

Community Services Advisory Commission  
Regular Meeting  
City Hall - Caldwell Park Conference Room  
777 Cypress Avenue  
Redding, California  
May 9, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

## **MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. Chair Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The following Commissioners were present; John Wilson, Susan Hinz and Bob Brennan. Also present were Community Services Director Kimberly Niemer, Management Analyst Matthew McCallum, Parks Superintendent Paul Anderson, and Executive Assistant Sarah Sheetz.

Commissioner Leona McCoach joined the meeting at 4:06 and Commissioner Adam McElvain joined the meeting at 4:09.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The minutes from the Special Meeting held on February 28, 2012, the monthly Parks Maintenance Activity Reports for February, March and April 2012, the monthly Recreation Division Activity Report for February and March 2012, and the monthly Tourism Activity Reports for February, March, and April 2012, were presented.

Deputy City Manager Greg Clark provided an update on recent Tourism activity. Bob Warren, Chief Executive Officer of the Redding Convention and Visitors Bureau will be retiring at the end of June 2012. Mr. Warren announced his retirement in late 2011, and a pre-screening committee was formed to assist with finding his replacement. The committee received more than 30 applicants from all over the world. Five applicants were brought in for face to face interviews. The interview panel selected a first choice, and a back-up choice and submitted both to the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association (SCWA) Board of Directors. The final selection will be negotiated by the SCWA Board and the chosen replacement will be announced on May 24, 2012, at the Tourism Summit in Redding.

Commissioner Hinz inquired as to what the City's relationship with the SCWA is, and if the City participated on the hiring Committee? Director Niemer and Deputy City Manager Clark clarified that Mr. Clark participated on the committee on behalf of the City of Redding.

Commissioner Brennan inquired as to who was on the committee. Deputy City Manager Clark provided a list of committee members which included Ed Rullman, Bert Meyers, and other stakeholders in the tourism industry in the Redding area.

Chair Wilson inquired if Steve Gaines, President of the SCWA is also retiring? Mr. Clark confirmed that Steve Gaines has also announced his retirement after being on the SCWA board for 30 years.

Commissioner McElvain inquired if there is a sign at Reginato River Access indicating that there is video surveillance. Director Niemer advised that there is not a sign yet.

Commissioner McElvain stated that he liked the year to year statistics on the Tourism Activity Report. Deputy City Manager Greg Clark advised that those figures will be provided on future reports as well.

Commissioner Brennan inquired if there is any historical information about visitors at Turtle Bay because 190 did not seem like that many for a month. Director Niemer clarified that the statistics in the Tourism Activity Report only account for visitors seeking information from the information desk at Turtle Bay. Deputy City Manager Greg Clark advised that in addition to the information desk at Turtle Bay, visitors may stop for information at the California Welcome Center in Anderson that is operated by the Shasta Cascade Wonderland Association (SCWA). Visitors also stop in at City Hall at the Volunteer desk and request information. Commissioner Brennan asked if the number of visitors is tracked in Anderson as well. Mr. Clark responded that the SCWA may have that information.

Commissioner McCoach inquired if the Visitor Center in Mountain Gate is open. Director Niemer clarified that the United States Forest Services runs that facility.

Chair Wilson inquired as to the progress on the Redding Municipal Code Update. Director Niemer advised that staff is busy at work making revisions. The subcommittee will be reconvened to review and finalize changes, and the proposed changes will be submitted to the City Attorney for review. The subcommittee will then bring the proposed changes to the CSAC for review and recommendation to the City Council.

Chair Wilson thanked everyone for attending the joint meeting with the Planning Commission regarding the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan. He expressed that he was pleased with the decision not to progress at this point.

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

AYES: Commissioners  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

## **CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROTARY CLUB OF REDDING EAST TO CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS AT FANTASY FOUNTAIN**

Director Niemer provided some background information on the Fantasy Fountain Project. She stated that we have been working on this project for the past year and a half. The safety matting at Fantasy Fountain has been failing for some time and efforts to address it have been unsuccessful. The park was closed a fair amount for operational issues last summer. The issue has now become one of sanitation, as the deteriorated matting clogs the drainage system, leaving standing water in the spray park. Approximately a year ago, the Record Searchlight leadership team came to Director Niemer wanting to do a large scale community project. They were given several options and selected Fantasy Fountain. The Record Searchlight parent company, The Scripps Howard

Foundation has donated \$40,000 in cash, and has committed \$40,000 in marketing support. In addition, their team has helped with the fund-raising effort. The project budget is \$200,000-\$220,000, of which \$185,000 has been pledged.

In addition to the Record Searchlight's generous support, Redding Rancheria, the California Endowment and the McConnell Foundation have each contributed \$25,000. Wonder Metals contributed \$10,000; Sherill Bambauer of Sagepoint Financial contributed \$10,000, REU and the City of Redding will contribute \$15,000 each, and Sierra Pacific Industries Foundation has contributed \$1,000. There have been numerous other cash donations.

In-kind donations include; Gregory Equipment who provided demolition of the existing volcano and concrete; Dale Simpson of Guiton's Pools, a critical partner which will build the new volcano; Pat Wallner of Wallner plumbing will provide the plumbing supplies and expertise; Duco Construction which will provide saw-cutting services and ensure that the hand prints and footprints from the first project remain intact; Dale Carter fencing which has provided fencing; Lekey Land Clearing which helped with the demolition of the large rocks; and North State Playgrounds which is allowing us to work directly with the manufacturer of the spray park elements and is taking no commission.

Promotions include the proceeds from the tip jar during the month of May at 'Spoon Me', and the donation of \$50 per new car purchased from Redding Kia or Redding Subaru during the month of June. Fundraisers include the Fantasy Fountain towel for sale at Redding Recreation, and the 'paint by numbers' project where residents can purchase a frog, lily pad, or fish to paint on the new concrete surface of the spray park.

Redding East Rotary is the fiscal agent. They are providing an accountant, Allyn Clark and a construction manager, Jerry Peters. Monetary donations are made to the Redding Parks and Recreation Fund at the Shasta Regional Community Foundation, and the action before the Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC) today is to grant funds to Redding Rotary East, which then pays the project bills. This method allows us more flexibility to work with contractors at cost or less, and allows the project to be administered privately.

Commissioner Brennan wondered if the marketing from the Record Searchlight was the half page ads he has been seeing? Director Niemer confirmed that was correct, and that in addition they designed the logo, are putting a brochure together, and are managing the paint by numbers fundraiser as advertised in Redding Recreation's Summer Guide. The goal is to be done with the spray park at end of August 2012.

Jerry Peters of Redding East Rotary stated that his organization is very excited to be involved in this project and commented that all of the subcontractors and suppliers have been extremely generous, even in the tough economic times, and are taking ownership of this great community project.

Chair Wilson asked how close we are to the budgeted goal? Director Niemer advised that we are approximately \$25,000 from the goal, with several requests still pending.

The commissioners thanked Jerry Peters of Redding East Rotary for his work on this great community project.

**Motion:** To approve the funding partnership with the Rotary Club of Redding East to construct improvements at Fantasy Fountain.  
(Made by Commissioner McElvain, Seconded by Commissioner McCoach)

AYES: Commissioners  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

## **CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE HIGHLAND PARK SUBDIVISION PARK CREDIT AGREEMENT**

Management Analyst Matthew McCallum summarized the current fee credit agreement with S & J Development for the Highland Park subdivision and the proposed amendment as outlined in the staff report to CSAC.

Analyst McCallum stated that the reason for the amendment request is two-fold, the first reason being the timing of the build-out, which is progressing more slowly than was anticipated when the agreement was first drafted, the second reason being the mixture of the product, which was originally planned to be single family homes and now includes half-plexes. The proposed Amendment does not change or impact any of the project park elements.

Commissioner Hinz inquired as to how many lots have been sold. Jeb Allen of S & J Development responded that they have recorded 93 lots, and have sold 42 of the residences, with 10-12 under construction. He stated that the main reason for the request is that they recognized a niche in the market and have fast-tracked it to get the half-plexes (single family attached residences) under construction. He stated that the map will be taken to the June 5, 2012, City Council meeting for recordation, which does not allow a lot of time to get the park design done. He stated that the 30 lot change to get the design done will allow for neighborhood input in the park design as well.

Chair Wilson surmised that at the current build-out rate it may be three years before completion. Mr. Allen responded 'not if I have something to do with it.' He restated that they have fast-tracked the project.

Chair Wilson stated that his concern is that the park gets built when the majority of the families move in. Mr. Allen responded that the trigger point for the park construction would not change with the proposed amendment.

Commissioner Brennan asked when the money for each lot is actually paid? Mr. Allen responded that there is a security bond in place with Redding Bank of Commerce for four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per recorded lot. To date, there are 93 lots recorded.

Commissioner Hinz inquired how big is the park design project? Mr. Allen responded that the design could be anywhere from sixty-five thousand (\$65,000) to ninety-thousand (\$90,000) dollars.

Commissioner Hinz asked how much is currently bonded. Analyst McCallum responded that there is currently two-hundred and ninety-seven thousand, seven hundred and fifty-two dollars and eighty-two cents (\$297,752.82) bonded. With the new recordation a new security bond will be issued. Analyst McCallum also advised that design too far in advance of construction carries some risk in that changes due to land use codes, etc. would be the responsibility of the City, and could add cost and delay the construction phase.

Development Services Director Bill Nagel restated that there are basically three trigger points in the

agreement. This amendment would move out only the design trigger, the Phase 1 construction trigger stays the same, and the Phase 2 construction trigger either stays the same or moves closer. The benefit is that the time between design and first construction phase is tightened up.

Commissioner Brennan inquired as to CSAC's role in this process. It was clarified that CSAC is making a recommendation to the City Council.

Commissioner McElvain asked when is the developer likely to hit the 130 homes mark? Mr. Allen responded there is a very good chance they would hit that mark next winter.

**Motion:** To recommend to the City Council that they approve the Amendment to the Highland Park Subdivision Park Credit Agreement.  
(Made by Commissioner McElvain, Seconded by Commissioner Brennan)

AYES: Commissioners Wilson and Hinz  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: Commissioner McCoach  
ABSENT: None

Jeb Allen of S & J Development shared a photograph of the trail installed with the first phase development at Highland Park.

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner McElvain expressed that he is very excited about the improvements at Fantasy Fountain, as he visits often with his children.

Director Niemer shared a sample of the towel being sold as part of the fund-raising effort for Fantasy Fountain.

Commissioner Brennan commented that he had read in the newspaper recently that it appears we are getting a lot of help from volunteers from both Bethel Church and the Mormons' Helping Hands organization.

Director Niemer agreed that we are receiving a lot of help from both groups, and any other group that offers help as well. She stated that when Advance Redding leased the Convention Center they offered student volunteers to assist with ongoing projects. Many of the students who attend the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry are international students and cannot work in the United States. The student volunteers have been working in parks every Friday under the direction of Geoff Diaz, Working Supervisor in our Parks Maintenance Division. They have been helping at the Redding Aquatic Center, with litter and graffiti abatement in our parks, and with cleaning of the Sundial Bridge. Bethel has advised that they are willing to expand their commitment in the next school year. In addition, Eric Ross tile has completed some tile repair work at the Sundial Bridge. This work was paid for by The McConnell Foundation.

Commissioner Brennan asked if Director Niemer had inquired with Redding Electric Utility (REU) regarding paying for the lights on the Sundial Bridge. Director Niemer advised that she had discussed it with REU as the City is going to 'Complete Streets,' and that REU is willing to look at it in the next budget negotiations. She advised that the Parks crew is more qualified to do light replacement, as they are certified tree climbers, but that an agreement where REU would pay for the electricity could be pursued.

Commissioner Brennan inquired about the vote on the proposed changes to the Western Ranches LMD. Director Niemer advised that the members of the LMD voted 'no' to the proposed changes. She advised that Brian Crane, Public Works Director, is doing some further work, plans to meet with some of the residents and is hopeful a compromise will be reached. Commissioner Brennan requested a breakdown on the costs for the LMD for the last 2-3 years. Analyst McCallum advised that he would request that information from Engineering for Commissioner Brennan.

Director Niemer also advised that in the Lancers LMD staff is looking at changing the landscaping maintenance to include irrigation of the trees only. She advised that in many areas we are moving towards upgrading the water systems for water conservation and replacing older infrastructure.

Chair Wilson thanked the Bethel volunteers for their work. He also inquired if the restrooms at the Reginato River Access are under warranty. Parks Superintendent Anderson advised that yes, the restrooms are under warranty, and some warranty work had been done there recently. Director Niemer clarified that the warranty would not apply to work that needed to be performed as a result of vandalism.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

Director Niemer provided a recap on the status of the Hacienda Heights park site. As early as 1995 there were comments made relative to surplus this park site for several reasons. Mountain View Middle School would be nearby and would have park facilities, and at the same time, the McConnell Foundation was in the process of planning Lema Ranch which would have open spaces available to the public. It took a long time to get the title cleared on the parcel as it was dedicated but not recorded in fee. The developer signed a Quit Claim allowing the surplus process to move forward.

In June 2011 Director Niemer advised the residents in the area at a neighborhood meeting that the City was not in a position to build a new park, and planned to sell the park site as surplus property. A resident expressed interest in leading the neighborhood group to come up with a plan to build the park as a community project. Director Niemer requested a plan by December 2011. Interest in the project waned and the resident leader advised that he would no longer participate in a leadership role in late 2011. Upon notice of the surplus sale in early 2012, the neighbors again came out and said they wanted the park built.

The underlying rationale for why this site needs to be surplus still stands. There are abundant recreational amenities in the area, and this park is very limited in size and would provide room for only a tot lot or a half basketball court.

The 2004 Master Plan has deliberate language moving the City toward regional park sites because pocket parks are expensive to maintain and allow for very limited use. Five acre park sites have something for everyone: a walking perimeter trail, basketball courts, large picnic areas, playgrounds, etc. A copy of the staff report submitted to the City Council regarding Hacienda Heights was distributed to the CSAC, as well as copies of the correspondence between the City Attorney and the attorney representing the residents, Walt McNeill.

Commissioner Brennan asked when and if it goes to court where do the funds come from? Director Niemer advised that in conversations with the City Attorney, that he does not feel this is a controversial land use issue. The City Attorney's office is currently looking at the timing of the recordation of the maps, and reviewing the question of whether the developer would have first rights to the property. She stated that she was pleased that people do speak out that they want their parks, and that parks are an important part of our community life.

Director Niemer provided a recap on the Gregory Pond/Balzac Court/Fleur du Lac issue. There are five property owners that have a trail easement behind their homes on Balzac Court. CSAC and the Planning Commission both recommended that the trail work be done prior to home construction at the time the subdivision was being developed. The developer appealed to the City Council and prevailed. The backyard improvements of the homes built encroach into trail easement. Director Niemer has worked with the homeowners for almost a year and has proposed an alternative trail alignment, and an incremental cost for the alternative trail construction. Delaying the project will result in increased cost as the City currently has access to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for the trail work. The CCC's build the best trails for the least amount of money, as evidenced by the Angler's Trail at the Reginato River Access. The homeowners were sent a code enforcement letter giving them 15 days to respond. The homeowners offered a counterproposal on the 15th day. A Notice of Compliance was sent to them earlier this week, and several of the homeowners have since responded. Director Niemer stated that she believed a resolution would be reached with the homeowners.

Commissioner Brennan asked where is the developer on this? Director Niemer responded that although we do not offer legal advice, it is possible that the homeowners may have some recourse with the builder.

Commissioner Hinz applauded the City's efforts to continue to work with the homeowners.

Director Niemer shared the news that the City won the Sprite Spark Parks competition, garnering \$10,000 to refurbish the basketball court at Caldwell Park. The funds will be used to re-paint the lines of the basketball court, provide seating, and possibly a shade canopy.

Chair Wilson inquired if there were any big events scheduled at the aquatic center this summer? Director Niemer responded that there are usually three big swim meets, however the local swim teams have not been interested in proposing on even larger events in the past few years.

Director Niemer shared that the first Community Creek Clean-Up meeting took place last week. The committee decided to go back to Henderson Open Space and is working to get the word out.

Director Niemer shared that the Recreation Summer Activity Guide is now out with many fun activity based camps being offered for summer. Registration is underway, and Redding Recreation brought in \$13,000 in fees in one day this week.

Commissioner Brennan asked if there were any thoughts of putting a trail in at Henderson Open Space. Director Niemer advised that yes, there is grant pending in partnership with the CCC's to provide fuel reduction at Henderson Open Space, Riverland Drive, and Kapusta Open Space. If awarded, the grant would allow us to do plantings at the Community Creek Clean-up at Henderson, helping to keep the non-native invasives from returning. In addition, Terry Hanson is applying for funding for interpretive signage and trail user amenities for the area to further leverage that money.

Director Niemer shared that Redding Recreation was awarded a Department of Boating Waterways grant in the amount of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), and was given small sailboat equipment from Forebay Aquatic Center at Lake Oroville, which is now closed. Redding Recreation has forged a partnership with the Redding Yacht Club and Whiskeytown to offer sailing classes.

Chair Wilson said he appreciated Director Niemer tracking the money, stating that it all adds up and attracts visitors to our area.

Director Niemer gave an update on the RMS software project, stating that we are now having weekly telephone conferences with the vendor. While we have not been impressed with progress to date, the vendor has decided to switch platforms from Microsoft Silverlight to HTML 5. The

City's Information Technology (IT) department believes this is a beneficial move, as it is believed that Microsoft plans to discontinue support of the Silverlight platform.

Chair Wilson asked who would own the software. Director Niemer advised that we would own the software, and that owning the software will be advantageous for us because it will be designed for us, to do exactly what we need it to do. We will pay a licensing fee, but will then be able to set our own transaction fees. We have a cost sensitive client base so it is important to be able to control the fees.

Chair Wilson inquired as to if there are any penalties for RMS being one year behind schedule? Director Niemer said no, because when the contract was originated the City was downsizing the IT staff, so getting answers on our end also delayed the project.

Commissioner McElvain inquired if RMS would use our model as a marketing tool? He stated that if so, he thought we should ask for a profit sharing agreement.

Parks Superintendent Paul Anderson shared some information regarding the increase in vandalism in restrooms. In particular, vandals are stealing the brass Sloan valves on the back of toilets (approximately 1-2 per month). Mike Herzog in the Parks Division designed a cover, and welders in the Solid Waste Division built a prototype out of scrap metal, which was then was coated with bedliner at Totally Trucks. The prototype will be installed in the restrooms at the Rodeo Grounds. Director Niemer thanked Superintendent Anderson and the CSAC applauded the Parks Division for their ingenuity.

Councilwoman McArthur stated how interesting it was to have one group of people upset that a park was being taken away, and one group of people upset that a park was going in, during the same Council meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

  
Chair John Wilson