

MINUTES
PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

A regular meeting of the Park and Activities Commission of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 6:00 p.m., at the RHE Community Center, 2500 Palos Verdes Drive North, by CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Allen, Clewis, Davis*, Pekich*, Persichina, Pierson

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Pagliano

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Clark, Community Services Director

*Commissioners Davis and Pekich arrived at 6:07 p.m.

PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2006,
APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

ADJOURN TO THE PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

COMMISSIONER PIERSON moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER CLEWIS

THAT THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING BE ADJOURNED
TO THE PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING, THE TIME
BEING 6:04 P.M.

TRACY AUSTIN DOUBLES TOURNAMENT FINANCIAL REPORT AND EVALUATION

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report dated September 19, 2006, per written agenda material. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER CLEWIS inquired whether there was a printing fee this year. The Community Services Director stated there was no printing fee this year. He added that Waste Management gave \$1,000 this year compared to \$2,000 last year, which accounts for the difference in Sponsorship totals.

There being no further discussion, this report was received and filed.

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE RACE FINANCIAL REPORT AND EVALUATION

The Community Services Director reviewed the staff report dated September 19, 2006, per written agenda material. After some discussion, it was recommended that in the future, insurance costs be listed separately rather than included under Office/Misc. Supplies under Expenditures. It was noted that the Total Expenditures amount for 2006 was incorrect and should be listed as \$19,869.56 rather than \$11,892.12.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ALLEN corrected debriefing report Item No. 22e. He stated there were two tables at Water Station #1 (Crenshaw Tunnel), but a Radio Club volunteer advised the Maintenance workers to take the second table and also advised them that this station did not need the all the water containers and to take them to Water Station #3.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER PEKICH stated he did not need the extra table or the extra water bottles at Water Station #3 and that the Radio Club volunteer was incorrect and should not have been directing the Maintenance crew on what is assigned to each water station. The second table was returned to Water Station #1, as well as the water containers.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ALLEN requested a different Radio Club volunteer be assigned to Water Station #1 next year.

The ADVISORY BOARD discussed the difference in the total balance for this year's race. The ADVISORY BOARD requested a breakdown of total runners, the total number of runners that were given a discounted price, and the total number of runners that were "complimentary". The Community Services Director stated that he will bring back that information to the ADVISORY BOARD.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ALLEN stated there were many runners who ran with strollers even though strollers are not allowed for this race due to the narrow paths along the race route and the fact that when entering the tunnel, the strollers hit other runners. It was noted that the runners are starting off alone at the start area and are picking up the strollers along the race route. The ADVISORY BOARD recommended more enforcement along the race route at specific areas (i.e., at the end of the park right after the start area and before the entrance to the tunnels, etc.)

CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA stated perhaps a stroller category be added before the 5k and 10k race. This new category will be discussed at next year's race subcommittee, and the additional enforcement issue.

RECONVENE TO PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THAT THE PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING BE ADJOURNED, AND TO RECONVENE TO THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING, THE TIME BEING 6:20 P.M.

PROPOSED GEORGE F CANYON NATURE CENTER SIGN, CHANGE IN CENTER'S SCOPE, AND GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE

Proposed George F Canyon Nature Center Sign - Ms. Becky Harper, staff member of PVPLC, reviewed the proposed signage to be located directly under the present identification sign (similar to street identification signs along PVDN) located at the end of the Nature Center building along PVDE. Currently, there is a sign underneath the identification sign with various animals painted on it which will be removed and mounted on the side of the Nature Center building. Underneath the identification sign, it is proposed 48" x 6" or 8" or 10" interchangeable signs will be hung with "S" hooks to inform motorists whether the Nature Center is: (1) "Open" or "Closed"; (2) event scheduled (Bird Walk, Nature Walk, Night Hike, etc.); (3) day of the week the event is scheduled; and (4) time scheduled. The day of the week and the time are two separate smaller signs.

The following is an example of the sign information:

Under the 48" x 24" Identification Sign
OPEN
NATURE WALK
SATURDAY 10 A.M.

In answer to an inquiry, Ms. Harper stated the signs are made of aluminum and are heavy enough to withstand windy days. She added that there are shrubs/trees directly behind the sign which will curtail swinging of the signs in the wind.

The COMMISSION visited the area where the signs are proposed. After some discussion, the COMMISSION concurred with the proposed signage and location. Ms. Harper stated the sign colors will be identical to that of the other City signs (green and white).

Change in Center's Scope – Ms. Barbara Dye, PVPLC Executive Director, addressed the COMMISSION and stated the PVPLC is currently looking at the potential of having the main theme of the Center as a "geological portal" to the Peninsula. Changing to a geological theme would attract different people to the Center. Ms. Dye stated the vision would possibly include expanding the number of field trips, having inter-active activities for children, and re-arranging or consolidating the present exhibits and adding new, geological-themed exhibits. The PVPLC has submitted a grant request for \$10,000 from the Norris Foundation. If the PVPLC is awarded this grant, it will be used to hire individuals from the University of Santa Barbara, to review whether this idea is feasible and the proposed cost for achieving this change. Ms. Dye stated there is potential of funding from oil companies to help this vision become a reality.

If the concept is given tentative approval to proceed with the review process, and if in the future the COMMISSION deems this a worthwhile concept to explore further after receiving input from the University of Santa Barbara, Ms. Dye stated perhaps the Acorn Group could be called upon to suggest designs to create a geological portal out of the present Center.

The COMMISSION stated the animals must be kept as exhibits (rotating different animals in and out), and concern was raised as to how much of the present exhibits would be removed.

In response to Ms. Dye's statement to review the removal of the "tree" inside the Nature Center, it was noted that the tree surrounds a utility pole, and any plans to remove the pole would likely be exorbitant. Ms. Dye envisioned minor changes to the interior and exterior of the building related to the proposed geology theme.

The COMMISSION approved the concept of a preliminary study as to the feasibility of changing the scope of the Nature Center to a "geological portal". Ms. Dye will update the COMMISSION on the progress of the grant application.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2006, RECEIVED
AND FILED.

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2006,
RECEIVED AND FILED.

COMMUNITY CENTER AND NATURE CENTER TOURS

Landscape Plan Update – The Community Services Director explained that CITY COUNCIL requested the COMMISSION review whether the proposed landscaping was adequate at the Community Center and Nature Center location. The two quotes previously given were \$7,000 and \$70,000. The COMMISSION recommended accepting the \$7,000 proposal. Discussion ensued regarding the types of plants proposed to be located in this area, in addition to the landscaping currently in. The Community Services Director stated approximately half of the proposed plants are in, and in the future, native plants such as the Sycamore tree, native shrubs and flowers will be planted. He added that the native plants are only sold in one-gallon containers and the vegetation will at first look sparse until the plant takes hold and grows. In addition to the plants, PV stones (boulders) will be added to the proposed landscape areas.

COMMISSIONER ALLEN moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER PIERSON

TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL NO ADDITIONAL PLANTS BE ADDED TO THE CURRENT LANDSCAPING PLAN AT THIS TIME, AS ONLY HALF THE PLANTS ARE INSTALLED; AND THAT THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION EVALUATE THE LANDSCAPING IN SIX MONTHS.

AYES: Allen, Clewis, Pekich, Persichina, Pierson

NOES: Davis

ABSENT: Pagliano

COMMISSIONER ALLEN stated that in the future, additional plants can be added, if needed.

COMMISSIONER DAVIS did not agree with COMMISSIONER ALLEN. She suggested more colorful plants, as well as a denser number of native plants, be added now to enhance both landscaped areas.

Ms. Dye stated any amount of native plants could be planted; however, non-Peninsula grown native plants should not be included in the landscaping to prevent cross-breeding. Currently, the City is waiting for the native plants to be released from the PVPLC Nursery. She added that native flowering plants will be added to the landscaping (monkey flower, etc.) It was noted that given the upcoming rainy season, the present plant list should be adequate as the landscaping spreads.

The COMMISSION requested the Community Services Director agendaize the PVDN/PVDE landscaping for the next meeting, to include the plant list proposed for this site, and to ask Ms. Heinsheimer from Blue Door Gardens to attend, in order to discuss the COMMISSION'S concerns.

COMMISSIONER CLEWIS noted the paint should be scraped off the windows of the Community Center and the cement should be washed off the green pillars in the front of the entrance to the building.

Nature Center Building – The COMMISSION visited the Nature Center building and the exhibits located inside. Loretta Rose, PVPLC staff member and Contract Naturalist, stated the outside of the building has been power washed, and within the next two weeks, the paint will be scraped and the entire building repainted (an Eagle Scout project).

The COMMISSION walked back to the Community Center to continue the meeting.

COMMUNITY CENTER USAGE REVIEW

The Human Resources Analyst reviewed the staff report per written agenda material. The COMMISSION discussed the following areas of concern: Saturday/Sunday use of the Community Center; whether to allow for profit use of the room; whether to allow more than one reservation per month for one group; and whether to open up use of the room to groups not located on the Peninsula.

The COMMISSION discussed whether to allow profit making individuals/groups use of the Community Center, in addition to non-profit groups' use. Three for-profit requests (Yoga Instruction, Mommy and Me Classes, and Music Recitals) were received the week following article appearing in the Daily Breeze that a Community Center was not being used much, and that the room was available at no charge.

The COMMISSION agreed that only non-profit Peninsula HOAs, youth, civic and service organizations should be allowed to use the Community Center at no charge other than the required \$20 key deposit. In response to an inquiry whether non-profit groups located off the Peninsula (i.e., Long Beach, Los Angeles, etc.) could use the Community Center, the COMMISSION concurred that only those organizations based on the Palos Verdes Peninsula be allowed to apply for use of the room.

Discussion ensued whether an applicant could be a Peninsula resident using the Community Center for an off-Peninsula group. The COMMISSION concurred that only Palos Verdes Peninsula based groups can apply for use of the Community Center, as any group can have a Peninsula resident member.

The COMMISSION discussed Saturday/Sunday use of the Community Center. The Human Resources Analyst stated only one group has been tentatively approved for Saturday use through November 2006, adding that the first Saturday of every month is not allowed due to the Nature Center's current schedule. She added that prior to the "free" use of the Community Room, a proctor had to be hired, and it was difficult finding a proctor to open and close on a weekend.

Loretta Rose (Contract Naturalist) stated it is impossible to foresee how busy each Saturday will be as some Saturday events are scheduled that same week. The COMMISSION discussed various difficulties allowing Saturday use. After a lengthy discussion, the COMMISSION noted that Saturday/Sunday use of the Community Center should not be allowed, noting the following:

1. The Nature Center is undergoing changes in its programming, offering more events, thus the potential of attracting more patrons and the fact that it is difficult to predict when the Nature Center will receive a request for a Saturday event;
2. The parking lot is being re-striped within the next two weeks, limiting parking to only 19 regular parking spaces plus 2 handicap spaces (formerly 25 spaces);
3. The Nature Center is *only* open Friday (1-4 pm), Saturday and Sunday (10-4 pm); and
4. The potential of not properly closing up the Community Center after use on a weekend (lights on, air conditioning left on, doors left unlocked, damage to room, etc.)

The Human Resources Analyst stated she has received inquiries to use the Community Center more than once a month (i.e., once a week, twice a week, etc.) The COMMISSION discussed the number of times a group could use the Community Center each month. Currently, a group can apply to use the Community Center for meetings once a month. The COMMISSION was in agreement that a group cannot apply to use the Community Center more than once a month in order to allow as many groups as possible to have the opportunity to have their meeting at the Center.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL: 1) THAT THE COMMUNITY CENTER NOT ALLOW GROUPS TO USE THE COMMUNITY CENTER ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY; 2) TO CONTINUE THE CURRENT REQUIREMENT OF ALLOWING ONLY NON-PROFIT, PENINSULA BASED GROUP USE; 3) TO CONTINUE THE CURRENT REQUIREMENT OF ONCE PER MONTH RESERVATION; 4) TO BLOCK OUT THE DATES THE NATURE CENTER HAS NIGHT HIKES SCHEDULED; AND 5) TO REVIEW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE USE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN SIX MONTHS.

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

In addition to the recommendations to CITY COUNCIL, the COMMISSION requested that the new Guidelines and Application Form be sent to all the Homeowners Association Presidents with a notice informing them of the Community Center's availability for meetings. Staff was also requested to change the number of parking spaces available on the Guidelines from 25 to 19, and to install a sign in the Community Room with the maximum number of people allowed.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CHAIRMAN PERSICHINA ORDERED

THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MEETING ADJOURNED, THE TIME BEING 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Ellen Shinkai
Human Resources Analyst

Douglas R. Prichard
City Clerk