

Community Services Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Redding City Hall
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, California
January 13, 2010, 3:10 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

The meeting opened with the following Commissioners present; Leona McCoach, Adam McElvain, and John Wilson. Absent were Commissioners Susan Hinz and Jason Waybright.

Also present were Community Services Director Kimberly Niemer, Support Services Director Gerry Kersten, Community Services Project Manager Terry Hanson, Management Analyst Matt McCallum and Executive Assistant Mari Szynal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Director Niemer reported that per the Redding Municipal Code, the Commission re-organizes each year.

MOTION: To appoint Commissioner Hinz to Chair and Commissioner McElvain to Vice Chair.
(Made by Commissioner McCoach, Seconded by Commissioner Wilson)

AYES: Commissioners McCoach, McElvain and Wilson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Hinz and Waybright

CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes from the meeting on December 9, 2009, the monthly Recreation Division Activity Report, the Convention Center Activity Report, the Convention Center Calendar, the Convention Center Capital Projects List were presented.

Motion: To approve Consent Calendar. (Made by Commissione McCoach, Seconded by Commissioner Wilson)

AYES: Commissioners McCoach, McElvain and Wilson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Hinz and Waybright

CONSIDERATION OF TRAIL EASEMENT OFF AIRPARK DRIVE AND PLACER STREET

Director Niemer noted that the trail for which staff is requesting an easement follows an alignment off of Airpark Road and lies directly behind St. Joseph's School and goes down to Olive Street. The easement will provide off-street connectivity for area residents. This area is known historically as Dead Horse Gulch.

Last year, the City of Redding and the Rotary Stream Team collaborated on an effort to clear some overgrown vegetation in a green belt area east of Airpark Drive and between Placer and Gold Streets. During this work, it was discovered that pedestrian paths had been worn in over time. Dr. Randy Smith, working with city staff, has proposed a trail alignment which would connect the Olive Street to Airpark Road.

The proposed trail alignment sits to the south of the drainage and is located on property owned by the Diocese of Sacramento for St. Joseph's Catholic Church and School. Typically, trail easements are acquired during the development process. In this case, an offer for easement would be made that would offer the Church relief from liability for use of the trail. The Rotary Stream Team has offered to complete some additional vegetation clearing which would also be beneficial to the Church.

This project offers the type of pedestrian connectivity promoted in all of the City's planning documents including the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan, the General Plan, and the recently adopted Healthy Communities Resolution. This connection offers a very attractive off-street alternative to the residents of this area.

Commissioner McCoach noted that with Placer Street being quite steep, would the trail have the same (steepness). Director Niemer responded that there would be cut-backs to bring the trail up to grade and it would not be steeper than any trails already in the system.

Dr. Randy Smith, member of the Rotary Stream Team, commented that one of the reasons why the church has not been able to develop the property is due to the steep slope. The trail along the mid-section stays parallel to the slope. In September 2007, there was a fire in this area which could have

been devastating if not for quick response by the Fire Department. The clearing of overgrown vegetation recently performed by the Rotary Stream Team could be considered a quid pro quo to the Catholic Diocese for the trail easement.

Director Niemer noted that there will be costs associated with the survey work, title reports, and recording of the easement. These costs, estimated at \$3,000 would come from funds in the Park Fund Projects and Studies account which is intended for this type of preliminary work.

Motion: To authorize staff to move forward with the necessary work to obtain this trail easement. (Made by Commissioner Wilson, Seconded by Commissioner McCoach)

AYES: Commissioners McCoach, McElvain and Wilson
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Hinz and Waybright

CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE USE OF RIVERLAND DRIVE PROPERTY

Director Niemer noted that the Riverland Drive property has been the recipient of some scrutiny recently. At the last City Council meeting, in Closed Session, the Council was presented with a proposal from a local resident for a property trade. The Council decided not to pursue this trade. In addition, the *Radical 10 in 2010* group proposed that the City partner with a private developer on the development of undeveloped city parcels, including the Riverland Drive property. Staff recommends that the Commission communicate to the City Council its position on the future use of the Riverland Drive property.

In 1985, the City acquired this 54-acre parcel which includes Sacramento River frontage and is located just to the south of the city's incorporated boundaries. Potential uses include a future community park (similar in size to Caldwell Park), fishing access, a bridge crossing, and ensuring the protection of riparian habitat. The Riverland Drive parcel is strategically located adjacent to 200-plus acres of BLM-owned land. There is no direct access to the BLM land without crossing the Riverland Drive holding; underscoring the necessity and importance of continued public ownership.

The Riverland Drive property was evaluated and included in the Open Space Strategy of the *Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan*. Like any sound investment portfolio, the City should hold properties for short, medium and long term use. The fiscal impact of holding this property are negligible. It is unknown what the cost of acquiring a comparable property in the future would be or if comparable property would be available.

The Riverland Drive parcel offers an unique 50+ acre future park site on the Sacramento River. All of the City's planning documents prioritize public use and access to the Sacramento River. The community will continue to grow and the current park system will be inadequate. Holding the Riverland Drive property is consistent with the Parks Master Plan which advocates park properties be acquired well in advance of need so as to be more affordable, viable and strategically located.

Caldwell Park is a beloved amenity to our residents. Riverland Drive can serve that same purpose to future generations, if it is preserved.

To date, City Councils have resisted offers to sell the property due to the irreplaceable value this property holds in providing for future generation's recreational use and enjoyment. Given the level of discussion recently, it may be prudent for the Commission to take formal action to communicate its position on the future of this property.

Commissioner Wilson noted that the Bureau of Land Management has been investigating consolidating their holdings rather than maintaining parcels which are scattered.

Community Projects Manager Hanson advised that the Bureau of Land Management has adopted a Resource Management Plan for their adjoining property. It is considered a critical piece of land in their holdings and has not been identified as being for sale or transfer.

Dr. Randy Smith recalled that when the Kapusta property across the river from Riverland Drive was acquired in 1983, residents at that time felt it was important to maintain a green space between Redding and Anderson. That the area should not be built out and there should be a buffer maintained as open space for future generations.

Commissioner McCoach stated her support for retaining open space whenever possible.

Director Niemer related that this property lies in Shasta County and is zoned as agricultural. It is known organizationally as park property, but zoned as agricultural. The property can be rezoned as park land, and she suggested the Commission include that recommendation in their letter if so desired.

Commissioner McElvain inquired whether this property has been promoted as agriculture space. Director Kersten responded that it does not lend itself well to grazing, due to the thickness of the bushes.

Commissioner McCoach inquired whether the bushes could be cleared by someone interested in leasing the property. Various ideas were discussed with Director Niemer noting that if the Commission is interested in staff pursuing this use of the property, it could be looked in to.

Commissioner Wilson advised that if the City Council should entertain an offer in the future to sell this property that a 200 foot trail easement be provided to allow fishing access.

Motion: To draft a letter to the City Council recommending the Riverland Drive property be retained. In addition, should the City Council entertain and offer, that they consult the Commission prior to any proposed sale and also consider a fishing access trail easement. (Made by Commissioner McCoach, Seconded by Commissioner Wilson)

AYES: Commissioners McCoach, McElvain and Wilson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Hinz and Waybright

PROJECTS UPDATES

Director Niemer provided updates on the following projects:

Eagle Scout Projects

There are a number of Eagle Scout projects which staff continue to work on. One in particular was connected with the Palatine Trail. An Eagle Scout candidate who lives in the Sunset neighborhood where this trail was built is interested in adding a bench to trail amenities. The project will also include a small retaining wall.

Another Eagle Scout project recently completed included a trail in Meadow Creek Park.

Creek Clean-up 2010

This project, which typically takes place in the Fall, will enter the planning stages very soon. One option this year is to clear brush along the Sacramento River Trail between Market Street and the Sundial Bridge.

Art in the City

After a decade of exhibiting art in the hallways of City Hall, this program is expanding to include space on the second floor of the Redding Library. The inaugural reception will be held in conjunction with the annual Cultural Cruise at the end of January.

Management Analyst McCallum provided an update on the following project:

Bike Plan

1998 is the last time a formal bike plan was developed. An action plan is being prepared to address needs within the system and long-term goals. A draft will be brought to the Commission within the next couple of months.

Community Projects Manager Hanson provided an update on the following project:

Salt Creek Heights

The developer is currently reviewing the conditions and may not go to the Planning Commission until February.

No action was required on these informational items.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at the hour of 4:19 p.m. Vice Chair McElvain declared the meeting adjourned.

Adam McElvain, Vice Chair