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MINUTES OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2006

DATE: Thursday, March 9, 2006
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Room 360, City Hall, corner of Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street,
Alameda CA 94501

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Ingram called the meeting to order in memory of Don Oransky, Mastick Advisory Board President, who recently passed away.

Present: Chair Jay Ingram, Vice Chair Kahuanui, Commissioners Michael Cooper, Christine Johnson (late), Terri Ogden, Georg Oliver, and Bruce Reeves

Absent: None

Staff: Dale Lillard, Acting Director (AD)
Jackie Krause, Senior Services Manager (SSM)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve Minutes of January 12, 2006 Recreation and Park Commisison Meeting.

M/S/C OGDEN/KAHUANUI (approved)

Approved (7): Ingram, Kahuanui, Coopers, Johnson, Ogden, Oliver, Reeves

Absent (0):

Abstention (0):

Approve Minutes of February 9, 2006 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting.

M/S/C OGDEN/REEVES (approved)

Approved (7): Ingram, Kahuanui, Coopers, Johnson, Ogden, Oliver, Reeves

Absent (0):

Abstention (0):

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

(Any person may address the Commission in regard to any matter over which the Commission has jurisdiction or of which it may take cognizance that is not on the agenda.)

None.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- E-Mail from Public Works Department that is a Press Release listing the public meeting dates and locations for recommended CIP Projects.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Status Report on Veteran's Building - (*Discussion Item Only*)

Chair Ingram stated that it is his perception that public/community buildings are not a priority within the City and with City staff. He feels that it started with the former Director putting money into the parks and portables within the parks and there is not a vision for a community center. Mr. Ingram feels that we should have a community center. He sees a lot of money going towards parks but does not see a lot of money going toward buildings which is potential revenue for the City.

AD Lillard stated that State bond monies (Prop 12 & Prop 40) were allocated through the Recreation and Park Commission. The Commission's recommendations went to City Council who approved the allocation. Monies were allocated to renovate playgrounds because all of the playgrounds were out of safety compliance with ADA requirements. For instance the playground equipment at Washington Park was approximately 40 years old.

We are almost done with playground renovations. Tillman and Godfrey still need to have work done. As far as buildings are concerned, staff is working on replacing the Washington Park recreation center.

Chair Ingram asked how old the building was at Washington Park. AD Lillard stated that the portable was approximately 10 years old. The original building burned down in the early 1990's and it was replaced with the portable building. The Krusi Park recreation building will be the next building to be replaced. It is already allocated under Bond monies. A new facility will be built in the Bayport development but monies will be revenue generated through that project.

Chair Ingram stated that this is why he is pushing for a Master Plan. Hopefully, that will come out in the Public Works CIP Project meetings. AD Lillard stated that is kind of the vision for the DeWitt O' Club. ARPD is generating approximately \$70,000 per year with another \$80,000 coming from the Alameda Point Gym. When staff decided to not do a single source caterer and opened the facility for other caterers to participate it really opened up the building and it is booked through to the end of the year now. With improvements being made to the building the revenues generated should be even greater.

Commissioner Reeves stated that there are only three venues where you can have a function for 250 people and they are the Grand Catering Hall, Elk's Club, and the DeWitt O' Club.

SSM Krause stated that she likes the concept of having a community center, but when we have an older City that is already developed, without a lot of available space not centrally located; it is kind of hard to have a community center.

AD Lillard stated that part of the problem with some of the buildings that the City has inherited over the last several years (e.g., Veteran's Building, etc.) is that they did not come with funds for maintenance of the buildings nor did they come in a condition that would have been acceptable to the City if they were building or buying the buildings themselves. When the Veteran's Building changed over to the City, the first thing that had to be done was to replace the roof which costs approximately \$250,000. We also had the same expense with the DeWitt O' Club.

Vice Chair Kahuanui stated that it sounds like regardless of the situation we do not have the money. AD Lillard stated that at this time there is no money.

Chair Ingram stated that if we can get an architect to give us a plan, we do not know what we are asking for yet. There is \$10,000 allocated so far. If we can get an architect to give us a plan then maybe we can go to Council for the funds.

Commissioner Reeves stated that you cannot start raising money until you know what you are raising it for; you have to have a plan. That will help raise the money.

SSM Krause stated that 26 years ago at the Mastick Senior Center only the front rooms were occupied. But, over the years they (Mastick seniors) have been raising money. Twenty-six years later the boilers have been replaced and every space is functional and has been rehabilitated. AD Lillard stated that they also have a steady revenue source with the non-profit group running the bingo.

Jean Sweeney stated that Italo Calpestri, local architect, stated that he would be happy to look at the plans.

Ms. Sweeney is working with Kathy Duncan and researching possible grants. There is water/plaster damage in approximately 15 rooms, windows are in sad shape, there are seven bathrooms which work but need work, plus the kitchen, and paint inside and out. She feels the cost will be approximately \$2 million.

Commissioner Reeves asked how many people the main room would hold. AD Lillard stated that it holds 225 people.

Mr. Sweeney stated that the group has tax exemption status and is ready to receive donations. But, the group cannot really do anything until the infrastructure is there.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

A. Park Division

See attached March 1- 31, 2006 Activity Report.

B. Recreation Division

See attached March 1- 31, 2006 Activity Report.

C. Mastick Senior Center

See attached March 1- 31, 2006 Activity Report.

D. Other Reports and Announcements

- **Status Report on Transportation Master Plan Committee (Commissioner Johnson)**

Commissioner Johnson stated that the Committee will start holding meetings again beginning Wednesday, March 15.

8. STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS

AD Lillard stated that the Washington Park Recreation Building Project went to the Planning Board on February 27, 2006. Their initial response was less than supportive because the replacement building is modular. It was the opinion of some board members that they do not want modular buildings in the City. However, the project was approved. Staff will work with the Planning Department to include a little more landscaping and improve window finishes.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

None.

10. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Miracle League Presentation (baseball league for physically challenged children)
- Public CIP Meeting Recap

11. SET DAY FOR NEXT MEETING

Will be at DeWitt O' Club, Thursday, April 13, 2006

12. ADJOURNMENT