would be the water usage, because water conservation is an issue, and also the employee time for maintenance.

Shannon Roddy does not have a clear estimate because it all depends on the usage. Less then one cent per gallon per month is the only estimate he has based on other locations on water usage.

Chair Salinas suggest that because of the much higher cost of K-9 Grass vs. woodchips and DG, in order to recommend this as an alternative surface to Council, the Commission would need a long term cost analysis of the dollar amount the City will be saving on maintenance with choosing K-9 Grass vs. the cost in maintenance woodchips and DG will require. If the price at least matches, it will be easier to present to Council as a clear alternative. The savings would justify going with a much more expensive product in the beginning stages of the planning process.

Shannon Roddy does agree that that that information will be important to present as soon as possible; he will work with Director Pautsch on creating those numbers.

Director Pautsch is looking for the Parks and Recreation Commission to motion on the start of the planning for the South Pasadena Dog Parks in order to have a better understanding cost.

MOTION: Authorize Director Pautsch to look into the three surface options for the Dog Park and obtain the relative cost estimates within the plans. By unanimous voice vote, the motion passed. Absent: Jose Zavala, Mike Gin.

(Rosen, Salinas)

6. FORMATION AND GUIDELINES FOR AN AD HOC STABLES COMMITTEE

Director Pautsch presents her recommendation to form a Ad Hoc Stables committee that will report to the City Council. In that recommendation it lists who would occupy positions, and the tasks the committee will have once it is formed. This would help decide whether to extend the current twelve year lease, look at other options, sell current property, etc.

MOTION: Authorize the approval of the Formation and Guidelines for an Ad Hoc Stables Committee. By unanimous voice vote, the motion passed. Absent: Jose Zavala, Mike Gin

(Salinas, Rosen)

Public Comment: Councilmember Cacciotti revisits what he experience on planning this sub-committee back in 2001.

7. DISCUSSION ON AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT CARNIVAL DEVICES ON THE CITY PARKS

Recreation Coordinator Anthony Kim presents the Commission with a recommendation for an Ordinance prohibiting inflatable and other carnival devices in City Parks. Also, may allow the Community Services Director to approve on a case by case basis who meet all recommendation and requirements and will ultimately eliminate the liability. Currently, there is an informal policy in place that does not allow the public to use these devices in the City parks; this ordinance will help enforce this policy by creating a municipal code for the Police Department to site those who do not have a permit. He also provided study's regarding injuries related to these devices. In addition, provided examples of other city policies that explain why they prohibit these same attractions. Some reasons being the liability of injury as well as obtaining proper vendor insurance from companies providing these devices.

Chair Salinas recommends clearer verbal language regarding a permit process and standard. He expresses that the phrase "May allow" in Section 2B is too vague and may open up to be considered discriminatory.

Commissioner Rosen suggests putting clear criteria on who is allowed to be approved and who is not; Private party, organizations, etc.

Commissioner Taylor asks about the option of City Co-Sponsorship.

Director Pautsch addresses that more information about Co-Sponsorship will be explained in the next Item presented on the Agenda.

MOTION: Revise and explore the legality in Section 2B of the Recommended Ordinance to Prohibit Carnival Devices; clarify the language and explore how individuals can apply for a fair permit process. Also, clearly specify if organizations can possibly Co-Sponsor with the City for the use of inflatable and other carnival devices in City Parks. By unanimous voice vote, the motion passed. Absent: Jose Zavala, Mike Gin

(Rosen, Taylor)

Public Comment: City Councilmember Cacciotti expresses that he notices more and more private parties are not following park policies. He recommends that staff be present during the weekends to enforce these City park policy.

Chair Salinas suggest more police monitoring during the weekends around City Parks.

8. APPROVAL OF MEMORIAL BENCH AT LIBRARY PARK FOR THE ENGLER FAMILY

Director Pautsch presents the request to approve a bench dedicated to Mary Engler who not only started FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY but also volunteered at the City library for over thirty years. Working together with Public Works on locating a safe location, if approved, it will be placed on the Diamond St. side of the library.

MOTION: Approve the Bench dedicated to the Engler Family. By unanimous voice vote, the motion passed. Absent: Jose Zavala, Mike Gin.

(Rosen, Taylor)

9. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CO-SPONSORSHIP POLICY

Director Pautsch presents the draft of the policy of City Co-Sponsorship that sets criteria, rules, regulations, and guidelines on waiving/reducing fees and to whom. Also, how organizations can apply for Co-Sponsorship from the city. This policy will also include a one-time fee waiver. The City accumulates approximately \$319K in loss of profit when fees are waived and city acquires the cost; staff being the largest cost. A list will be presented to Council of Non-Profit organizations that may be approved through this policy.

MOTION: Acceptance of Co-Sponsorship Policy and authorization to take to City Council for approval. By unanimous voice vote, the motion passed. Absent: Jose Zavala, Mike Gin

(Salinas, Rosen)

10. RECOMMENDATION ON THE DOG PARK NAMING CONTEST

A total of 131 people participated in the Dog Park Naming Contest and with the help of the Girl Scout troop-11231, the votes have been organized and tallied. Director Pautsch went through the names with the most votes.

The commission picks 2-3 of their top picks. Commission votes as follows: 2 for "THE SOUTH PAWSADENA DOG PARK", 2 for "THE DOG SPOT", and 2 for "THE ARROYO SECCO DOG PARK". Director Pautsch will take these top three names as recommendations to City Council.

11. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

NONE.

12. COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Rosen: None.

Commissioner Taylor gives her update on planning stages for the Summer Concerts in the Park Series.

Chair Salinas gives his positive feedback and reviews what he observed at the Strategic Planning meeting.

13. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Director Pautsch gave her positive feedback on the Strategic Planning meeting and recognized a great turnout from the community.

ADJOURMENT

By consensus, the Commission adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The next Commission meeting will be held on Monday March 9th, 2015.

(Salinas, Taylor)

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved By:



Sheila Pautsch
Community Services Director



Arturo Salinas
Chair