

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF CALIFORNIA CITY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 16, 2011
Council Chambers, 21000 Hacienda Blvd.
MINUTES**

Council Chambers, City Hall, 21000 Hacienda Blvd.

*** At this time, please take a moment to turn off your cell phones ***

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Helen Dennis called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
Present were: Commissioners Hemingway, Sanders, Tarvin, Vice Chair Sutherland and Chair Dennis.
4. **ADOPT AGENDA**
Motion by Commissioner Sanders, second by Vice Chair Sutherland to adopt the Agenda with the following changes: Move NB1 to after item 7, Public Business from the Floor. Motion Carried.
5. **PRESENTATIONS**
None
6. **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Community Center Renovation Update – City Manager Weil
City Manager Weil advised that progress is being made with external agency approval to begin renovation of the Center. Mr. Weil will be speaking with the County via telecom tomorrow to go over some final details.

Skate Park Update – City Manager Weil
The Parks & Recreation Department has acquired a new storage trailer from the Police Department and has resumed the Skate Park use on the weekends. Hours will be extended during the Summer when the youth is out of school.

Inspiration Walk Signage – City Manager Weil
Discussion of securing the walk and providing signage to keep dogs, skateboards, etc. from using the Park. City Manager Weil and Vice Chair Sutherland agreed that a gate at the entrance of the walk would provide a more secure entrance to the Park. Vice Chair Sutherland advised that the Desert Garden Club is making a plan to determine what the Park needs in terms of landscaping, benches, etc. Vice Chair Sutherland stated

that she would like to see a memorial rose garden placed where people could sponsor a rose bush in honor of a loved one.

7. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM FLOOR

None

NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1 MOVED TO DISCUSS AFTER PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM FLOOR

NB 1. Community Garden – City Manager Weil

Heather Monreal provided some thoughts and ideas to the Commissioners about her proposal for a Community Garden. Heather would like to include the Desert Rose Garden Club with the Community Garden and definitely include them with any planning of such. Ideas included a kids vegetable garden where the kids could grow vegetables and share with their families. Heather requested a piece of land to begin the garden and that she would need assistance from the City and the Community to effectively produce and maintain the garden. Chair Dennis advised Heather that there are two Community Gardens; one at Hacienda Elementary School and one at the California City High School. Commissioner Sanders provided Heather with some contact information for the Desert Rose garden Club so that she can communicate her thoughts and ideas with them. Chair Dennis advised Heather that the Commission had previous discussions about a location for a Community Garden being at the North East side of Balsitis Park; however nothing had been confirmed. Chair Dennis also advised that a Community Garden requires a large amount of dedication in order to maintain the facility. Heather offered her assistance for any projects in which the Commissioners and or the City felt that she could assist with.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

CC 1. Minutes of Regular Meeting – 1/19/11

CC 2. Minutes of Special Meeting – 1/19/11

Motion by Commissioner Hemingway, second by Commissioner Tarvin to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 1/19/11 and the minutes of the special meeting 1/19/11 with changes to the special meeting of 1/19/11 to correct the adoption of the agenda. Motion Carried

9. CONTINUED BUSIENSS

CB 1. Communications Review – City Manager Weil

No new communications received to date.

CB 2. Grant Review / Balsitis Park – Prop 84 – City Manager Weil

City Manager Weil advised that Townsend is continuing their efforts. Mr. Weil advised that he will be attending a meeting in Sacramento on March 2, 2011, to discuss the new application for the next round of funding.

CB 3. Balsitis Park Improvements/relocation of trees – City Manager Weil

City Manager Weil advised that the trees at the Legends will be removed but they will not be placed at the Balsitis Park location as previously discussed. Determination of the trees lack of frost/freeze tolerance makes the replanting difficult and will continue to be a problem in colder weather.

10. NEW BUSINESS

NB 1. Community Garden – City Manager Weil

Moved to conduct following item no. 7 of Agenda; Presentations.

NB 2. Borax Bill Update

Police Chief Eric Hurtado advised of the large growth of the OHV population and the progress made over the last several years. Police Chief introduced Captain Paris of the California City Fire Department. Captain Paris updated the Commissioners with the efforts of improving medical response and first aid and their role at Borax Bill. Funding from last years grant in the amount of \$146,000 provided the Desert Incident Response Team (DIRT) with some upgraded equipment that included new medical equipment and thermal imaging cameras. Captain Paris reported that the thermal imaging has created a more effective method of searching for 'lost' individuals. Borax Bill received approximately 320,000 visitors last year; consequently the call volume sky rocketed. The Department has requested more funds for next year; the department hopes to obtain a transport vehicle capable of transporting medical aides to receive medical treatment; additionally the Department hopes to receive funding for three new medical staff members to include a Supervisor to monitor the functions daily. In addition to the above, the Department would also request a Utility Vehicle (UV) that is capable of accessing more difficult areas of terrain so that a victim can be taken by the UV to awaiting medical services; ambulance, air transport or the medical center located at Borax Bill Station. The new modular building is now in use and has been modified to meet HIPPA compliance.

Police Chief Hurtado advised the Commissioners that Jawbone has included our recreational areas on their maps, consequently the area has seen an increase in patrons over the last three years.

Police Officer Jack Craig announced that since he has been involved in the DIRT program he has seen major improvements, the DIRT team evolved form a tent trailer set up n the desert to what we see today. Craig also identified his ideas to expand the Park, to include planting trees. The area needs to look more like a Park; all the while keeping in mind ease of ingress and egress for Recreational Vehicles. Additionally, a fence along the tree line would assist in keeping vehicles from accessing the park through the gaps in the trees and create an effective organized method of having the traffic pattern go in one direction, he would also like to see more RV hook-ups if the sewer line is to ever expand in this direction. Craig provided information about permitting fires; as long as the fires do not create an immediate hazard they are permitted, he also stated that some time ago the City obtained fore rings for use in the Borax Bill area; however they have yet to be placed at the sites, he has been informed that they are at the City Yard; however still no sign of them at the Station.

Chair Helen advised the public safety staff in attendance that if there is anything they can do to help please let them know. Officer Craig requested their continued support for the program.

Chief Hurtado requested some documentation of support from the Commissioners to file with grant applications.

NB 3. Central Park Playground Equipment

City Manager Weil advised that Shelly Hornback, Parks & Recreation Supervisor is obtaining costs for us on new swings, slide and ground covering and should have a response by the next meeting.

11. COMMISSION AGENDA

Commissioner Hemingway

Asked staff if signage is on the north side of the Bark Park, City Manager Weil advised that there is no signage on the north gate as of today; however staff will look into obtaining signage for this entrance.

Commissioner Hemingway asked if Honda may have some trees to donate; staff advised that Honda has donated everything they knew about.

Commissioner Sanders

Formally invited the Commissioners to participate in this years Desert Garden Club judging; May 13, 2011, garden tours May 14, 2011 judging. The Commissioners agreed that they would participate again this year.

Advised all in attendance of Supervisor Scrivner at the Senior Center, February 17, 2011 from 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

Vice Chair Sutherland

Confirmed that the original March 12, 2011 Scout Island Dedication will not be taking place as the projects have not been completed and will not be completed by this date.

Chair Dennis

Appreciated staff for their efforts and information.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Tarvin, second by Commissioner Sutherland to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jan Sprague, Parks & Recreation Secretary

APPROVED BY THE PARKS & REC COMMISSION ON _____