



(738)

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
6:00 p.m.
City of Huntington Beach
Civic Center Council Chambers
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Chair Tomaino called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with Member Miller leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Burkart; Albert Gasparian; David Hubbard; Bridget Kaub; Roy Miller; Brian Rechsteiner, Nick Tomaino; Norm Westwell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Kreitz (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT: David Dominguez; Carrie Gonzales

PRESENTATIONS:

Leslie Gilson, representing the Gibbs Butterfly Park, distributed Certificates of Appreciation to the Board Members, Dave Dominguez, and the City Council Members for their participation in the February rededication of the Gibbs Butterfly Park.

Jean Nagy from the Huntington Beach Tree Society informed the Board of the upcoming "Let's Celebrate National Arbor Day" and the discussed the curb appeal for Shipley Nature Center.

MINUTES:

Motion by Member Rechsteiner moved and seconded by Member Burkart to approve the Community Services Commission minutes dated January 9, 2013.

Ayes: Burkart; Gasparian; Hubbard; Kaub, Miller; Rechsteiner; Tomaino; Westwell

Abstain: None

Absent: Kreitz

Motion passed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Jean Nagy spoke on the Urban Forest. She mentioned that two of the chain link fences have been removed and they would suggest removing the remaining chain link fence and replace it with split rail fencing. She also mentioned that the trails should be used while in the Urban Forest and not veer off the trails so not to disturb the plants.

Ann Anderson, volunteer for the Huntington Beach Tree Society, spoke on the Urban Forest. The trails within the Urban Forest are important and there are safety features that need to be put in place. The large horses should not be allowed to ride through the Urban Forest; they should ride on the trails around the Urban Forest.

DIRECTOR'S ITEM:

Dave Dominguez reported that Paul Emery, Deputy City Manager, has terminated his employment with the City and is now the Assistant City Manager for the City of Anaheim. Janeen Laudenback has been named the Interim Director of Community Services. He also mentioned that the City Manager's Office is working with a consultant to review the Community Services Department as a whole and determine if the Marine Safety Division should become its own Department. No decision has been made at this time.

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING:

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:

Urban Forest Trails and Pathways – Dominguez referred to the copies of the memo and PowerPoint presentation distributed to Commission titled "Urban Forest Pathways & Trails" dated March 13, 2013. He explained there is a need to identify certain pathways and trails suitable for pedestrian and/or multi-use access within the Urban Forest in Huntington Central Park. He asked the Members to approve the proposed path and trail plan presented.

Member Rechsteiner asked "What has the Horse Committee agreed too?" Dominguez responded they in their review of the plan, they felt that the majority of the trails within the Urban Forest should be available to horses since they were once part of the ad-hoc trails in the park prior to development of the Urban Forest. Rechsteiner also expressed concerned about the parking area with a maximum of only three cars, that there will be a need to provide more parking in the future. He also suggested that signs be posted for horse owners to pick-up after their horse; we currently have the signs for dog owners and this should also be the same for horse owners.

Chair Tomaino asked "What are the park hours?" Dominguez responded the hours are the same for all City Parks, 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Member Miller had questions on the fenced area on slide G-1.3. "What fence on Ellis has been removed?" He stated the paths are not wide enough for multi-use. He walks his dog daily through the Urban Forest and it is inconvenient to walk around what the horses have left behind. Horse owners should have to pick-up after the horses like the dog owners are required to do.

Member Burkart asked "What is the recommended width vs. the current width of the paths and do the existing trails need to be made wider?" "Were the fences taken down because they were always intended to be temporary?" "Do all dogs have to be on a leash?" Dominguez answered his questions.

Member Kaub asked "How many other trails throughout the park are available for horses and bikes?" "Would it impact the horse owners if the trails were limited to pedestrians and bikes?" Dominguez responded the Commission can suggest having

the horses go around the Urban Forest instead of going through it, or suggest that specific areas of the Urban Forest be limited to pedestrians only.

Member Westwell stated he agrees that there is a need to identify the trails. He also stated that horses should be discouraged from riding through the Urban Forest. Cattle guards could be put across the entrances to deter the horses from entering. The trails should be loops vs. dead-ends. A split rail fence is expensive and vegetation could be planted in place of a fence.

Motion moved by Chair Tomaino, seconded by Member Kaub, to recommend the Community Services Commission send this item to the Huntington Central Park Committee.

Approved 7-1-1 (Westwell-No, Kreitz-Absent)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

New Senior Center – Dave Dominguez reported there will be a City Council Study Session Hearing held on March 18, 2013, to discuss the potential alternative locations for a new senior center.

Maintenance Projects – Dave Dominguez reported on the completion of the City Gym & Pool hardwood floor project and gave a brief list of future maintenance projects, which will be completed by the Public Works General Services Division.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park Naming & Memorials – Member Rechsteiner reported that there should be a standard sign used for all parks. Members Rechsteiner and Gasparian agreed that there is too much verbiage for the plaque at Triangle Park and new verbiage should be brought back at the April 10, 2013 meeting.

Dave Dominguez discussed that he met with the Huntington Beach Historical Society to come up with historical dates for the plaque and will have information for the Board at the April 10, 2013 meeting.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Chair Tomaino requested a copy of the Sub-Committee report for item G-12 – Urban Forest Trails and Pathways. Dave Dominguez informed the staff he will have Mary Loadsman set-up a meeting for the Sub-Committee to discuss item G-1 – Urban Forest Trails and Pathways. The Sub-Committee members are: Miller, Rechsteiner, Kreitz, and Kaub.

Member Hubbard thanked staff for their continued support. He reported on the Blufftop Park wooden pilings along path are deteriorating and that they are almost gone. This is a public safety issue and should be replaced.

Members Kaub, Gasparian, and Westwell thanked staff and volunteers.

Member Rechsteiner reported he attended the Gibbs Butterfly Park rededication and stated that it was beautiful.

Member Miller thanked staff. He reported that the "Caution Slope" signs on Lakeview around the Huntington Central Park Lake are gone or thrown in the lake. Dave Dominguez will give an update on the slope at the April 10, 2013 meeting.

Chair Tomaino stated the restrooms along the beach are very dirty and there is graffiti on the restroom walls. Dave Dominguez stated there is a graffiti hotline number that could be called and the restrooms on the beach are cleaned by an outside cleaning company. He stated he would look into having graffiti hotline signs posted on the restroom walls.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO COMMISSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez, Secretary, Community Services Commission

By: Carrie Gonzales, Administrative Assistant