



CITY OF SAN DIMAS MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2011
TO: Equestrian Commission
FROM: Ken Duran, Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: September Meeting

We welcome Sonya Sevier to her first meeting as a Commissioner.

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair – It's time for the annual election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission. As a reminder the procedure will be that you will accept nominations first for Chair. Any Commissioner can nominate another Commissioner. If there is more than one nomination we will conduct a vote. Next we will conduct the same procedure for Vice Chair.
- Trails Update – I will be reporting on the status of the engineering study for the Northern Foothills trails and discuss the next steps in the review process. One of those steps will include a joint meeting between the Equestrian, Parks and Recreation and Planning Commissions. I will also provide a status report on the Sycamore Creek trail damage and the Poison Oak trail restoration project.
- Walnut Creek Open Space Planning Process. The City, in conjunction with the Watershed Conservation Authority, has begun the planning process for developing a master plan for future uses and improvements to the Walnut Creek Open Space Preserve. I will report on the status of the planning process and upcoming public participation meetings.
- Western Days Parade Comments – At your last meeting some of you volunteered to work with the Chamber of Commerce on the Equestrian portion of the parade. I understand that there have been some discussions over the past two months. We will receive an oral report from those Commissioners.

- West Nile Virus – I forwarded you current information on West Nile Virus in the area. We can discuss suggestions on ways to further distribute information to the Equestrian community.

EQUESTRIAN COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 5, 2011
City Council Chambers Conference Room

PRESENT: Chair Claudia Cook
Vice Chair Rebecca Pike
Commissioner Marca DeMonaco
Commissioner Yvette Picconi
Commissioner Doug Aschenbrenner

Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Templeman
Assistant City Manager Ken Duran

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Cook.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2011

Commissioner DeMonaco made a motion to approve the minutes of May 3, 2011 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Picconi and approved on a vote of 3-0-2, with Commissioners Pike and Aschenbrenner abstaining.

NORTHERN FOOTHILLS AND SYCAMORE CREEK TRAILS UPDATE

Mr. Duran explained that the City had retained an engineering consultant to review the feasibility and possible options for trails in the south 40 acres of the northern foothills project. He added that the consultant should be completed with the report soon and it will then be reviewed by staff. He further added that once the report is final a joint meeting between the Equestrian, Parks & Recreation and Planning Commissions will be conducted to review and comment on the report. He also commented that the City cannot enter into a license agreement for trails until after the developer has acquired all of the property.

Mr. Duran updated the Commission on the progress of the Poison Oak Trail project. He reminded them that the City received a grant for improvements to the trail but the majority of the trail is on County land and the City has been working with the County on obtaining permission from them to make the improvements. He added that there is a walk through on the trail scheduled for Jul 6th with the County, City staff and City engineers. He also added they will also be reviewing the damage to the Sycamore Creek Trail since some of that trail is also in the County. Commissioner Pike volunteered to

represent the Commission at the walk through. He added that staff will be preparing a report to the City Council on the trail damage and possible options for repairs. In the meantime the Sheriff's Department has increased traffic enforcement on Sycamore Canyon Road. Councilman Templeman commented that John DeFalco had offered that he may have some backhoe equipment available to help with trail clean-up if needed.

WALNUT CREEK OPEN SPACE PLANNING PROCESS

Mr. Duran provided a background on the property acquisition of the Walnut Creek Open Space by the City and Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. He added that the Conservancy has grant funds available for master planning for the park and has retained a consultant to conduct the process. The first part of the process is to conduct stakeholder meetings and Chair Cook participated in the process.

Chair Cook reported that the meeting was mostly the consultants asking what she felt the equestrian community would want in use for the area. She stated that she told them trails should be for hikers and horses, not bikes or motorized vehicles. He also commented that she gave them some suggestions for nature centers. She also asked about the possibility of a staging area. She was also concerned about how neighbors would feel about increase in traffic. The Commission discussed Chair Cooks comments.

WESTERN DAYS PARADE FEEDBACK

Mr. Duran reminded the Commission that they had some suggestions on the staging of equestrian entries from last year's western Days parade and suggested that they review their comments and forward them to the Chamber. Councilman Templeman suggested that they appoint a member or two to meet with the Chamber. Commissioners DeMarco and Picconi volunteered. Commissioner DeMarco also volunteered to assist the Chamber with staging. Councilman Templeman offered to coordinate a meeting between the Chamber and the Commission representatives.

Chair Cook asked if the Commission wanted to have an entry in the parade. It was the consensus to have an entry of mini horses like last year. They agreed to discuss the details at the September meeting.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Templeman reported that the City recently approved a balanced budget but there is concern with the State's proposal to eliminate Redevelopment Agencies. He also reported that Olive Garden and Panda Express are still interested in located by Costco and there has been some renewed interest for the apartments at the Bonita Canyon Gateway. He also reported that John DeFalco was approved for development of one home on his property in the northern foothills and he was praised for his equestrian friendly amenities. He thanked Commissioner Aschenbrenner for his time and effort serving on the Commission.

In response to a question Councilman gave an update on the consideration for replacement of the wooden sidewalks and liquid amber trees in the downtown.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Sonya Sevier, newly appointed Commissioner, introduced herself and gave some information on her equestrian background.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner DeMonaco stated that she looks forward to working on the parade and thanked Commissioner Aschenbrenner for his service and enjoyed working with him.

Commissioner Picconi reported that trees along the trail leading up to the dog park need to be trimmed up. Councilman Templeman added that he questions why there is no parking on the south side of the park road because it seems to be wide enough for emergency vehicles.

Commissioner Pike reported that 205 and 221 Maverick have overgrown vegetation encroaching into the trail. She also shared some information and photographs of samples of trail obstacle apparatus for Horsethief Canyon Park. She added that the cost could only be a few hundred dollars. Mr. Duran stated that he would review with staff the feasibility and any liability issues with installing this type of apparatus.

Chair Cook reported that there is sagging trail fence on Baseline just east of Amelia.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 to the next regular scheduled meeting on September 6th.