Recreation and Park Commission
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
Special Meeting MINUTES

Commission Members Present:

☒ Mieko Chambers (Chair)
☒ Rick LeFlore (Vice)
☐ Robert Ono
☒ Tony Marigo
☐ David Siegel
☐ Timm Herdt
☒ Erik Vink
☒ Georgene Redmann (Alternate)

Commission Members Absent: Timm Herdt, Robert Ono, David Siegel

Council Liaison Present: None

Public Present: Chris Sinclair

Staff Present: Deanne Machado, Tamiko Kwak, Dave Knighton, Janet Chaney

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chambers at 6:33 pm

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

2. **Approval of the Agenda**
   A motion was made by LeFlore seconded by Marigo. The motion passed with a 5-0-3-0 vote.

   AYES: 5
   NOES: 0
   Absent: 3
   Abstentions: 0

3. **Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Council Liaisons**

TKwak discussed upcoming term expirations. TKwak notes that MChambers and GRedmann are eligible for reappointment, while THerdt and EVink have reached their term limit. TKwak also reminded commissioners to complete Form 700 from the City Clerk's office by April 1, 2025, as it is required to remain on the Commission. EVink requested clarification on the term schedule.

TMarigo provided an update on the Natalie Corona splash pad project, stating that on January 21, the committee and community members will paint tiles for display at the site, alongside tiles painted by family members and first responders. The splash pad is expected to be completed in June 2025.

GRedmann shared her positive impression of the Arroyo Park shade structure, noting its durability and the number of people utilizing the space.

TMarigo inquired about a recent fire at the tennis courts, and DKnighton clarified it occurred at Chestnut Park. He is working with the contractor to assess the subsurface damage. GRedmann asked if the unaffected side could be used, but DKnighton explained that all courts are closed due to safety concerns.

JChaney provided an update on the Junior Basketball program for third- through sixth-grade boys and girls. Coaches were trained the week of January 13, with practices beginning January 20 and the first games scheduled for January 25. A total of 484 participants are enrolled, and TKwak noted that seven children are utilizing scholarship funds and confirmed Montgomery Elementary is participating

JChaney also announced the Grand Opening of the Senior Center patio, scheduled for January 16 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM.

4. **Public Comment** – no public comment.

5. **Consent Calendar**

   MChambers pointed out that her name is misspelled in the October 16 meeting minutes.

   RLeFlore asked for clarification on page 3 from the September 18 meeting minutes. The top paragraph wording was hard to follow and asked for staff to clarify. TKwak explained commissioner comments were passed to the Clerks office, the notes related to removing sections of the flow chart. No final document has been returned from the Council Subcommittee.

A. Recreation and Park Commission Minutes

Recommendation: No Action, Informational.

Commissioner Vink moved to approve the Consent Calendar with the correct spelling of MChambers' name in the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Marigo. The motion passed with a 5-0-3-0 vote.

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
Absent: 3
Abstentions: 0

6. Regular Items

A. DYSA Batting Cages Installation

DKnighton provided a brief introduction of DYSA's proposal to construct and install a batting cage at Community Park. PCS staff have evaluated the proposal and do not foresee any significant impacts to the park. The Department fully supports this project. DKnighton introduced DYSA President Chris Sinclair. DYSA has been working with the City to close the equity gap, noting that Davis Little League has had enclosed batting cages, a snack bar, and lighted fields for several years and wishes to provide these same amenities for its participants.

Commissioner's comments and questions:

The commissioners discussed the proposed batting cage installation. EVink sought clarification on the high school's use of the field, and CSinclair explained that JV has an MOU allowing use on weekdays from 4:00 to 6:30 PM. RLeFlore reviewed the aerial map and inquired about potential impacts on other users. CSinclair noted that the selected area down the right field line is underutilized and experiences minimal foot traffic. DMachado added that it is not designated for recreational use. GRedmann strongly supported the project, emphasizing the need for a dedicated practice area for girls. TMarigo confirmed the high school's cages are located behind the varsity field and inquired about the length of the batting cages. He also asked if two players could use the cages simultaneously, to which CSinclair stressed the importance of having two cages. TMarigo raised concerns about vandalism, and CSinclair assured that the cages would be fenced in for security, with the possible addition of an electrical pitching machine in the future. The turf will be replaced with a concrete slab. RLeFlore inquired about the type of fencing, and staff confirmed that galvanized cyclone fencing would be used. MChambers expressed her concern about security and deterring theft, but voiced her support for this project. The goal is to construct the batting cages as soon as possible.

There was no public comment.

B. Review Draft Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan

DMachado provided an overview of the draft Needs Assessment and explained that the findings carry over into an action oriented document. DMachado stated staff have started composing a draft Strategic Plan which was included in the packet. She provided an overview of goals and objectives. Staff are working on finalizing tasks and a timeline associated with each strategic plan goal.

Commissioners comments and questions:

Commissioners provided feedback on the Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment. EVink suggested rewording the fifth goal for clarity. RLeFlore found the plan comprehensive but noted typos in the Needs Assessment. TMarigo mentioned repetition and contradictions in the report, raised concerns about including the Parks tax, and recommended executive summaries for each section. He acknowledged the lack of teen space but suggested utilizing schools instead of creating a dedicated facility. GRedmann emphasized the importance of teen engagement, recommended strengthening school partnerships, and questioned the high cost of the Community Park bathroom. She also inquired about the UCD partnership, to which DMachado responded with details about an upcoming collaboration with the MIND Institute on an inclusive playground. MChambers expressed interest in the inclusive playground, suggested engaging teens through events rather than summer camps, and encouraged leveraging community partnerships such as the Senior Center, Co-Sponsor groups, and Non-Profit organizations.

There was no public comment.

7. Long Range Calendar

February – Batting cages at Playfields Park
March – Unmet needs/waitlist
March – Village Farms Proposal
March – DARTS
May – Golden Heart Awards
July – Landscape Maintenance Standards

8. Adjourn

Chair Chambers asked if any objections to adjourn the meeting. No objections. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Janet Chaney, Community Services Manager