



PARKS, ARTS AND RECREATION ACTION MINUTES

Regular Meeting of June 20, 2007
City Council Chambers
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Williams, Commissioners Lee Eng, Bautista, Charlton, Greguras, Potter, Cooper

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER BAUTISTA MOVED the minutes of the May 16, 2007 Regular Meeting be amended under the Public Sculpture Committee Charter Amendment item to read: 1. No amendment to the Committee's charter was necessary. And 2. strike from the Whistle Stop Element Name Proposal item the words "the single black words" and insert the word label . THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COOPER AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments were received at the meeting.

BUSINESS

DOGS OFF LEASH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & RECOMMENDATION

Commissioner Cooper presented the Subcommittee's report. The Subcommittee's report gave a definition of a dog park, outlined the need for a place to exercise dogs in Los Altos, possible locations in the city, and the results of the Civic Soap Box survey. Based on their information, the Subcommittee recommended the creation of a dog park in Heritage Oaks Park.

The Commission discussed the issues regarding the Subcommittee's report and recommendation. The Commission felt that dogs off leash in parks are a continuing issue. The Commission expressed concern regarding access and parking at the three sites proposed by the Subcommittee.

The following Los Altos Residents spoke in opposition to a dog park at Heritage Oaks. Yoav Agmon, Martin Saso, Menashe Shahar, Mary Hawkins, Chaya Shahar, Don Andersen and David Hintz. The consensus from the speakers included negative impacts to the neighborhood including traffic, parking, noise and the size of the area.

Steve Wilham spoke in support of a dog park and cited the one at Shoreline Park in Mt. View as an example.

Code Enforcement Officer Janice Torchia presented the Police Departments report regarding the dogs off leash and dog park which included support for a dog run/park at Heritage Oaks Park.

After receiving comments from the public, COMMISSIONER LEE ENG MOVED to SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF A DOG PARK AND TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NEXT STEPS AS PRESENTED IN THE AMENDMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COOPER. There was Commission discussion as to proceed with the creation of a dog park in Los Altos. At the conclusion of the discussion COMMISSIONERS LEE ENG AND COOPER WITHDREW THEIR MOTION.

There was general consensus on the Commission to have the Subcommittee continue to utilize NRPA standards for a dog park and consider applying these standards to another location should a new location arise throughout Los Altos excluding Heritage Oaks Park. The Subcommittee will investigate the options and report back to the Commission at a future date.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & RECOMMENDATION

Commissioner Potter introduced the concept and ideas the Subcommittee is working on. Commissioner Potter distributed two draft tri-fold brochures that can be used for listing parks and key happenings in Los Altos. Commission discussion included content, layout and purpose of the tri-fold brochures. There was consensus on the Commission to have the Subcommittee meet with staff to further develop the next draft edition of the tri-fold brochures.

Commissioner Bautista presented the Subcommittee's report on the playground renovation park openings. The report included background information, planning principles, and suggested event themes. After brief Commission discussion COMMISSIONER BAUTISTA MOVED to allow the Outreach Subcommittee to commence planning an Opening a Day for each of Marymeade and Mc Kenzie Parks as described in the report. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHARLTON AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

WHISTLE STOP ELEMENT NAME PROPOSAL

Commissioner Cooper clarified the number 2476 should be used on the side of the locomotive and the number 132 be used in the front of the locomotive as previously discussed. The Commission also wanted the name "Whistlestop" to be in a different font. They preferred it to be more western in look.

WHISTLE STOP FUNDRAISING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & RECOMMENDATION

Commissioner Bautista presented the Subcommittee report regarding fundraising ideas. The Subcommittee suggested staff remove the train from its current location and store it at Rosita Park until such a time as the train is auctioned or until December 1 to allow for other possible fundraising efforts. The Commission discussed the logistics of moving the equipment and the possibility of using eBay as the auctioneer of the train. There was general consensus to pursue the auction option rather than moving the equipment.

PUBLIC INTEREST ITEMS AND UPDATES

Six Month Accomplishment Review

Chair Williams congratulated the Commission on the progress they are making on their workplan. She stated almost all of the workplan was in progress and the Commission was on track for completing their objectives and goals.

Playground Renovation Update

Recreation Director Dave Brees informed the Commission on the progress of the renovation of the playgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.