

**Community & Library Services
Commission
Wednesday, June 12, 2024
6:00 PM – Regular Meeting
MINUTES**



**City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
City Council Chambers**

STAFF:

ASHLEY WYSOCKI, Director

Community & Library Services

CHRIS COLE, Manager, Facilities & Dev.

Community & Library Services

CHARLENE GOMEZ, Sr. Admin. Assistant

Community & Library Services

AUSTIN EDELL, Chair

LOLLY MCHARDY, Vice-Chair

CEASON BAKER, Commissioner

LISA-LANE BARNES, Commissioner

LAURA COSTELLOE, Commissioner

DR. RICHARD HARRISON, Commissioner

TARYN PALUMBO, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Edsell call the meeting to order at 6:12 pm at which time a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Barnes

ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Baker, Barnes, Costelloe, Edsell, Harrison, McHardy, Palumbo

Staff: Wysocki, Cole, Gomez,

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Four (4) supplemental communications were received via email for Administrative Item 1 regarding the Carr Park Conceptual Design.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Rynerson, 26-year resident, questioned why the Library issue was not on the agenda and commented on the lack of action by the Commission.

Al Melillo, a Costa Mesa resident and fisherman, spoke on the Carr Park issue and the lake stocking process. Mr. Melillo asked for trout shelters, in addition to sharing information on the algae and maintenance issue, stating that people should not feed the ducks because it is harmful to the wildlife and the lake environment.

Tim Geddes, 40-year resident, spoke in support of the Library. Mr. Geddes provided the description for the Community & Library Services Commission and voiced his opinion on the agenda's lack of reporting on the Library. Mr. Geddes went on to say that he felt there was a lack of transparency with the Commission being left out of the RFP process and felt an explanation was warranted.

Gretchen Erickson, 22-year resident, City employee, and Chief Steward for Huntington Beach Municipal Teamsters, Local 911, spoke on City Council Item #7, and asked that Commissioners urge their respective City Council Members to reject the Library RFP.

Ron Swezea, a resident who has lived near Carr Park since the 80's, spoke on the lake condition, the play equipment and the volume of waterfowl (ducks and geese). Mr. Swezea felt the redesign of the park should be designed for the kids. Mr. Swezea stated that he is in support of keeping the Library public.

Andrew Einhorn cited a Texas court decision and various facts and statistics on book banning. He also provided his opinion on the Parent/Guardian Book Review Committee and privatizing the Library. Mr. Einhorn asked why the Commission was not included in the City Council's decision to seek privatization.

Natalie Moser, resident and City Council Member, spoke in support of naming the Shipley Nature Center Interpretive Center after former Mayor and advocate, Shirley Dettloff. Council Member Moser spoke on the lack of discussion at Commission on the Library issues and asked that the item be addressed on their next agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Request approval of revised minutes of the April 12, 2024, meeting minutes – At the May 8, 2024, meeting, Commissioner Baker and Chair Edsell asked for revisions of the meeting minutes with regard to Commissioner Baker's comments under the Study Session section. After further review and revision, Gomez is requesting approval of revised minutes in order to better reflect Commissioner Baker's comments.

Chair Edsell requested a change to show the February meeting was held on the 7th, not the 14th of February.

MOTION:

Commissioner Baker moved to accept the corrected minutes, including the change of date, with Commissioner Costelloe seconding the motion. Motion passed, 6-0-1.

AYES: Baker, Costelloe, Edsell, Harrison, McHardy, Palumbo

ABSTAIN: Barnes

2. Request approval of the May 8, 2024, meeting minutes.

MOTION:

Chair Edsell moved to accept the minutes as written with Vice-Chair McHardy seconding the motion. Motion passed, 7-0.

AYES: Baker, Barnes, Costelloe, Edsell, Harrison, McHardy, Palumbo

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. **Carr Park Conceptual Design** - Staff has worked with David Volz Design Landscape Architects, Inc. (DVD) to conduct a public input process and develop a conceptual master plan to make needed improvements at Carr Park. Wysocki reported that

mailing notification went out to homes within a 1500-foot radius of the park, and staff received 172 individual emails. She provided statistics on the park and location, and its various uses. Wysocki introduced Luis Pedroza from DVD, who provided information on the outreach meeting and survey #1. The second survey included the feedback received from the first meeting and provided the public with Options A and B. Option A was preferred, which excluded the island but added walkways. DVD met with the fishing and recreation groups and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, who made recommendations on the redesign that would affect the lake environment and wildlife. Additionally, the Police Department was consulted and provided CPTED recommendation. Mr. Pedroza reported that a biological study had been conducted and included detailed information on nesting of birds.

Mr. Pedroza then introduced Jonas Smith, who provided information on the lake and the environmental needs to produce and maintain a healthy lake system. This information included the safety issue of the lake being too close to Springdale Street, which would be addressed by moving the lake away from the street. To address the water quality, the waterfowl populations must be mitigated. The design approach takes into consideration the water condition, the waterfowl, and the use of the park, by looking for a holistic/biological/aeration aspect to filter the water through a pump to control the water quality. Smith provided additional information on recommendations that will improve the environment of the park, including the proposal of a 2-pump station process. Mr. Smith provided information on the proposed fishery enhancements and a stocking plan. Mr. Smith spoke in depth on the lake slope, depth, the oxygen levels, several docks to enhance fishing, fish habitat, and other areas in the proposed conceptual design.

Chris Cole provided information on the proposed amenities including, a community gathering area, open green space, buffered landscape between the park and adjacent homes, multiple docks, streams and natural spaces, 2 new age-appropriate playgrounds with an enclosure for child safety, walking paths, a vehicle access area for maintenance staff, and a welcome information station. Cole said that removal of the island was necessary in order to achieve the recommended depth for a healthier lake. New amenities would also include fitness elements, streams that feed into the lake through small waterfalls and ponds.

Commissioner Barnes asked if lighting was included in the proposed concept. Cole said no lighting was included due to feedback from the residents and smaller park use, however, low-lying path lighting may be installed at a later date if deemed appropriate.

Commissioner Costelloe asked about an aqua bio system as described by a public speaker. Smith provided information as he understood it, saying it would be used as a starting point. Aeration is the most important for water quality. Costelloe asked about a grant. Wysocki said there was currently funding available for design and construction documents and staff would look for grants as part of the process.

Costelloe said that if funding became an issue, she would recommend eliminating the fitness equipment.

Commissioner Palumbo thanked staff and professionals, saying she appreciated the natural elements and moving away from chemicals, in addition to the relocation of the wildlife. She stated that she was in favor of the proposed plan and felt it was well balanced.

Chair Edsell asked about cost savings without the island, and also asked who paid to stock the lake. Discussion ensued on moving the island versus removing the island. Smith stated it would be more costly from a construction standpoint and future maintenance needs to keep an island than it would be to remove it. Removal would also cut down on the waterfowl and wildlife over populating again. Cole confirmed that California Department of Fish & Wildlife stocked not only Carr Park, but Huntington Lake as well. Discussion continued on stocking and a fishery plan, with Smith clarifying that he is not speaking of a hatchery.

Commissioner Baker asked if someone would be hired to monitor the park for “do not feed” and fishing violations during the growth period. Wysocki said issues would be addressed through an educational kiosk and intermittent official enforcement. Conversation moved to a comparison of Greer Park and the over population of waterfowl, and the detriments caused by human feeding.

Chair Edsell commented on why he was in favor of the conceptual plan, calling it a dynamic plan, and asked if some of the amenities could be left out of the initial build-out and installed at a later date. Wysocki said the project could be phased according to funding.

Commissioner Barns addressed the parking situation during fishing derbies. Cole noted that some events utilize the adjacent church parking lot with their permission. Conversation moved to the costs of the project and reiteration that conceptional plan approval is not a commitment to funding. Grants and funding sources were also discussed and the process of finding grant opportunities.

MOTION: Commissioner Costelloe moved to approve the conceptional plan as presented with Commissioner Palumbo seconding the motion. All in favor (7-0)

AYES: Baker, Costelloe, Edsell, Harrison, McHardy, Palumbo

NOES: None

2. **Naming of the Interpretive Center at Shipley Nature Center in Honor of former Mayor, Shirley Dettloff** – In honor of the recent passing of former Mayor, Council Member, and long-time community champion, Shirley Dettloff, a request has been made to name the Interpretive Center at Shipley Nature Center in her memory for the many years of service and dedication she provided to the community.

Wysocki explained the naming process, stating this item was not required to go before the Park Naming & Memorials Committee, and cited criteria from Resolution 2017-25. Wysocki provided background on Shirley Dettloff and her efforts to help keep Shipley Nature Center from being closed in the past. Additionally, she noted that Dettloff was instrumental in creating the chronological panels, exhibits, and more at the Interpretive Center.

Commissioners asked about the official name. Wysocki said it would typically be first name last name. Discussion ensued on who made the request, if the Dettloff family was in favor of the naming, other options and requirements for naming of past mayors, and the Park Naming & Memorials process if and when an item goes before it.

Recommendation:

Approve and make a recommendation to City Council to formally name the Interpretive Center at Shipley Nature Center the “Shirley Dettloff Nature Center.”

MOTION: Costello moved to approve with Chair Edsell seconding the motion (5-3-0).

AYES: Costelloe, Edsell, Harrison, McHardy, Palumbo

NOES: Barnes, Baker

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. CIP Review & Project Updates:

- a. Update LeBard Park Redesign – Cole reported that a new contractor has begun work, and the project should be completed within 40 days

2. Calendar of Events

- a. Update on Jubilee Celebrations - Celebration for 50th anniversary of Huntington Central Park and the 75th anniversary of the Community & Library Services Department and Commission will be held on June 15, 2024. Cole provided information on who has RSVPd, slideshow, food, historians, exhibits, stakeholders, and celebrating the department and commissions 75th anniversaries.

STAFF ITEMS

- 1. **Commissioner Tours** – Discuss the potential for upcoming tours and areas of Commissioners’ interest. Wysocki said that we would like to show the commission what happens at the facilities and asked if there are any other areas of interest.
- 2. **Jubilee Plaque Design and Location Approved by City Council** - Cole reported that City Council approved the project and provided Commission with the location information.

3. **Marina Park Master Plan Approved by City Council** – Cole reported that City Council approve the Marina Park Master plan at their last meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Park Naming & Memorials Committee is scheduled to meet at 3:00 pm on Friday, June 28 in meeting room B-8 to discuss the formal naming of the area referred to as the “Nature Plateau” in Central Park.

COMMENTS – Not Agendized

Palumbo stated that she was disappointed the Library issue had not been brought to the Commission more often. While Commissioner Palumbo appreciates parks, she said that libraries are near and dear to her heart and as the Community & Library Services Commission, she has been frustrated with the lack of opportunity and review provided by the City Council.

Costelloe addressed public comments and supplemental communication about Commission’s lack of involvement in the Library issue. She felt the perception of the public was hurtful. Costelloe asked staff if a study session was in order. Costello asked for an update on the library cards, the definition of young adult, and asked that it is on the record that she is disappointed they [the Commission] are not more involved. Costello said she couldn’t imagine large development projects not going to the Planning Commission.

Edsell wished Gomez a happy birthday.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Edsell adjourned the meeting of the Community & Library Services Commission at 7:44 pm in honor of former Chair and Commissioner, Janis Mantini, who is battling health issues, and asked that the Commission and public keep her in their thoughts and prayers. With no further action, the meeting was closed.