



(704)

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Huntington Beach Civic Center

2000 Main Street

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Chair Kreitz called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., Bloom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bloom; Albert Gasparian; David Hubbard; Susie Jones; Jay Kreitz; Dan Moss; John Myers; Allan Pogrund; Buddy Roberts; Barbara Steel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cathy McGough (excused);

STAFF PRESENT: Jim B. Engle; David Dominguez; Luann Brunson; Mary Loadsman

PRESENTATIONS – Kreitz recognized former Chair Bloom for his contributions to the commission and presented a plaque on behalf of the staff and fellow commissioners. Bloom accepted the plaque thanking the fellow commissioners and staff for their support during his tenure.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS –

Public Comments – Brian Rechsteiner, former Community Services Commissioner, thanked the commission and staff for their support during his years of service. He spoke in support of incoming commissioner, Cathy McGough, serving as the Huntington Beach City School District representative.

MINUTES

MOTION:

Moved by Pogrund, seconded by Roberts, to approve the July 9, 2008 Community Services Commission minutes.

AYES: Bloom, Gasparian, Hubbard, Jones, Kreitz, Moss, Pogrund, Roberts

ABSTAIN: Myers, Steel

ABSENT: McGough

Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS - Engle informed commission they would be receiving an invitation in the mail to the Centennial Ball scheduled for January 31, 2009. He added that staff intends to bring the Huntington Central Park Master Plan revision for the habitat area adjacent to the proposed Senior Center in the form of a public input meeting at an upcoming commission meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS -

Worthy Community Park Master Plan - Engle provided background on Worthy Community Park (Worthy Park), noting the park was developed in the early 1980's under a joint agreement with Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD). The city owns seven acres and HBUHSD owns five acres of the park. The Pay N Play Racquetball concession has been part of the park since its inception. The racquetball site is approximately 10,000 square feet in a rectangular shape. It was built and operated by a private concessionaire under a long-term agreement with the city. The city has assumed responsibility for removal of the Pay N Play Racquetball building. Demolition of the facility is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. A buy-out option would have cost the city \$100,000; however, the concessionaire agreed to opt-out of the agreement provided City Council approved the termination agreement and the city incur the responsibility and cost of demolishing the facility.

Engle presented recreational use options for the 10,000 square foot area, including lawn bowling/bocce ball, paddle ball courts, open turf area, skateboard area, three wall outdoor racquetball courts, and outdoor exercise area. He noted that HBUHSD has offered to provide \$75,000 in funds toward another skateboard area with the caveat the city construct the skate park within three years. Engle explained that funds are budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year for design, and that additional funding to construct any recreation use changes would be needed. He mentioned that several potential sponsors in support of developing a skateboard park had contacted the city. He explained that should commission and City Council recommend a skateboard park at the former Pay N Play facility, staff would explore all funding options, including outside sponsorship, grants, and city funding.

Engle also noted that a two-stall modular restroom be centrally located within the park to replace the Pay N Play restrooms that are no longer available. He explained the restroom is the same manufacturer and design as those approved by commission and Council for the Blufftop Park restroom project.

Engle added that staff is seeking attorney opinion for Charter Section 612 (Measure C) requirements, wherein the sale or lease of park land, or construction greater than 3,000 square feet, or structure costing more than \$100,000, would be subject to the vote of the residents. He explained that this process, along with any funding, environmental or entitlement processes are factors in the timeline for park development.

Commissioners spoke in favor of developing a skateboard park in the former Pay N Play Racquetball facility with appropriate posted signage of city ordinances and rules to address residents' concerns and safety, and to provide public restrooms in Worthy Park.

Molly Kiefer, a long-time resident of Huntington Beach, spoke in support of a skateboard park in Worthy Park, as a legal and safe place for youths and adults to skateboard.

Jason Parkes grew up skateboarding in his backyard and has skated throughout the U.S., France, and Australia. He spoke in support of a skateboard park at Worthy Park or the beach, a place where kids can legally and safely ride.

Ed Templeton is a lifelong resident of Huntington Beach, a professional skateboarder, and is completely in favor of developing a skateboard park in the former Pay N Play facility. He expressed an interest in working with the city on planning or assisting with sponsorship activities.

Billy Williams, a resident of Huntington Beach, is involved in surfing, skateboarding, and Junior Guards. He supports developing a state-of-the-art skateboard park at Worthy Park.

Richard Connett, a resident of Huntington Beach, skateboards with his 11 year old daughter at the Huntington Beach High School (HBHS) skate park. He is in favor of developing a skateboard park at Worthy Park where families can safely skateboard.

Ed Proctor lives in Laguna Beach, and drives to Huntington Beach to skateboard at the HBHS skate park. He has skated at most of the parks in Orange County area, including the big parks; "Volcom" and "Etnies", and thinks the HBHS skateboard park is perfect. He is in favor of duplicating the HBHS skateboard park at Worthy Park.

Natalie Flores, a student and skater in Huntington Beach, spoke in favor of having a place to skateboard without breaking the law, and supports having a skateboard park at Worthy Park.

Aubrey Zepeda, a seven-year resident of Huntington Beach, indicated full support of developing a skateboard park at the former Pay N Play facility. She said the city is in urgent need of a new skateboard park to replace the skate park being demolished at HBHS.

Riley Mailman has been skateboarding with his father at HBHS every weekend for the past six years. His uncle, cousins, and friends have all skateboarded at the HBHS skate park. He thanked the commission for considering the idea of building a skateboard park at Worthy Park.

Brian Hanson has regularly skated at the HBHS skate park for 15 years, and is extremely sad the skate park is being demolished. He said the HBHS skate park was the "perfect park", and hoped it would be duplicated at Worthy Park.

Steve Stafford lives adjacent to Worthy Park and walks his dog through the park daily. He doesn't agree with building a skateboard park at Worthy Park without having enforceable rules in place.

Todd Gan lives across from Worthy Park and stated he is "in favor of a new skateboard park". He has concerns with Worthy Park being the best location choice. He is in favor of a skateboard park close to Central Park.

Patty Williams, a long-time resident and homeowner in Huntington Beach, spoke in support of a safe and legal place where her son and other youth in the community can skateboard. She submitted a petition with over 100 signatures in support of a skateboard park at Worthy Park. She said the signatures were obtained in "one day".

Jared Williams grew up in Huntington Beach and skateboards at the HBHS skate park. He said that without the HBHS skate park, he has "no legal place to go skateboarding", and is in support of a skate park at Worthy Park.

Justin Smith, a five-year resident of Huntington Beach, started skating at the HBHS skate park in sixth grade. He indicated he has nowhere safe to skate and is in support of a skateboard park at Worthy Park.

Rieh Pariseau, a 40-year resident of Huntington Beach and former teacher, lives adjacent to Worthy Park. He said he is not sure if Worthy Park is a good place for a skateboard park, and that commission should consider the nearby residents when making their recommendation.

Eric Groff, a resident of Huntington Beach and former professional skateboarder, stated he worked with former Community Services Director, Ron Hagan, to design the first skateboard park in the city. He said that skateboard parks had "come a long way" since the HBHS skate park. He noted the city needs a "good park", and offered to assist with sponsorship activities.

Peter Townend, a long-time resident, has raised his family in Huntington Beach. He is proud that his son was born at Huntington Beach Hospital, and is now a professional skateboarder. He is in support of developing a skateboard park at Worthy Park, and is aware of issues as a result of the closure of the HBHS skate park.

Chris Alsod was born and raised in Huntington Beach, and currently owns a skateboarding company. He is raising his family in HB, and enjoys skateboarding with his nine year old son. He offered his services to work with the city to help obtain sponsorship for developing new skateboard parks.

Tosh Townend, a resident of Huntington Beach, stated that when he learned of the loss of the HBHS skate park, he set out to raise funds for a new skate park. He presented a check for \$2,500 toward a new skateboard park at Worthy Park.

Nolan Chiavetta has lived his entire life in Huntington Beach and has met new people and new friends at the HBHS skate park. He is in support of a skateboard park at Worthy Park to have a safe, local place to hang out and skate.

MOTION:

Moved by Bloom, seconded by Pogrund, to:

- 1. Recommend to City Council, approval of a modular restroom as part of the Worthy Community Park master plan; and**
- 2. Recommend to City Council approval of a skateboard park to be included as part of the master plan in the 10,000 square foot area previously used for the Pay N Play Racquetball court, with appropriate signage of related city ordinances and appropriate park rules.**

Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS –

Edison Park Reconfiguration – Dominguez noted the Edison Park Reconfiguration had been approved by the Design Review Board on July 10, 2008, and that staff is continuing to work with the city's landscape architect consultant to prepare construction plans for the project. He also noted that staff is working with the Planning Department on the entitlement process.

Beach Playground / Universally Accessible Play Equipment – Dominguez noted staff had received a preliminary rendering for the Council-approved Universally Accessible Beach Playground. He said staff has directed the designer to provide a photo rendering of the playground equipment in the actual approved location on the beach. He noted the rendering will serve as a tool to gain financial support, either through sponsorship, additional donations, or grant funds.

Lake View Clubhouse Improvements – Dominguez reported that improvements to the clubhouse would begin August 18th to include upgrades to the interior and necessary Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements. Once the improvements have been completed, the facility would be made available on a reservation basis to local non-profit organizations, and members of the community.

Steel asked if non-profit organizations would be charged a fee to use the clubhouse. Dominguez responded the fee schedule would be on a "sliding scale", depending on the type of rental.

Irby Park – Dominguez reported Community Services is coordinating with Public Works for the development of a water run-off diversion project for the undeveloped eight-acres at Irby Park. The plan will also include a possible tie-in to the developed three-acre portion of the park. Community Services staff met with Friends of Shipley Nature Center, the Huntington Beach Tree Society, and Public Works to review the Park, Tree,

and Landscape planting and walkway recommendations for the Irby Park Water Diversion project. Once the concept plan is developed, it will be presented to commission.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – None.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS –

HCP Equestrian Center - Kreitz noted the HCPEC met for their quarterly meeting on July 23, 2008 and asked Dominguez if there was anything of significance to report. Dominguez responded the meeting summary was included in the commission packet.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS -

Kreitz asked staff to provide an update on the events with the developer Makar, the Pacific City development, and the proposed Senior Center project in Huntington Central Park. Engle responded that the city and Makar had completed the arbitration phase for the park fees, with an appraised value of \$22 million. He noted the final result is that Makar is responsible for the \$22 million in park fees, and noted the Owner Participation Agreement (OPA) is still in effect.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

Project Self-Sufficiency Newsletter for August 2008
Council on Aging (COA) Bright Outlook for August 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Community Services Commission regular meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

DAVID C. DOMINGUEZ
Secretary
Community Services Commission

By: Mary Loadsman