

MINUTES

Chair Deaton called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were present: Chair John Deaton, Bob Brennan, and John Wilson. Commissioner Erin Resner joined the meeting at 4:39 p.m. Also present were Mayor Missy McArthur, Chief of Police Robert Paoletti, Community Services Director Kim Niemer, Parks Superintendent Joey Forseth-Deshais, Management Analyst Michele Davis, Recreation Supervisor Sue Roi, Recreation Coordinator Christina Massey, and Executive Assistant Brenna Bowers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes from the meeting held September 14, 2016, and the monthly Parks Maintenance, Recreation, and Tourism Activity for September 2016 were presented.

Discussion: Commissioner Wilson asked for clarity on the Rotary fund referenced in the September Minutes. Director Niemer explained that Rotary agreed to hold a distinct account that was transferred from the Community Foundation to eliminate administration fees that were being incurred. The account included funds that were collected for park, trail, and open space improvements. Transferring the funds to a non-profit organization that is established to support parks offers the ability to support and fundraise for more community projects.

Motion: To approve the Consent Calendar.
(Made by Commissioner Brennan, Seconded by Commissioner Wilson)

AYES: Commissioners Brennan, Deaton, and Wilson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Salter and Resner

Motion Carries

MLK GRANT UPDATE BY RECREATION COORDINATOR CHRISTINA MASSEY

Director Niemer introduced Recreation Coordinator Christina Massey. The Shasta County Sheriff's Office and Probation Department have contracted with the City for the Martin Luther Jr. Center (MLK) to conduct programs aimed at preventing youth from entering and reentering into the juvenile system. Massey gave an overview of some of their programs and the benefits of the additional programming to the at-risk youth. Outreach to teenagers, and whole families has increased. Two credentialed teachers were hired for tutoring programs that are flexible to the participant's schedule have been established. Outreach with the SMART Business Resource Center has helped develop job opportunities and training for participants. Massey reported that the funding has helped with the Center's Action Plan goals, enabling the Center to do a wraparound assessment of participants and that program participation has increased. The grant covers costs up to \$65,000 per year for two years.

Commissioner Brennan asked how the funding was monitored and if the Commission could review the reporting. Massey and Director Niemer reported that attendance and program completion reports would be provided and those reports would be matched against youth that is going into or back into the system. Reporting on MLK programs is included in the monthly activity reports.

Commissioner Wilson asked if the grant was from the Department of Justice. Chief Paoletti confirmed that the grant was a Department of Justice grant and that if these programs prove successful funding should continue.

Director Niemer requested skipping the update by Chief Paoletti on public safety in parks, trail, and open space areas until Commissioner Resner arrived. Chair Deaton agreed and moved to the next item on the agenda.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH SOCCER AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Director Niemer updated the Commission on the progress of the grant application. The Redding Soccer Park project did not meet program guidelines. The Park would need to close before replacement fields could be considered. The City decided not to apply for an additional ballfield in Caldwell Park but authorized West Redding Little League to submit an application directly. The grant application will include a proposal to add LED field lights to the upper fields at Enterprise Park. Caldwell Park is the only lit soccer field, and Recreation had to borrow lights from the Streets and Police Departments to temporarily light Enterprise Park while the Caldwell Park soccer fields were under maintenance. The addition of LED field lights at Enterprise Park would add capacity to the sports programs while keeping electrical use and maintenance costs low. The proposal will also include a new irrigation system. A resolution will be presented at the next City Council meeting.

Commissioner Brennan asked if there had been any complaints from the neighborhood. Director Niemer reported that the LED lights will not be like the lights at Tiger Field. The lights have been improved for targeted light distribution and would add four to five hours of play in the fall and winter months.

DISCUSSION ON INCREASING PARK USAGE AND DIVERSITY OF USERS

Director Niemer reported that she has continued to work with the Shasta County Arts Council (SCAC) and VIVA Downtown (VIVA) to program Library Park. Parks and Facilities Manager Adam Whelen and Parks Superintendent Joey Forseth-Deshais did an assessment of the park and approximately \$7,500 is needed for repairs. Staff will present the additional costs to City Council with a formal proposal in December.

Rocktober Nights event was ongoing and was planned for every Friday night in October at Library Park. The brewery was scheduled to open in the new year and the fence was still in the permitting process tentatively scheduled for a November installation.

Commissioner Brennan asked if the new brewery planned to use Library Park and Commissioner Wilson asked if they would have to pay to reserve the park. Director Niemer reported that the brewery would not be regularly utilizing the park, but may work with the brewery to co-sponsor special events that would serve the community.

Mayor McArthur discussed that SCAC and VIVA suggested renaming the park. Director Niemer reported that since the Library has moved next to South City Park there has been some confusion. Commissioner Wilson requested adding the renaming of Library Park to the next agenda.

Commissioner Resner joined the meeting. (4:39 p.m.)

UPDATE BY CHIEF PAOLETTI ON PUBLIC SAFETY IN PARKS, TRAIL AND OPEN SPACE AREAS

Chief Paoletti gave an overview of incidents in the parks, trails, and open space areas. Chief Paoletti reported that in last six months, the Police Department reported the following activity in the parks: 324 on-views (check-outs), 158 extra patrols, 113 pedestrian checks, 78 arrests for warrants, 54 illegal camping citations, 40 suspicious subjects' checks, 25 drug arrests, 28 vehicle checks, and 22 public intoxication arrests. Chief Paoletti reported the following activity for the open space areas: 316 illegal camping citations, 11 citations for public urination, and in the last eight months Officer Bob Brannon has removed 149,140 pounds of trash. Chief Paoletti explained that although citations are being issued they are not being prosecuted, therefore taking away the citations effectiveness.

Chief Paoletti reviewed his Strategic Plan and the current difficulties the Police Department has been experiencing, including lack of resources. It was reported that out of 200 homeless people, 50% were homeless because of mental health, drug use, or both. Chief Paoletti reported that right now there is nowhere to take them for treatment. The increase in population has not increased resources to the Police Department. The Police Department has seven officers to cover the City of Redding per shift. In 2008, the Police Department reported 80,000 calls, while currently; the department has already surpassed that number.

Chief Paoletti overviewed the benefits of adding a methadone clinic, reporting that in Chico out of 400 people treated only 6% were arrested after treatment and that most were arrested in the

first 90 days. Chief Paoletti stated that users are already here and that Redding is the only major city for those major resources.

Commissioner Brennan asked what resources can be used now for park events and activities. Chief Paoletti stated that with all the special events in Redding there are 1,800 mandated days for overtime. Without resources to tackle the problem, you are just moving the problem from one place to another.

Chief Paoletti, Mayor Missy McArthur, and Superintendent Joey Forseth-Deshais left the meeting. (5:15 p.m.)

Commissioner Deaton asked for an update on the Redding Trail Watch. Director Niemer stated that two basic trainings had been completed and approximately 200 shirts were handed out. The Redding Trail Watch group was designed to get people out on the trails walking together as ambassadors to the trail system. The Redding Trail Watch group has scheduled walks to help decrease the number of lone trail users.

Director Niemer reported that Vice Mayor Brent Weaver is planning a trail campaign around some of the new trails and is hoping to raise awareness.

Commissioner Deaton asked about the new Guardian Angel group that had formed in the area. Recreation Supervisor Sue Roi explained that they are a uniformed group of volunteers that complete self-defense training, and are not afraid to approach the transient population to offer resource information and request that they move away from public events.

Commissioner Wilson asked who organized the group and where they received their funding. Supervisor Roi did not know who organized the group but knows they are currently looking for funding. The Recreation office does not fund their program but allows the group to use the Caldwell Recreation Center for training. The Recreation office benefits from having the added presence in the park and she provides the group with a calendar of scheduled programs.

Commissioner Deaton asked about the potential for a bike patrol. Director Niemer reported that when the Turtle Bay hotel opens they will look at having a bike station and bike patrol.

Supervisor Sue Roi left the meeting (5:39 p.m.)

PROJECT UPDATES

Director Niemer updated the Commission on the following projects:

Community Creek Clean-Up - Over 350 participants worked to clean-up the Sacramento River Trail between the Arboretum Trailhead and North Market Street Bridge. The majority of volunteers were students. New tactical commanders, Francis Berg and John Erwin, had been working to prepare the area for months. The location had a sloped terrain and volunteers formed a bucket barricade to move material up and over the trail. Utility Tree Service donated a track chipper and four hours of their time during the event. A debriefing meeting will be scheduled.

Parke Diem - On October 8th Rotarians, Park staff and volunteers focused on two locations: Mary Lake Park and Benton Dog Park. The Benton Dog Park attracted about 15 people, while Mark Lake Park had about 50 people. A debriefing meeting will be scheduled to look at ideas to revitalize the event.

Assistant Project Coordinator - Travis Menne was scheduled to start Monday, October 17, 2016.

Tiger Field Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Scheduled to go to City Council on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 meeting. Recreation Supervisor Sue Roi held the stakeholder meeting and met with Rick Bosetti on two separate occasions. It was recommended that the MOU was adjusted to a maximum of a 170 to 180 games with adjusted scheduling and priority guidelines. Commissioner Brennan asked if Simpson University pays to use the field. Commissioner Deaton asked how many games Simpson is allowed. Director Niemer reported that Simpson pays a facility use fee and is allowed 30 games. The MOU also allowed the Colt 45s to charge user groups a materials and preparation fee.

Volunteer Appreciation event – Management Analyst Michele Davis coordinated the event held October 8th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The McConnell Foundation underwrote the catering, Pepsi donated the drinks, Redding Electric Utility funded the appreciation gift, and North Country Rafting, Redding Professional Firefighters-IAFF 1934, and Redding Police Officers Association donations went toward raffle prizes.

Highland Park – Scheduled to go to City Council on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 meeting. Phase 2 went out to bid through the park credit agreement and the lowest responsible bidder was Eddie Axner. A preconstruction meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 17th. Retired Parks Superintendent Dan Cannon agreed to inspect the project. Commissioner Wilson asked if Phase 2 included any ballfields. Director Niemer stated that the project would include two practice facility fields.

K1 Ballfield – Temporary fencing was installed around the field to prevent vandalism and loitering.

Palisades Trail –Terry Hanson along with 24 California Conservation Corps members completed the technisoil installation.

Kids Kingdom 2 Wine Tasting – Director Niemer encouraged Commissioner involvement in helping promote the October 19th event. Nine chefs have designed a menu to pair with twelve wines and are prepared to serve up to 300 people. Tickets were available online, at the Recreation office, and Grocery Outlet.

Halloween Haunt event – Due to weather concerns the event was postponed to October 28th and 29th.

Redding Soccer Park – The City was still waiting for a response to the settlement offer.

Henderson Open Space – Was in a holding pattern. The project had incurred about 40k in new expenses. Once the Palisades Trail was completed efforts would shift back to the Henderson project.

Director Niemer provided the Commission with the Annual Library Report and a Gallup report titled “State of American Well-Being,” incorporated herein by reference.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Brennan asked if the Clover Creek Preserve received the \$7,500 donation. Director Niemer reported that \$5,000 was donated from the Rotary account to complete the interior of the project.

Commissioner Brennan asked for an update on the tree slaughter on the Sacramento River Trail. Director Niemer stated that she will check on the status and report back to the Commission, but the case was accepted by District Attorney’s environmental prosecutor.

Commissioner Wilson asked if electric bikes were allowed on the Sacramento River Trail. Director Niemer stated that per State law they were allowed up to a certain mph, but she would research the current laws.

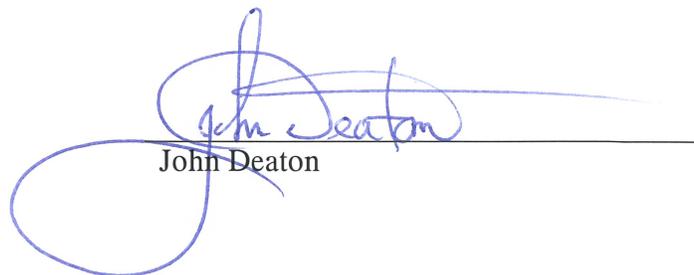
Commissioner Resner asked for an update on ideas for South City Park. Director Niemer reported that staff is continuing to work with the Sons of Italy to schedule Bocce Ball and Mike Archibald for scheduling future Pickleball play. Staff was researching resurfacing two of the courts for Pickleball play. Niemer wanted to encourage users to utilize the Bocce Ball, Pickleball and Tennis courts at the same time.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Niemer had no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Deaton adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.


John Deaton