

Community Services Commission
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
6:00 PM - Regular Meeting
MINUTES



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

STAFF:
CHRIS SLAMA, Community Services Director
CHARLENE GOMEZ, Admin./Recording Secretary

COMMISSION:
JAY KREITZ, Chair
MICHELLE SCHUETZ, Vice Chair
JOE CARCHIO, Commissioner
LISA KEMMERER, Commissioner
JANIS MANTINI, Commissioner
KRISTA STERUD, Commissioner
DICK THIEL, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kreitz called to order at 6:02 pm, at which time a quorum was met.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Sterud.

ROLL CALL

Carchio, Kemmerer, Kreitz, Schuetz, Sterud, Theil, Mantini

PRESENTATIONS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gloria Alvarez spoke regarding the property at 17th Street and Orange Avenue. Ms. Alvarez would like to see the space returned to a park.

Fran Varga spoke regarding her disappointment in the charrette workshop, the use of the old Rodgers Seniors' Center site, and the desire for green space.

Chris Varga spoke regarding the use of the property at the Rodgers Seniors' Center site. Mr. Varga felt that a park should replace the previous senior center and felt parking spaces are unnecessary in a community park. Mr. Varga also commented on the squirrels at Bluff Top Park.

Barbara Robinson spoke in favor of a park at the Rodgers Seniors' Center site. Ms. Robinson said more green space and less parking would be favorable.

Sid Spinak spoke regarding the Bluff Top Park improvements. He would like to see the park more functional for visitors.

Ralph Bauer was in favor of a downtown passive park. Mr. Bauer provided a handout with ideas for enhancing Central Park.

Rene Burton spoke in support of returning the Rodgers Seniors' Center site to green space and a passive park.

Bridget Johnson spoke regarding concerns with the charrette workshop held at the Rodger Seniors' Center site. Ms. Johnson felt that RJM paid little attention to the budget. Ms. Johnson is in support of green space.

Garrett Postiff spoke in support of green space at the Rodgers Seniors' Center site.

Amory Hanson spoke in support of keeping the facilities at the Rodgers Seniors' Center site, and felt that the parking lot could be developed as open green space. Mr. Hanson thanked Marie Knight for her efforts on this project and wished her well in her new position with the City.

Lisa Marin attended the charrette workshop and spoke in opposition of the Police Department use at the Rodgers Seniors' Center site.

Dave Sullivan attended the charrette workshop on the future use of the property at 17th Street and Orange Avenue. Mr. Sullivan is in favor of a park with a parking lot.

Natalie Wong asked who the City was looking for as far as residents. If it is families, then Ms. Wong felt a park would help to retain families with children. Ms. Wong also recommends the park so that school age children could be picked up at the park instead of the commercial businesses located across the street.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval requested for the October 9, 2019 Community Services Commission meeting minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Carchio moved to accept the minutes as presented with Commissioner Schuetz seconding the motion.

Ayes: Carchio, Kemmerer, Kreitz, Mantini, Schuetz, Sterud, and Thiel

Noes: None

DIRECTOR/MANAGER ITEMS

Slama thanked Knight for helping him with the transition to Director of Community Services. Knight announced that this would be her last meeting as she transitioned into her new position in the City Manager's Office working on organizational development.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- 1. Rodgers Seniors' Center site Reuse Charrette Workshop Information Review** – Slama introduced Chief Handy, who thanked the Commission and Committees for their assistance in hosting the workshop on the temporary use of Rodgers Seniors' Center site by the Police Department (PD). Chief Handy reported that a new site had been located that may better fit

the needs of the community and the department. Therefore, PD no longer had designs to use the Rodgers Seniors' Center facilities on a temporary basis.

Slama provided an overview of the information obtained by RJM for the future use of the Rodgers Seniors' Center. The presentation included the history on the direction by City Council and the development of the new senior center. Slama then provided a breakdown of the charrette meeting, the public input process, and the report provided by RJM. Slama reviewed the diagrams designed by the public at the charrette workshop and the bubble diagrams developed by RJM, including the Consensus Plan and Proposed Plan.

Commissioner Mantini asked how many parking spaces were included in the plan. Slama said 21 is required due to the existence of the assembly hall. She asked if there were enough spaces for the American Legion to continue to meet on site. Slama said at times it would be a tight fit, but there is the option of street parking. There should not be an issue for their monthly meetings. Commissioner Mantini asked about tot lots. Slama said the tot lot(s) would be appropriate for ages 2-12. Commissioner Mantini also asked about seating within the park. Slama said that seating was not discussed at the workshop.

After listening to the public comments, Commissioner Thiel asked if more meetings would be considered to allow additional input from the public. Slama said Commission would have to direct staff to do so. Discussion ensued on the desires of the public and if another meeting would be beneficial. Commissioner Kemmerer agreed that time for more input might be appropriate. Further discussion included comments regarding the parking lot, the attendance, and the size and need of green space versus a tot lot or other activity spaces. Slama reported that over 100 residents attended the charrette workshop. He also said that if the assembly hall remains, then parking spaces would have to remain. Knight reported that the notice went to over 1,800 residences. Additionally, Knight informed the Commission that if a tot lot were included in the plan, by law it must meet size standards. Slama noted that the tot lot could be added in the future. Chair Kreitz recounted the task before the Community Services Commission with the culmination of the charrette and report from RJM.

MOTION: Commissioner Schuetz moved to approve the Rodgers Seniors' Center site reuse conceptual diagram as presented in the presentation without the tot lot at this time, and forward to City Council for their consideration. Commissioner Mantini seconded the motion.

Ayes: Kemmerer, Kreitz, Mantini, Schuetz, Sterud, and Thiel

Noes: Carchio

Abstain: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS - In an effort to keep commission informed, the following are updates on major projects/issues:

1. **Bluff Top Park Phase I - Railing Improvements** – Slama introduced Tom Herbel, Interim Director of Public Works and Scott Smith, Beach Maintenance Supervisor, and would be available for questions regarding the Bluff Top improvements. Slama provided an overview

of the park improvements. A \$1.7 million State grant was available for the project. Slama discussed the current needs, including asphalt pathway, access to parking meters, enhancement to path intersections, and replacement of guardrail. The first phase addresses only the guardrail and subsequent needs would be address in the future as Phase 2.

Slama informed the Commission that this item was informational only. Improvements have to go through the Design Review Board (DRB) for approval. The slide show provided images of the railing when newly installed, and in the current state of deterioration. Slama discussed the design options for consideration and costs associated with each option -- making note of the pros and cons of each type of material. Slama further reported on the future improvement needs, including the path expansion, traffic improvements, and possible extension of the sidewalk for ADA accessibility to curb metered parking. Slama concluded with the approval process required through the DRB at their meeting on November 14, 2019. The application submittal deadline is January 1, 2020.

Commissioner Thiel asked if the railing would be water-sealed from the elements. Scott Smith confirmed that the material would be pressure treated.

Commissioner Mantini asked if resin based material was considered. Smith said yes, but it does not hold up as well. After 10-15 years, it deteriorates. Mantini asked about walkway safety, stating that there should be a buffer so that the walkway was not against the curb. Slama responded that staff was looking at other cities for options.

2. **Murdy Park Improvements Update** – Slama provided an update on the improvements taking place at Murdy Park. Completion was anticipated in 4-5 weeks. There was significant turf renovation, which typically takes about 90 days to establish. Slama noted that this was the first renovations since the facility opened in 1972. The renovation started November 4, 2019, and estimated the reopening in spring, 2020. Once Murdy Community Center is completed, the next facility to undergo improvements would be Edison Community Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Huntington Central Park Committee

Committee Chair Mantini reported that staff presenting an update on the Brindle/Thomas property lease. Additionally, the Committee reviewed Central Park projects and approved the CIP for 2020/2021.

STAFF AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Slama reported on the job opening for the Parks Development Coordinator. He hopes to have someone onboard by January 2020.

Commissioner Carchio congratulated Slama and Knight on their new positions, and thanked Knight for her service to the Community Services Department and the City as a whole.

Commissioner Schuetz commented as a reminder that the renaming of the Rodgers Seniors' Center as 17th Street Park had already gone before the Parks Naming & Memorials Committee and was

turned down. Commissioner Schuetz also inquired about the American Legion's use of the Rodgers Seniors' Center building for their meetings. Slama said that the only issue would have been if the Police Department had used the building on a temporary basis. Since they have chosen to go in another direction, it would not affect the Post 133.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA CONSIDERATION

Commissioner Schuetz asked for the following items to be agendized: 1) Parking increases on event days, and 2) provide a recommendation to City Council for concerts on the beach. Knight said that the items were not under the purview of the Commission. Discussion ensued. Schuetz asked for more clarification on the subjects. Knight said that staff would speak with the City Attorney's office for clarification.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.