

**MINUTES**  
**PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION**  
**MAY 15, 2007**

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, by CHAIRMAN PAGLIANO.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Allen, Davis, Pagliano, Pekich, Persichina, Pierson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Clewis

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Clark, Community Services Director

**PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES, MAY 1, 2007**

The Community Services Director recommended that the L.A. County Regional Park and Open Space District Competitive Grant Program Project Application item be amended to include a formal motion to the City Council prioritizing potential projects.

In answer to an inquiry, the Community Services Director stated the Teen Center at the Library could not be considered. The Library District will be applying for funds under the competitive grant program for the Teen Center.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PAGLIANO ORDERED

THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES, MEETING OF MAY 1,  
2007, BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

**AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**STRAWBERRY LANE HOA SIGNAGE REQUEST**

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff memorandum per written agenda material. He stated the COMMISSION has the responsibility to consider and approve all parkway, median, and rights-of-way improvements, including HOA street entryway beautification projects. He added that Bruce Steckel, HOA President, included the emails from nine (9) homeowners that were in favor of the sign.

Terry Bateman, 62 Strawberry Lane, stated there are approximately 30 families in the HOA, and that they did not receive any negative responses.

COMMISSIONER PERSICHINA stated it was his understanding that the history of the "Lanes" was that they were all named after horses (i.e., Strawberry Bay Horse, Dapplegray Horse, etc.) COMMISSIONER PERSICHINA added he was disappointed that the HOA did not receive permission to put up the sign, and felt the sign should be consistent with other HOA signs in the area (i.e., horse).

It was noted that when the Georgette Canyon HOA came in with a design for their HOA sign, the COMMISSION suggested they refine the sign that included a horse's head. The entire COMMISSION felt that the HOA should have come before them before they installed any sign, and noted their disappointment.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS stated she personally knows Ms. Steckel and would be happy to discuss with her that this project should have been approved by the COMMISSION. She added that as a designer, she felt the motif was well done but questioned how it was finished and painted. She would like it to have a three-dimensional look. Currently, it looks flat. She strongly believed that the Strawberry Lane HOA should have brought their project before the COMMISSION to make sure their sign fell in line with the COMMISSION'S vision and follow up.

COMMISSIONER ALLEN stated he received comments from Strawberry Lane residents as well as other residents who were not pleased with the new sign. He felt the colors were too bright and the strawberries were out of proportion (leaves were bigger than the strawberries).

COMMISSIONER PIERSON stated the HOA should have come before the COMMISSION before going ahead with any improvements in the rights-of-way. He stated he did not have a problem with the sign, but agreed that there is a "Strawberry" bay horse.

It was the consensus of the COMMISSION that all other homeowners' associations have come before them for approval of their HOA sign, and that it was troublesome that the Strawberry Lane HOA installed a sign without approval of any kind.

In answer to an inquiry, COMMISSIONER DAVIS stated she will gladly meet with Ms. Steckel regarding repainting and refinishing the sign. There being no further discussion, COMMISSIONER DAVIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER PIERSON

TO APPROVE THE SIGN WITH THE PROVISION THAT THE HOA MEET WITH COMMISSIONER DAVIS REGARDING REPAINTING AND REFINISHING THE SIGN.

AYES: Davis, Pagliano, Pekich, Pierson  
NOES: Allen, Persichina  
ABSENT: Clewis

*COMMISSIONERS ALLEN and PERSICHINA noted they would have preferred a sign relating to horses.*

### **SUMMER 2007 PARK TOUR SCHEDULE**

The COMMISSION received and filed the Summer 2007 Park Tour Schedule as presented. The Community Services Director stated the July 3 meeting may be cancelled.

### **ADJOURN TO PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PAGLIANO ORDERED

THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO THE PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING, THE TIME BEING 7:45 P.M.

## **PVP LAND CONSERVANCY STUDY REQUEST FOR GEORGE F CANYON NATURE CENTER**

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report per written agenda material. He stated the PVPLC has been researching interpretive design firms to seek proposals to provide an analysis of the George F Canyon nature Center facilities and operations. He added that Acorn Naturalists, who assisted the City in developing the current Nature Center facility, estimated that they could conduct the proposed study for approximately \$5,000. The PVPLC is requesting that the Pepper Tree Foundation designate up to \$7,500 to assure that an ample funding is available to select the most qualified firm and proposal to meet the objectives of the City and Conservancy.

Kristina Darbari, the new PVPLC Education Director, addressed the ADVISORY BOARD. She stated the requested funds would be used to take a new look at the nature Center by considering the development of an interpretive center that is focused on the extraordinary and unique geologic history of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. She added that there will be a complete site analysis and background research, including inventory of existing exhibit media; phone interviews with stakeholders including City, docents and volunteers, and other representatives to understand the needs and reestablish the interpretive foundation for the center; and develop comprehensive planning report, including exhibit theme, subthemes, goals, objectives, and narrative for the interior exhibit redesign and exterior exhibit design.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ALLEN thought the explanation for the use of the money was too vague and asked for a more definitive focus. He felt \$7,500 was a lot of money to complete a study for this Center.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER PIERSON felt that the scope could be too large for the area. He added that the concept of a preliminary study as to the feasibility of changing the scope of the Nature Center to a "geological portal" due to the uniqueness of the Nature Preserve's geological resources on the PV Peninsula may sacrifice what is already there.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ALLEN stated perhaps the ADVISORY BOARD along with staff from the Nature Center, should review and suggest elements the study could focus on to define recommendations for changes to exhibits, objectives, interior redesign and exterior exhibit design.

It was the consensus of the ADVISORY BOARD that they be more involved in the direction for improvements, and approve of any changes to preserve the City's interests.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER DAVIS stated she would prefer the ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS approve of any professional interpretive design firm and the direction ("vision") given before recommending approval to the BOARD OF DIRECTORS. She inquired as to how the PVPLC came up with \$7,500 for the planning phase (conducting phone interviews, etc.)

After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS that a specific itemized list (work statement showing what exists and what is proposed) be submitted to account for \$5,000 for a study that the City may or may not be given a grant for.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ALLEN stated the "Planning Phase" does not detail what the interpretive design firm's ultimate submittal would include. He reiterated the need for the City to be included in any element of this project.

It was noted that the ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS discussed improvements needed for the interior of the Nature Center, along with Loretta Rose. These suggestions included improvements for flooring, finding a new taxidermist, improve or remove existing exhibits, get suggestions on new exhibits, rearranging the interior, etc. It was questioned how could a firm analyze and recommend changes if there isn't a clear concept to focus on?

The Community Services Director and Ms. Darbari stated they understood the ADVISORY BOARD'S concerns and will return at a future meeting with the information requested (more detailed proposal for the use of the money requested).

#### **RACE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

CHAIRMAN PAGLIANO stated the subcommittee meeting was held and a few changes will be made on the course. He added the goal is to have more runners participate.

#### **TRACY AUSTIN DOUBLES TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

It was noted the Tracy Austin Doubles Tennis Tournament is proceeding smoothly.

#### **RECONVENE TO PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING**

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PAGLIANO ORDERED

THE PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING BE ADJOURNED, AND TO RECONVENE THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING, THE TIME BEING 8:12 P.M.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES, MEETING OF APRIL 30, 2007**

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PAGLIANO ORDERED

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES, MEETING OF APRIL 30, 2007, BE RECEIVED AND FILED.

#### **MAYOR'S BREAKFAST RIDE**

COMMISSIONER ALLEN reviewed the Mayor's Breakfast Ride. He stated 20 riders participated along with members of the CITY COUNCIL.

#### **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT IN THE PARK**

COMMISSIONER ALLEN and the Community Services Director stated three bands performed after the Mayor's Breakfast Ride. He stated approximately 50 people were in attendance and the City's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary denim shirts and polo shirts sold well.

#### **JUNE 5, 2007 PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING CANCELLED**

The Community Services Director stated the next meeting will be cancelled. The Budget Study Session will be held on that date.

**COMMISSION ITEMS**

In answer to an inquiry, the Community Services Director stated he will look into the view obstruction concern regarding the Baptist Church sign located at Moccasin Lane and Palos Verdes Drive North.

**ADOPT-A-PARK REPORTS**

None.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

COMMISSIONER PIERSON moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER PERSICHINA

TO ADJOURN THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES, THE TIME BEING 8:25 P.M.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PAGLIANO SO ORDERED.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Ellen Shinkai  
Human Resources Analyst

Douglas R. Prichard  
City Clerk