
CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA
Parks and Recreation Commission
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 06, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jones called the Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Laguna Hills, California, to order at 7:00 PM in the Laguna Hills City Council Chamber, 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Jones.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Present: Chair Jones, Commissioner Victoria Auer, Commissioner Daniel Cooper, Commissioner Richard Nagle

Absent: Vice Chair Jack Noenickx
(1) Vacancy

STAFF PRESENT: David Reynolds, Deputy City Manager; Dan Meehan, Community Services Superintendent; Jaime Ballard, Administrative Assistant.

Chair Jones introduced the newly appointed Commissioners and indicated there was still one vacancy which would be filled in the coming month.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Jones greeted the public and indicated the Commission would be proceeding to Item No. 4.2 first in an effort to accommodate the residents attending for that item and that public comments regarding this item could be made after the presentation from Richard Fisher Associates.

2. MINUTES

2.1 REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 5, 2012

ON BEHALF OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DAVID REYNOLDS; DEPUTY CITY MANAGER APPROVED THE DECEMBER 5, 2012 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES/CHAIR JONES ATTESTED.

Abstained: Commissioner Auer
Commissioner Nagle

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 SKATE PARK SECURITY REVIEW REPORT

Deputy City Manager Reynolds indicated the City of Laguna Hills retained Richard Fisher Associates to review security related issues pertaining to the Laguna Hills Skate Park.

Mr. Dick Fisher of Richard Fisher Associates summarized the report with the Commission. This review included the current state of the Skate Park in addition to comparisons with other area municipal skate parks and eight (8) optional actions with a complete projected cost by option.

The Commission discussed the findings of the report and discussed proposed options.

**MOTION TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT BY CHAIR JONES S/COMMISSIONER COOPER.
APPROVED BY A VOTE OF 4-0.**

4.2 LA PAZ OPEN SPACE PROJECT, CIP NO. 615A, REVIEW OF CONCEPT PLANS

Mr. Dick Fisher from Richard Fisher Associates greeted the Commission and public. Mr. Fisher indicated that all residents within 300 feet of the project had been invited to the meeting this evening to participate in the concept plan review.

Mr. Fisher presented the Commission and public the three (3) concept plans during a PowerPoint presentation.

Chair Jones opened public comments regarding Item No. 4.2.

Stan Rakowski of Laguna Hills expressed concern that only one (1) concept plan kept the trails away from the homes and closer to La Paz Rd. He suggested keeping everything as close to La Paz Rd. as possible.

Dave Stevens of Laguna Hills stated he walked the trails today and could see into the homes and backyards of four (4) residents with the state of the current trail. He recommended keeping both trails closer to La Paz Rd. or more towards the middle.

Timothy Morris of Laguna Hills suggested adding a height restriction to all new trees planted. Mr. Morris stated he was against having rest stations and felt it would create the possibility of additional crime in the evening when it got dark. He indicated he was in favor of concept #3 with tree height restrictions on all new trees.

Joel Lautenschleger of Laguna Hills suggested keeping the trails closer to the homes and indicated he preferred concept #1 or concept #2. Mr. Lautenschleger recommended adding new trees close to the commercial buildings in an effort to shield the surrounding homes from the building lights and signs in addition to having park benches and drinking fountains. Mr. Lautenschleger stated he was in favor of connecting the trail system within the City.

Shannon Freedman of Laguna Hills expressed concern about the lights and signs from the new center shining in her home. Mrs. Freedman indicated she would be opposed to the installation of a traffic light off of La Paz Rd. entering into the center for fear that it would create additional traffic noise for the residents on the Charleston/La Paz Rd. side. Mrs. Freedman indicated she had a child with special needs and would love an area that her family could enjoy without fear of being close to the street. Mrs. Freedman stated she was in favor of concept #1 that offered benches and kept the trails away from the street (La Paz Rd.) in addition to keeping the walking trail and horse trail separate. Mrs. Freedman also requested that the City add signage throughout the trails to indicate the types of species planted along with low grade lighting next to the trails. Mrs. Freedman concurred with Mr. Lautenschleger regarding planting new trees next to the commercial buildings to prevent lights and signs from shining into the homes.

Marquita Serio of Laguna Hills indicated she was in favor of concept #1 or concept #2.

Sandy Weis of Laguna Hills stated she was skeptical of having benches and/or rest areas on the trails that allowed people to sit and watch her kids play in the backyard. Mrs. Weiss expressed concern about lighting from trails and commercial buildings.

Commissioner Cooper asked if you would be able to see into the backyards after the project was completed if they were to vote for concept #1 or #2. Mr. Fisher indicated that with the additional grading, he didn't feel you would be able to see into people's homes or backyards. Commissioner Cooper asked about the possibility of moving the trails further away from the homes. Mr. Fisher of Richard Fisher Associates indicated that could be a possibility.

It was the consensus of the Commission to select concept #3 with the addition of benches, minimal low grade lighting, height restrictions on all newly planted trees along with planting trees next to the commercial buildings to block out lights and signs.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 CALL FOR A SPECIAL MEETING IN MARCH 2013

Deputy City Manager Reynolds indicated staff was requesting a Special Meeting be scheduled in March 2013 for the purpose of discussing budget related items in addition to work programs for the next budget cycle.

It was the consensus of the Commission to schedule a Special Meeting on March 14, 2013.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Cooper commended Chair Jones for his years of service on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Chair Jones thanked staff and his fellow Commissioners for their hard work and kindness.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Parks and Recreation Commission at this meeting, Chair Jones adjourned to the March 14, 2013 meeting.

DAVID T. REYNOLDS
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

ATTEST:

JACK NOENICKX, CHAIR

APPROVED AT MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2013