

MINUTES
TOWN OF WINDSOR
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Civic Center Council Chambers
9291 Old Redwood Highway, Building 400
Windsor, CA 95492

Wednesday, April 8, 2009
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Holman called to order a meeting of the Windsor Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:00 p.m.

2. COMMISSION ROLL CALL

Present at roll call were Commissioners Brown, Cain, Holman, Sherwood and Torres.

Staff present were Community Services Director Donna Legge, Community Services Manager Patricia Morandi; Youth and Adult Program Supervisor Jon Davis; Parks and Facilities Maintenance Superintendent Jim O'Brien; and Recording Secretary Jeannie Mitchell.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5/0 Vote By motion, approved the minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of March 11, 2009.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None

6. CITIZEN PUBLIC APPEARANCE

None

7. REGULAR CALENDAR

7.1 Community Garden Project

Community Services Manager Patricia Morandi presented background material along with a visual presentation illustrating working community gardens in various locations in Sonoma County. The presentation also contained input from the first (March 16, 2009) community meeting relative to establishing a community garden in the Town of Windsor and potential locations for the garden.

Chair Holman stated that she does not like the idea of split rail fences

around the garden, as it (the garden) needs to be secured at night. She stated a concern about the kind of soils found locally, and, therefore would favor raised beds over in-ground garden plots. She supported the policy of standard plot widths but variable lengths.

Chair Holman called for comments from the audience.

Thomas Eddy, founder of a new “Windsor Garden Club,” stated that care should be taken with community garden aesthetics and particularly with the perimeter to make it harmonious with Town surroundings.

Sam Salmon said he hopes for support for a pilot community garden program to measure the public’s interest. He suggested incorporating half-wine barrels to demonstrate successful gardening in confined areas.

“Rob” stated his support for a pilot demonstration garden in the turf area between Civic Center Buildings 300 and 400. He commented that a smaller six-box plot could be used for various purposes (such as drought-tolerant landscaping and native plants) that could rotate annually.

Anya Perron-Burdick of the Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship stated her preference for raised beds because she works with low-income youth who are put off by the wild and dirty. She stated that plants can be native and drought-tolerant and beautiful as well.

After input from the public and discussion among the Commissioners, it was moved by Vice Chair Sherwood and seconded by Commissioner Cain that the Commission recommend to the Town Council the establishment of a community garden at the civic center site (on Windsor Road west of Civic Center Building 400) along with a demonstration site in the turf area between Civic Center Buildings 300 and 400. The Commission further recommended that a sub-committee work out the details giving consideration to installing both in-ground plots and raised beds and that the operation of the community garden be managed in large part by volunteers with Master Gardeners serving as a primary resource. Motion passed 5/0

7.2 Youth Representation on Parks & Recreation Commission

Youth and Adult Program Supervisor Jon Davis addressed the Commission on the topic of youth representation on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

After discussion among the Commissioners, it was moved by Vice Chair Sherwood and seconded by Commissioner Torres that staff devise a strategy whereby two non-voting youth commissioner seats be established on the Parks and Recreation Commission and that a plan to attract candidates be created.

7.3 Parks, Facilities and Streetscape Division Report

Parks and Facilities Maintenance Superintendent Jim O'Brien gave a presentation on the maintenance of the Town's parks, facilities and streetscapes.

7.4 Windsor Day Parade Participation

The Commission determined that it will walk in the Windsor Day Parade on May 2nd. The Commission will meet in Windsor High School parking lot at 9:00 a.m. wearing costumes that reflect each Commissioner's favorite athletic activity.

7.5 Joint Meeting with Council

The Commission called for a Special Meeting to discuss the agenda for a potential joint meeting with the Town Council. The Commission will meet Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

8. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Cain reported that the gate at the toddler park in Hiram Lewis Park is broken. He added that there is a sunken area at first base in Esposti Park that presents a trip hazard.

Commissioner Torres stated that she finds it difficult to walk her dog on leash at Windsor parks because there are so many other dogs off leash. She also indicated that the existing dog park leaves much to be desired. Director Legge indicated that funding has been identified for some modest improvements in the dog park.

Vice Chair Sherwood referenced a letter to the editor in last week's Windsor Times concerning misuse of Town tennis courts and asked if staff will respond to the writer.

Vice Chair Sherwood gave kudos for the Summer Recreation Guide. He also recommended that staff check out with the Town Attorney potential liability that could be associated with a Community Garden. He concluded by saying that his neighborhood had experienced two burglaries recently and expressed the hope that the Park Watch program will soon be implemented.

9. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Community Services Director Legge shared items of interest as well as project updates and Council actions.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan
- Fiscal Year 2009-2011 Budget Review

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. to a Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Council Chambers/Wild Oak Room located at 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Building

400 in Windsor.

Minutes prepared by: Jeannie Mitchell

Minutes approved: May 13, 2009