



City of Saratoga Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 2009

TIME: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Saratoga City Hall
Warner Hutton House
13777 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

Call to Order – 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Bruno, Goldberg, Johnson, Soukup, Wilson

Council: Hunter

Youth Commission: Sammy Rao, Kia Fariba, Natasha Moran-Pitts, Ali Wilson

Staff: Henig, Morrow

Report on Posting of the Agenda: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2, this meeting was properly posted on November 6, 2009.

Accept Agenda Items: No additional items may be added pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2.

Oral & Written Communication: Any member of the public may address the Commission about any matter not on the agenda for this meeting for up three minutes. *Commissioners may not comment on the matter, but may choose to place the topic on a future agenda.*

- No oral communications

Commissioner Announcements

- No announcements

Approval of Draft Minutes: Draft Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) Minutes for the September 8, 2009 meeting.

- Goldberg asked that the vote on Item 1, Azule Park—Petanque Court Location, be revised to 4-0 since Soukup recused himself from discussion on the item.
- SOUKUP: MOVED TO ACCEPT MINUTES AS AMENDED
- GOLDBERG: SECOND
- APPROVED: 5-0

Staff Reports: *(This section is informational only; no actions will be taken.)*

1. Crystal Morrow, Staff Liaison
 - Morrow shared with the PRC that the North Campus Open House was held on October 23, 2009 and provided updates from Interim Recreation and Facilities Director, Claudia Cauthorn.

Old Business:

1. **Partnership Opportunities with the Youth Commission**

Issue: In March 2009, the PRC held a joint meeting with the Youth Commission to discuss opportunities to collaborate. Two members of the Youth Commission will be attending the November meeting to further discuss partnership ideas.

Action: PRC will discuss partnership opportunities with the Youth Commission representatives and schedule future agenda items if necessary.

- Fariba introduced himself and the other Youth Commissioners, indicating that the Youth Commission formed a subcommittee to work with the PRC to develop a joint project. The Youth Commission is particularly interested in helping with Arbor Day.
- Goldberg said she thought it would be a good idea to work with the Youth Commission on an Arbor Day or Arbor Day/Earth Day event. She suggested the Youth Commission start identifying dates that would work for the event.
- Goldberg volunteered to attend the December Youth Commission Meeting to keep momentum on the collaborative project moving forward.

2. Tree Planting Opportunities

Issue: At the September 2009 PRC Meeting, Commissioners agreed to identify locations to plant trees on public property and report back at the November 2009 meeting.

Action: PRC will share potential tree planting locations with staff.

- Goldberg indicated that she invited Councilmember Hunter to attend the November PRC meeting, because the Council recently approved the Saratoga Heritage Tree Society's idea to plant 2015 trees by 2015.
- Hunter shared the history of the Heritage Tree Society of Saratoga and added that the 2015 by 2015 program won't cost the City anything, the Heritage Tree Society simply wants to track the number of trees planted.
- Goldberg said she hoped the PRC will find a way to be involved in the 2015 by 2015 program.
- Hunter suggested the PRC lead an effort to put markers on trees in the parks to indicate the name of the trees. The PRC may also want to consider creating hummingbird gardens, butterfly gardens, or bat houses.
- Goldberg asked for tree planting locations that could be presented to Public Works Director John Cherbone. Goldberg listed locations discussed by the PRC:
 - o Fruitvale Avenue
 - o Joe's Trail
 - o Congress Springs Park
 - o Along Glen Brae Drive
 - o North Campus
 - o Christa McAuliffe School boundary
 - o Beauchamps Park
 - o Azule Park
 - o Greenbrier Homeowners Association entrance at Cox Avenue and Seagull
 - o Highway 85 corridor
 - o Tank Trail
 - o Lawrence Expressway where it meets Quito Road
- Goldberg said she would take the list of potential tree planting locations to the Pedestrian, Equestrian, and Bicycle Trails Advisory Committee to see if they could add to the list and would then present the list to John Cherbone.
- Johnson said he would create a Google map of the locations and share the map with the PRC
- Soukup suggested inviting a speaker from a local chapter of the Audubon Society to a future meeting to share information about constructing bird and bat houses, where to place bird and bat houses, and what animals would be attracted to particular types of bird or bat houses. Soukup said he would try to find additional information.
- Johnson suggested developing a tree vision for the City to ensure that trees are thoughtfully planted and there is sufficient diversity among the City's trees.
- Goldberg indicated she would work this suggestion into the suggested tree planting locations.

3. North Campus Name Contest

Issue: At the direction of the City Council, the PRC has been leading an effort to involve the community to rename the North Campus. The PRC collected suggested names through a contest that was held from September to October.

Action: PRC will review proposed names and select the top five recommendations to be presented to the City Council for decision during the November 18, 2009 City Council Meeting.

- Goldberg shared that she was delighted the Commission received so many suggestions.
- Following Bruno's suggestion, each Commissioner picked their 5 favorite names. Names that received less than one vote were eliminated from consideration. The Commissioners then selected their top three names and selected the 5 names that received the most votes.
- The suggested names:
 - o Prospect Park Saratoga
 - o Saratoga Grace Campus
 - o Saratoga North Community Center
 - o Saratoga Prospect Campus
 - o Saratoga Prospect Park

New Business:

4. Work Plan Update

Issue: During the last PRC meeting, Commissioners agreed to identify potential awards or events for the Commission to add to its work plan.

Action: Discuss the PRC's schedule for the next year and events, awards, or other items the Commission has an interest in pursuing and add these items to the PRC work plan.

- BRUNO: MOVED TO RESCHEDULE THE JULY MEETING TO JUNE 22
- SOUKUP: SECOND
- APPROVED: 5-0
- Bruno suggested that the PRC should be more focused on developing subcommittees that are action oriented.
- Wilson agreed and recommended that the PRC think about what subcommittees need to be formed to accomplish the PRC's work plan.
- Goldberg and Wilson volunteered to form a Youth Commission subcommittee to work with the Youth Commission and help coordinate the Arbor Day event. The committee will report back at the next meeting.
- Goldberg said she felt it would be appropriate to bring the tree planting list back in January to add additional information, such as tree type.
- Goldberg added that she would like the PRC to identify one to two events to support and themes to guide the Commission's efforts. These themes might include:
 - o Celebrating Nature
 - o Supporting the Green City
 - o Building Community
- Wilson agreed that structuring the work plan based on themes, such as Celebrate Nature, Green City USA, and One Saratoga, would be a good way to keep the Commission focused.
- Bruno suggested that each Commissioner identify 1-2 work items that fit within one of the 3 categories.
- Goldberg asked that each Commissioner get additional information about each of the ideas to discuss the work plan at the January meeting and develop clearer plans.
 - o Goldberg volunteered to pursue the tree plan.
 - o Goldberg and Wilson volunteered for the Youth Commission Subcommittee.
 - o Soukup volunteered to check with Lynbrook High School and Miller Middle School to see if they would be interested in participating in a music in the park type event.
 - o Bruno said she would speak with Saratoga High School and Redwood Middle School about a music in the park event.
 - o Johnson offered to talk to Prospect High School about participating in a music in the park event.

- Wilson offered to research what other cities are doing related to being green and/or health related goals.
- Johnson and Soukup agreed to find out if there is a local chapter of the Audubon Society that the PRC can partner with.
- Goldberg said she would research lectures the PRC may be able to host.
- Goldberg asked that each of the three work plan categories, Celebrate Nature, Green City USA, and One Saratoga, be discussed as separate items at the January meeting to allow the Commission to develop plans for each category.

Commissioner Reports (including Park Reports)

- Bruno reported that she went to her 3 park assignments and indicated that they are in good condition.
- Soukup reported that the tennis court and basketball courts at Beauchamps Park could use a new surface. He added that the park rules/hours sign at Ravenwood is faded.
- Wilson shared that both Congress Springs and the Orchard are very nice, but Congress Springs would benefit from some additional trees.
- Goldberg indicated that as she was walking through Azule Park she noticed that the park did not have a sign indicating the park rules, as Kevin Moran Park has.
- Johnson note that at Bellgrove Park there are some benches and picnic tables that need some attention and trees that may need to be replaced. At El Quito there is some graffiti, unused soccer nets, and trees that may need to be replaced. At Wildwood there was also graffiti and a couple of electrical issues.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Tree planting locations
- Arbor Day
- Work Plan Category Celebrate Nature
- Work Plan Category Green City USA
- Work Plan Category One Saratoga

Adjournment – 9:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Crystal Morrow, Administrative Analyst II
 City of Saratoga – City Manager’s Office