

Community Services Advisory Commission  
Regular Meeting  
City Hall - Caldwell Park Conference Room  
777 Cypress Avenue  
Redding, California  
April 14, 2010, 3:01 p.m.

## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

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

Also present were City Council Member Missy McArthur, Community Services Director Kimberly Niemer, Support Services Director Gerry Kersten, Community Services Project Manager Terry Hanson, Convention Center Facility Supervisor John Johnson, Management Analyst Matt McCallum, Management Analyst Michele Davis, Recreation Supervisor Jenny Moore and Executive Assistant Mari Szynal.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes from the meeting on February 10, 2010, the monthly Recreation Division Activity Report, the MLK Center Activity Report, the Convention Center Activity Report, the Convention Center Calendar, and the Convention Center Capital Projects List were presented.

**Motion:** To approve Consent Calendar.  
(Made by Commissioner Waybright, Seconded by Commissioner McElvain)

**AYES:** Commissioners Hinz, McElvain and Waybright

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Commissioners McCoach and Wilson

Commissioner Leona McCoach arrived at 3:05 p.m.

## **PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION OF BIKEWAY ACTION PLAN 2010-2015**

Director Niemer noted that the Bikeway Action Plan was developed over an 18-month period in partnership with a number of agencies and local organizations. These organizations and individuals invested their time and energy to assess the current condition of Redding's bikeway system and develop recommendations and goals for improvement. Their involvement has resulted in an Action Plan that best represents the needs of this community. This Plan was produced in a manner similar to the *Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan*, in that it takes a look at constraints and opportunities specific to Redding. Director Niemer noted that after today's meeting the Plan will go to the Planning Commission for CEQA review and then to the City Council for formal approval. This will then become part of the official policy documents to which the city adheres.

Management Analyst McCallum explained that the Bikeway Plan is the first document specifically dedicated to the bikeway system in more than a decade. The Bikeway Action Plan was developed to encompass both the general bikeway goals outlined in the City of Redding General Plan as well as the bikeway element of the *Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan*. The Plan provides a detailed inventory and analysis of the existing bikeway system, identifies and prioritizes specific service improvements, and specifies policies and program goals to be adopted. This Plan also encompasses the Complete Streets Act principles, which include design standards for streets so that they are car, pedestrian and bicyclist-friendly.

The goals of the Action Plan are threefold:

1. Improve and add bikeways, connections and facilities;
2. Develop bicycle-friendly policies; and
3. Develop bicycle-related education, promotion and enforcement initiatives.

Redding's current bikeway network is approximately 124 miles. The Plan seeks to expand this system by an additional 38 miles. This expansion will improve the connections for cyclists to prime destinations. The Plan recommends upgrading 57 miles of Class 3 bike routes (signed only where bicyclists share the road) to Class 2 bike lines (where cyclists have their own dedicated lane). Other improvement recommendations include improved signage, added bicycle parking and improving access through intersections.

In addition, the Bikeway Action Plan recommends training to City staff and policy-makers on the Complete Streets principles, ensuring that projects provide bicycle accommodation. The Plan recommends a number of initiatives with various partner agencies to improve bicycle-related education, promotion and enforcement. The Plan also calls the establishment of a Bikeway Advisory Committee to monitor the progress of the Action Plan and make recommendations to City Council and the Planning Commission.

Many of the recommendations within the Bikeway Action Plan 2010-2015 can be undertaken and realized at a minimal cost and often incorporated into current maintenance activities. Other elements will be accomplished through grant funded projects.

Commissioner Wilson arrived at 3:30 p.m.

Commissioner Hinz opened the floor to public comment on this agenda item. Notice of request for comment was provided to members of the community via a press release sent to all local media.

Sara Sundquist of Shasta County Public Health stated that she thought participating in the Bike Plan Committee was a worthwhile exercise and she thanks everyone for their input.

Allen Kost of the Trails and Bikeways Council commented that the Bike Plan will be beneficial in pursuing grant funds that might otherwise go to larger communities.

Jack Yerkes of the Shasta Wheelmen Bicycling Club recalled that over the past 25 years the city has become more difficult to ride in with the increase in population. The Bike Plan is long overdue and is thankful that it is now available.

Francie Sullivan commented that as a relatively new resident of Redding, she is very appreciative of the Bike Plan and has noticed the number of people who use bicycles as their only transportation. She lives near Bechelli and while there are bicycle lanes on Bechelli, they are too narrow to be truly safe on that road. Management Analyst McCallum replied that in the Bike Plan, Bechelli Lane is identified as being in need of an upgrade.

Becky Pope, a teacher in Anderson, observed that education is the key component. She has had two students hit by cars due their own carelessness.

Commissioner Hinz and McElvain agreed this is a great plan. In just 18 months of work a phenomenal amount of ground was covered. Commissioner Hinz noticed that there did appear to be a request for General Fund money to achieve the goals outlined in the Plan. Management Analyst McCallum responded that was correct. Any General Fund money used would fall under current maintenance and other regularly scheduled activities. State and Federal grants would be applied for to achieve other goals.

**Motion:** To recommend adoption of the *Bikeway Action Plan 2010-2015* to the City Council.  
(Made by Commissioner McCoach, Seconded by Commissioner McElvain)

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

## **CONSIDERATION OF ZONING AMENDMENT FOR RIVERLAND DRIVE PROPERTY**

In 1985, the City acquired a parcel referred to as the Riverland Drive parcel via a trade with Mercy Hospital. This 54-acre parcel along the Sacramento River, located just to the south of Redding's incorporated boundaries and currently zoned by Shasta County as agriculture, is located adjacent to 200-plus acres of land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). An Earth Day event

is planned for April 24 with the California Conservation Corps and BLM. Work crews will begin the removal of invasive berry bushes, improve an existing riverfront trail, and set property boundaries.

The Riverland Drive property was evaluated and included in the Open Space Strategy of the *Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan*. While a number of undeveloped properties were recommended for surplus, the Riverland Drive property was identified as a key piece of the Sacramento River Corridor Open Space Interest Area that should be retained and programmed as part of a regional planning effort. The cost to acquire a similar piece of property in the future may not be possible and if so, would be at post-recession prices.

At the January 2010, meeting the Commission re-affirmed the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan to retain the property for open space purposes. Recent discussions with Shasta County Planning staff indicate that a Zone Amendment Application would be the mechanism necessary to seek a new zoning classification.

Commissioner Wilson inquired whether the city was required to pay for a zoning change request. Director Niemer responded in the affirmative.

Chair Hinz queried whether a conservation easement has been explored. Director Niemer replied that the zoning change to Open Space achieves the same result and is a simpler process. Chair Hinz stated her support to preserve the land, no matter the method used.

**Motion:** To recommend to the City Council that the City-owned land on Riverland Drive be retained as open space and that a re-zoning application be submitted to Shasta County.  
(Made by Commissioner Waybright, Seconded by Commissioner McCoach)

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

## **CONSIDERATION OF CONVENTION CENTER RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL**

Director Kersten recalled that at the request of the City Council the Commission has been meeting for the past nine months to evaluate the option of privatizing the Convention Center. After much deliberation, the Commission decided to make their recommendations to the City Council to help reduce the funding gap between revenue and expenditures. Such recommendations include adjusting the fee schedule, implementing a new marketing plan, creation of a sinking fund for capital improvements and asking the City Council to forgive the internal debt. At the meeting on March 23, 2010, the Commission requested that staff draft a report to the City Council containing the Commissions findings and recommendations for the future operation of the Convention Center. The

report was previously distributed to the Commission for their input and is up for discussion at this meeting.

Commissioner Wilson asked how TOT room verification is tracked. Director Kersten replied that this is done through the CVB - the promoters are asked to produce a rooming list which is spot-checked with the hotels.

Commissioner McElvain inquired into the capital improvements needed for the Convention Center over the next ten years and how they would be incorporated into the Commission's recommendation to the City Council. He would like to add to the recommendations that this is a temporary fix because over the next ten years approximately \$2.5 million will be needed for capital improvements.

Director Kersten responded that his intention is to address that in the next budget cycle, where he will be requesting to set aside at least \$100,000 per year for capital improvements. The fee increases will also help to close the gap between revenue and expenditures. The idea is to create a rolling stock type of fund to address building issues.

Commissioner McCoach inquired how the hotel at Turtle Bay will impact the Convention Center. Director Kersten thought this would be a synergistic bonus to the Convention Center. Commissioner McCoach observed that discussion took place regarding charging for parking at the Convention Center and whether staff thought this was a viable option. Director Kersten replied that they would prefer to work at getting a sponsor for the parking lot before putting into place a fee for parking.

Commissioner McCoach suggested that renaming the building might help to improve its image in the community.

Commissioners Hinz and Waybright strongly urged beefing up the language in the recommendation regarding that this is a short-term solution. Commissioner McElvain reiterated that this is a temporary solution as the Plan does not address debt service interest or a sinking fund for capital improvements.

Commissioner Hinz expressed her desire to revisit the Convention Center in six months as regards the fee impact, staffing levels and marketing. Commissioner Waybright agrees that there needs to be ongoing monitoring of the changes made.

Commissioner Hinz requested that the contract with the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association be brought to the Commission for consideration prior to finalization.

**Motion:** Direct staff to draft a letter of recommendations to the City Council and return to the Commission for review and consideration.  
(Made by Commissioner Hinz, Seconded by Commissioner Wilson)

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

## **REDDING AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE**

Recreation Supervisor Moore delivered a Powerpoint presentation on the Redding Aquatic Center's operations and preparations for the upcoming Summer season. Of note are improvements to the Riverwalk Grille's menu to provide healthy options for meals and snacks.

Commissioner McCoach inquired into the statistics for 2009 Distressed Swimmers in the 6-8 year old category. Supervisor Moore explained that those numbers include rescues performed during swim testing. Commissioner McCoach requested that those numbers be called out in future reports.

Commissioner McElvain inquired whether there is a height requirement for any of the pools. Supervisor Moore replied that there is a height requirement of 4' on the slide and under 4' for the play structure.

No action was required on this informational item.

## **PROJECTS UPDATES**

Director Niemer provided updates on the following projects:

### May 8 Day of Service

Staff was approached by the Church of Latter Day Saints about a Regional Day of Service for area churches. 400-600 members will be spread over 6 different locations: painting the interior of the Redding Aquatic Center, painting the bathrooms and ballfields at K2, K3, and Buckeye Park, weeding and planting at *The Sculpture Park at City Hall*, assisting at the Library. This is a significant effort to organize and we always appreciate community assistance.

### MLK Playground

This playground is currently under construction with volunteers from Lowe's Home Improvement, the Rotary Club of Redding, East Redding Rotary and a handful of Redding Firefighters all assisting. The project should be completed tomorrow. The neighborhood children are anxious to begin using the equipment.

### Budget

Nothing specific has yet been announced, however, it seems unlikely at this time that the various union's will be providing any concessions, which means the City Council will be considering budget cutbacks of \$2.3 million.

### CDBG Applications

Two projects were submitted: a new roof at the MLK Center (this was awarded) and a bathroom at Rivercrest Park (this was not awarded.)

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

### Sacramento River Trail Paving

This week begins work on widening and overlays in various areas along the Sacramento River Trail. Work will take place between Harlan Drive and the Sundial Bridge. There will be periodic closures of the River Trail during the 4 - 6 week timeframe until the work is completed.

### South Bonnyview Boat Ramp

The design drawings are 60% complete. A canoe launch under the So. Bonnyview bridge will be added, along with an ADA-accessible fishing platform. A trail will be added along the river from the boat ramp north to the golf course. The bathroom at the boat ramp will also be renovated.

### Hotel at Turtle Bay

In 2009, Turtle Bay received conceptual approval from the City Council to modify the existing lease agreement to allow for a hotel to be constructed on the city-owned property they lease. City Council did state they would require Turtle Bay to go through the normal CEQA and city permitting processes. Since then, Turtle Bay has met with various hotel chains and has come to the conclusion that the hotel should be in a different location than what was proposed in 2009. Turtle Bay will be going to the City Council next week to request the City Council's authorization to proceed with planning the hotel in a different location, but still within the existing leasehold.

Commissioners Hinz and McCoach inquired whether this request should have come before the Commission for recommendation prior to going to the City Council. Project Manager Hanson responded that Turtle Bay wanted to find out if the project was even feasible to the City Council prior to going through the CEQA and Permit processes. The language in the lease requires that the City Council approve this type of change.

Commissioner McElvain observed that the area already has ingress/egress issues. He inquired what type of load the hotel would add to the problem. The Planning Department's initial review of the concept is that the hotel does not generate peak hour traffic and the problems are during peak hour (special events, etc.)

Commissioner Hinz stated that she would need to recuse herself from any future deliberations on this issue as she is on the Board of Regents for Turtle Bay.

No action was required on these informational items.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Wilson requested information on when improvements would begin at the Bonnyview boat ramp? Project Manager Hanson responded that it will be put out to bid in mid-summer and work will begin in the Fall. The project should be completed around this time next year.

Commissioner McCoach whether staff have an update on the disc golf course at Buckeye Park. Director Niemer related that is also one of the LDS projects. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Northern Flights Disc Golf Club has been signed and the group has begun work on the site. The project is projected to be completed by July, 2011.

Commissioner McCoach inquired whether the Buckeye Park tennis courts had been looked at to determine what could be done to perhaps refurbish the playing surface, as requested at the December meeting. Director Kersten replied that this item would be looked into.

### **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, at the hour of 5:23 p.m. Chair Hinz declared the meeting adjourned.

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Susan Hinz, Chair