

**MINUTES
PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION
OCTOBER 7, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Park and Activities Commission of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 7:30 p.m., at the Rolling Hills Estates City Council Chambers, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, Rolling Hills Estates, by CHAIRMAN ALLEN.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Allen, Boyd, Clewis, Davis, Pagliano,
Persichina, Schmitz

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Clark, Community Services Director

FLAG SALUTE

The Cub Scouts, Pack 435, Den 10, led the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN ALLEN introduced and welcomed the two new members of the PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION, LEAH BOYD and VELVETH SCHMITZ.

CITY TILE PRESENTATION TO DAVE PIERSON

CHAIRMAN ALLEN presented a City tile plaque to former COMMISSIONER DAVE PIERSON. CHAIRMAN ALLEN thanked Mr. Pierson for serving on the PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION for 38 years. Mr. Pierson stated he was going to miss everyone and added that "it was a long haul, but a good haul."

It was stated that Dave Pierson will be the Grand Marshall at this year's Holiday Parade.

CHAIRMAN ALLEN stated that a "retirement" party for Mr. Pierson is in the planning stages, and will be held at the Red Onion at a later date.

PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

COMMISSIONER DAVIS re-amended the September 2, 2008 minutes to read: "COMMISSIONER DAVIS amended the minutes, Page 2, second paragraph, to read: COMMISSIONER DAVIS ~~stated she would prefer~~ SUGGESTED a bolder, more substantial street light pool rather than the 'spindly' one depicted...."

There being no further amendments or re-amendments to the minutes, CHAIRMAN ALLEN ORDERED

THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER
16, 2008, BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

None.

STREET ENTRYWAY BEAUTIFICATION FUNDING REQUESTS

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report per written agenda material. He stated there was a correction to the staff report and that there was only \$1,500 left in the entryway beautification fund, not \$4,000. He added if more than \$1,500 was needed, it would be appropriate for the COMMISSION to recommend to COUNCIL a budget adjustment to increase FY 2008-09 funding amount for the Street Entryway Beautification Program by the amount that exceeds the available funding balance.

Rolling Meadows HOA

In answer to an inquiry, it was noted that Rolling Meadows HOA did not provide drawings or pictures of their proposed entryway project. It was noted that the HOA wishes to choose the second lowest bidder (Bennett Landscaping), rather than the first, and is willing to pay the difference. This decision was made due to the fact that Mr. Bennett lives in the Rolling Meadows HOA, and it is believed that he would be inclined to provide entryway project construction services that would likely exceed the minimum expectations of the HOA and City.

This item will be placed on the November 18 meeting agenda for further consideration.

Mesa Palos Verdes HOA

The Community Services Director stated only 8% of the homes in this HOA are in Rolling Hills Estates, and added that funding was provided to this HOA in 2006. Mr. Herbert Roberts, President, Mesa Palos Verdes HOA, addressed the COMMISSION and stated that the HOA is planning to coat a 600-foot wall with vinyl acrylic coating (only the cinderblock part of the wall), and that the entire wall is located in Rolling Hills Estates. After some discussion regarding water issues, COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER DAVIS

TO FUND THE MESA PALOS VERDES HOA WITH \$1,020 (HALF OF THE \$2,040 ESTIMATE) FOR PAINTING OF THE CINDERBLOCK WALL LOCATED AT HIGHRIDGE ROAD AND WHITLEY COLLINS DRIVE.

AYES: Allen, Boyd, Davis, Pagliano
ABSTAIN: Clewis
NOES: Persichina, Schmitz

COMMISSIONER SCHMITZ noted that she was not in favor of funding this project at 50% of the bid price because only 8% of the residents of this HOA are located in Rolling Hills Estates.

GEORGE F CANYON NATURE CENTER DESIGN AND INTERPRETIVE ORIENTATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report per written agenda material. Ms. Jennifer Ripley, representing The Acorn Group, addressed the COMMISSION and reviewed the proposed changes and suggestions.

COMMISSIONER CLEWIS asked for an explanation of what will happen to the middle of the room (tree) and the cost of any removal. The Community Services Director stated the utility pole could be removed, and the interactive display that is proposed will measure approximately four feet by two feet. Ms. Ripley stated the cost for all the proposed work comes out to approximately \$250 per square foot, and the project is now projected at \$90,000. She added that this cost could be divided into a "phased approach" and suggested a program whereby "sponsors" could be recognized for their monetary contributions.

Discussion ensued regarding the wall behind the retail portion of the room and the nature mural, etc. Ms. Ripley apologized and stated the drawings were not completed due to the architect's family emergency, but that the report, drawings, and exhibit are 90% complete. When asked whether this should be continued until the November 18 meeting, Ms. Ripley stated that would not be good timing for her and added that she believes the drawings could be done within a week from now.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS stated she has issues with the native plantings from the corners and in the front of the Nature Center. She added that the back of the Nature Center is appropriate with the species of native plants located there; however, she wanted to go "on record" as stating the landscaping (all corners of the Nature Center area, front and sides of the building's landscaping) needs to be addressed, as it looks trashy and weedy. Ms. Ripley stated the landscaping was not the responsibility of the Acorn Group's part of the project, but the landscaping palette could surely be altered with seasonal colors year round.

CHAIRMAN ALLEN stated landscaping is not a part of what the COMMISSION should be considering tonight. A suggestion to form a subcommittee was made, and COMMISSIONERS DAVIS, BOYD and CLEWIS (with COMMISSION PAGLIANO serving as alternate) volunteered to serve on this subcommittee to follow through with the prepared drawings and make a recommendation to the PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION at a future meeting.

ARTERIAL STREET MEDIANS AND PARKWAY PROJECT – PHASE I

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report per written agenda material. He added that the COMMISSION reviewed Blue Door Gardens' preliminary cost analysis and project design guidelines for the full project on July 1, 2008. The COMMISSION appointed a Subcommittee (Allen and Pagliano) to assist Blue Door Gardens to assist in developing project phases and priorities. The Subcommittee reported that they felt Palos Verdes Drive North at the west City limits should be the first priority median. The CITY COUNCIL disagreed with the subcommittee's recommendation on July 22, 2008, and instead directed Blue Door Gardens to focus first on developing improvements to the five (5) Hawthorne Boulevard medians.

CHAIRMAN ALLEN stated it was his understanding that the Subcommittee would meet one more time with Blue Door Gardens' to finalize any plans. Due to a miscommunication, the Subcommittee was never notified that their priorities were not considered and that there were no further meetings planned. CHAIRMAN ALLEN and COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO stated their concern that this was *very disturbing* that the Subcommittee was not notified and that all the time spent considering the medians was disregarded. They added they were very disappointed in this decision and wondered why there was even a Subcommittee meeting in the first place.

Mr. Jeff Feldman, representing Blue Door Gardens, addressed the COMMISSION. After a lengthy review of the medians, proposed landscaping materials and locations, it was noted that this project includes the southern City boundary from north of Blackhorse down to Rolling Hills Road where the "Welcome" sign is located.

The Community Services Director stated a grant is available for \$10,000 from the West Basin Municipal Water District, which, if applied for and approved, could be used to fund improvements on the PVDN median at the west City limits, as the Subcommittee suggested.

COMMISSIONER CLEWIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER DAVIS

TO DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS ON THE PALOS VERDES DRIVE NORTH MEDIAN AT THE WEST CITY LIMITS AND APPROVE IN CONCEPT THE USE OF THE BEST OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTINGS FOR THIS MEDIAN.

AYES: Allen, Boyd, Clewis, Davis, Pagliano, Persichina, Schmitz

COMMISSIONER SCHMITZ noted that according to the handout, the monies must be utilized within six to eight months. Mr. Feldman stated the landscaping proposed would use the best of the California native plantings and colors.

COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER DAVIS

TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL PROCEED WITH BLUE DOOR GARDENS' PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS, WITH ANY MODIFICATIONS, TO THE FIVE (5) HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD MEDIANS.

AYES: Boyd, Clewis, Davis, Pagliano, Persichina, Schmitz

NOES: Allen

BUSINESS DISTRICT HOLIDAY DECORATIONS PROPOSALS

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report per written agenda material. After some discussion, it was noted that each of these illuminated displays range from 7 feet to 13 feet in height, using low energy LED light strands with vinyl covering.

COMMISSIONER PERSICHINA moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER CLEWIS

TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ACCEPT HARRINGTON DECORATING COMPANY'S PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE, INSTALL, REMOVE, AND STORE THE SEVEN (7) SELECTED ILLUMINATED DISPLAY UNITS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$11,733.80.

AYES: Allen, Boyd, Clewis, Davis, Pagliano, Persichina, Schmitz

The Community Services Director stated that the COMMISSION could suggest other illuminated displays in place of those chosen by Harrington Decorating Company.

COMMISSIONER PERSICHINA moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER PAGLIANO

TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ACCEPT GOLD GRAPHIC'S PROPOSAL TO DESIGN, PRODUCE, INSTALL, REMOVE AND STORE 176 STREETLIGHT HOLIDAY BANNERS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$11,364.97.

AYES: Allen, Boyd, Clewis, Davis, Pagliano, Persichina, Schmitz

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STREET TREE ORDINANCE

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report per written agenda material. In answer to an inquiry, the Community Services Director stated usually, the request to remove a tree is handled administratively, and that only about one or two cases come before the COMMISSION. After some discussion, it was suggested this item be brought back to the COMMISSION at a future meeting.

COMMISSION ITEMS

City Celebration Debriefing – This meeting will be held on November 4, 2009, at Giorgio's Restaurant.

Holiday Party – December 11, 2008 at the Rolling Hills Country Club. The COMMISSION recommended that COUNCIL consider inviting former COMMISSIONERS PIERSON and PEKICH to the list of invitees this year only.

New Commissioner Committee/Subcommittee Assignments – The Committee/Subcommittee changes are as follows:

Equestrian Committee – Chairman Allen will replace former Commissioner Dave Pierson.

Traffic and Safety Committee – Commissioner Persichina will replace former Commissioner Pekich.

CA Contract Cities Association Youth Program Subcommittee is no longer required.

Holiday Party Subcommittee – Commissioner Schmitz replaced Commissioner Davis.

Peninsula Holiday Parade Subcommittee – Commissioner Boyd replaced former Commissioner Pekich.

The Hills Are Alive Race Subcommittee – Commissioner Schmitz replaced former Commissioner Pekich.

Adopt-A-Park Reports – COMMISSIONER BOYD will report on the George F Canyon Preserve, replacing former COMMISSIONER PEKICH. COMMISSIONER SCHMITZ will report on The Stables, replacing former COMMISSIONER PIERSON.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS invited all who were interested to attend the Las Amigas Horse Show fundraiser to be held at Hollywood Park on November 7 at 6:00 p.m.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Letter to Irashel Fitzgerald – Received and filed.

Peter Weber Equestrian Center Project Update – The Community Services Director stated the conceptual design has been accepted and the project is still in the bidding phase.

Peninsula Holiday Parade Subcommittee Minutes – Received and filed. The next meeting will be held on October 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Commission Meeting Canceled – The October 21, 2008 meeting will be cancelled.

The Community Services Director stated a \$450,000 grant is available for storm water runoff. He stated this grant could be used, for example, to fund redirection of stable water runoff, to be recycled to water riding rings. He added that Kathleen McGowan is currently writing the grant. A sample letter of support was given to the CHAIRMAN. It was noted that the PVPHA, Pony Club, and ETI will all write letters in support of this grant.

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN ALLEN ORDERED

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2008,
RECEIVED AND FILED.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Memorial Plaque Request
Holiday Party
Parade Debriefing

ADJOURNMENT

COMMISSIONER PERSICHINA moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER CLEWIS

TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, THE TIME BEING 9:28 P.M.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN ALLEN SO ORDERED.

Respectfully submitted

Approved

Ellen Shinkai, Minutes Secretary

Douglas R. Prichard, City Clerk