



Exhibit 1
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 25, 2009
7:00p.m.

**El Cerrito City Hall
Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito**

1. Roll Call

- Manish Doshi, Steve Lipson, Leslie Goldstein, Sarah Reed, Chair - Margo Takemiya, Margaret Wolfe.

2. Commission / Staff Communications / Announcements

Chair Takemiya welcomed new Park and Recreation Commissioners Steve Lipson and Leslie Goldstein. Commissioner Goldstein stated that she has lived in El Cerrito since 1993, has two children, and works at the University of California. Commissioner Lipson has lived in El Cerrito since 1992, has two children, and is involved in youth sports.

Commissioner Doshi received an e-mail from the Canyon Trail volunteer group and will be meeting with them about their activities.

3. Oral Communications From The Public: None

4. Council Liaison Report: Councilmember Janet Abelson

Councilmember Abelson welcomed the new commissioners and reported that the Council is still working on filling vacancies in various commissions and boards.

She reported that the City has acquired property at the Mayfair site. The City now owns the entire block, which will make it easier to develop.

At the last Council meeting the School District project manager, Bill Savidge, came to talk about Portola Middle School. The alternatives for the middle school students is: moving the students to the lower field in portables, moving them to El Cerrito High School (ECHS) or leaving them in existing unsafe buildings at Portola Middle School. The School Board's preference would be to move the Portola students to El Cerrito High School. There will be an effort to minimize the number of students moved by keeping as many students at the elementary schools (making schools k-8) and staggering schedules.

ECHS has just reopened its new facility and will be hosting an open house this weekend.

5. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 28, 2009 were approved by unanimous consent.

6. Status Report For Measure WW Park Bond Extension

Kortz reported that the Master contract has been approved by the East Bay Regional Park District and is valid through December 18, 2013. This item will be on the Council agenda Monday night.

7. Review of Master Fee Schedule 2008-09

- Discussion of Recreation Department's Current Fee Schedule 2008-09 and Possible Fee Increases

- Master Fee Schedule Review for fiscal year 2009-10.

Kortz explained that the department is recommending a 3% fee increase. There is no recommendation for the Swim Center fees because staff is planning to restructure the pass system. There is no increase at the Swim Center, because staff is looking at restructuring the pass system.

Kortz noted that even though this department's expenses are down, and revenues are up, this department is still subsidized by the General Fund. Commissioner Doshi commented that the general economy will be hit really hard this year, and has not seen the bottom yet. He predicts that the childcare needs will increase as households will need both parents working.

8. Fiscal Responsibility 2008-09 and 2009-10

Cori Diaz, Youth Services Supervisor, gave an overview of childcare. She said that some children have started in pre-school and have grown up through system. Some of the employees have been together for over twenty years. Staff has been consolidating programs, vanning children from under-enrolled sites to other childcare sites.

Ellen Paasch, Senior Center Supervisor listed the various activities at the Senior Center, including fitness classes, extended trips, local day trips, support groups, and the lunch program. Staff has expanded Easy Ride one more day a week, and has various partnerships such as the Adult School and Contra Costa College. The monthly newsletter mailing list has been streamlined, and seniors are given the option to receive it via e-mail to save on postage. Commissioner Wolfe asked what the age was for the Senior Center. She was told it is 50 years.

Bridget Cooney, Aquatics Supervisor, gave a presentation on the Swim Center. She explained that she has tried to accommodate the Albany and Piedmont Swim programs, because their pools are closed.

Chris Jones, Program Supervisor II, explained he oversees the school district grants for the afterschool program, assists the Swim Center; oversees the registration software program, acts as liaison to the City's Finance Department, fee classes, facility rentals, and community events.

Commissioner Wolfe asked how the Castro closure is affecting the After School Grant. Jones explained that it is our understanding that funds would "follow" the students, who will be funneled to Stege and Fairmont Schools.

9. Staff Report

- Adopt-A-Park Program: Kortz stated information about Adopt a Park will be included in the City newsletter. Some areas like Huber Park had active Adopt-a-Park volunteers.
- Canyon Trail Reforestation – Bruce King is looking for information on this project.
- Community Center Rehabilitation Projects Update: Monica Kortz, Recreation Director, reported that the front entrance will be tiled; the skylights have been replaced; the patio lawn has been re-sodded; and the Center interior has be painted;

Commissioner Doshi requested a list of the different organizations of parks and thought it would be appropriate to acknowledge park volunteers. Kortz stated she is only aware of Canyon Trail Park. Councilmember Abelson suggested that there are Earth Day volunteers to do some projects.

Kortz read the correspondence from Zelda Holland, dated February 2, 2009.

10. Future Items

- Dogs in City Parks

- Master fee schedule
- Selection of the chair
- Update WW funds

11. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lori Teachout