

CITY OF SAN DIMAS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
July 19, 2011
City Council Chambers Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chairperson Margis at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

John Margis, Vice Chairperson
Caryol Smith
Georgia Florentine
Frank Neal

Theresa Bruns, Parks and Recreation Director
Leon Raya, Recreation Services Manager
Karon De Leon, Facilities Manager
John Ebiner, Council Member

Absent:

Susan Davis, excused
Jose Martinez, excused

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 17, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Neal corrected his statement that Los Angeles County Bike Master Plan only includes roads in unincorporated areas. COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2011 MEETING AS CORRECTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Review of San Dimas Draft Bicycle Master Plan

Director Bruns introduced Krishna Patel, Director of Public Works, and Lisa Bugrova, Environmental Services Coordinator, with the Public Works Department who presented the draft plan.

Ms. Bugrova presented a brief Power Point presentation to the commission that included the history, background and purpose of the plan. Areas discussed were current types of signage being utilized and emerging concepts for signs and street striping. The different classes of bike ways were defined and described.

Commissioner Neal advised that the classification of a Bike Route, Class III, also includes the lane size as a criteria.

Ms. Bugrova indicated that bike racks and storage areas are also an important component to complete the plan. She next reviewed San Dimas' existing bike ways and included the results of a recent survey conducted to obtain information about what could encourage future uses. The policies incorporated into the plan were identified.

Ms. Bugrova identified the current 12 projects included in the plan. She informed the commission that the “Canyon Vista” bike trail project has been submitted for a grant to assist with the funding. Mr. Patel explained that Cal Trans does need to support this project to allow it to move forward. Commissioner Neal commented that there are 56 different agencies that weigh in on most projects.

The draft Bicycle Master Plan has been presented to the Planning Department, Planning Commission and Commissioner Neal to obtain comments and input. The goal is to present the plan to the City Council in August for their approval.

Commissioner Neal commented that he is very happy with the plan that the staff has drafted. He mentioned that he has previously submitted written comments for consideration. He voiced concern over the classification of Arrow Highway as a Class III Bike Route, due to its substandard safe lane width. Mr. Patel commented that the designation could have been given prior to the conversion of Arrow Highway from four lanes to six lanes. He stated that currently it is not designated as a Bike Route even though several regional maps show that designation. Commissioner Neal voiced his desire to have that designation removed on all future documents or printed materials. It was noted and will be reviewed.

Commissioner Florentine asked for clarification of the proposed “Canyon Vista” project. Ms. Bugrova and Mr. Patel identified the exact location from the Via Verde area to a location close to San Dimas High School.

Council Member Ebner inquired if the Citrus Bikeway was still a viable option. Mr. Patel responded that “right of way” issues stopped the process, but it could be reviewed again. Mr. Patel also commented that the “Canyon Vista” path will be a multi-use trail.

B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2011-2012

Vice Chair Margis opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for 2011-2012.

COMMISSIONER NEAL NOMINATED VICE CHAIR MARGIS AS CHAIR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMITH AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. COMMISSIONER NEAL NOMINATED COMMISSIONER SMITH AS VICE CHAIR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FLORENTINE, AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Director of Parks & Recreation

1. Update on Walnut Creek Open Space

Director Bruns reported that the consulting firm has begun the planning process by interviewing selected members of the various stakeholder groups that were identified. From those interviews the firm will produce a report to be utilized at the 3 community workshops. The first workshop is scheduled for September 29 in the Community Building and the Commissioners were encouraged to attend. The community meetings will also include an opportunity for the Tzu Chi Foundation to provide their proposed future property improvements and obtain feedback. It was explained that the Tzu Chi properties border the Open Space project. Councilmember Ebner inquired about the Tzu Chi’s property lines. Director Bruns responded that the planning process will include review of property lines and most likely some lot adjustments will be recommended and a “land swap” will be included in the project. This planning process will produce a property improvement plan.

Commissioner Margis was one of the stakeholders interviewed and he commented that the consultants that interviewed him indicated that the feedback has been consistent about the property development from most of the interviewees.

2. Update on Heroes Monument Project

Director Bruns reported the Heroes group is moving forward with their project with a proposed dedication on November 11, 2011, Veteran's Day. They have submitted plans and should be pulling permits to begin work within the next few weeks. The outline of the monument has been physically laid out by chalking lines if anyone would like to look at it.

3. Other Items

Director Bruns reported the City has adopted a balanced budget that does not include any program or service reductions, but does not include any capital projects or major maintenance projects. It is considered a status quo budget.

4. Calendar of Upcoming Events

Manager Raya distributed the calendar of events through September, highlighting in July the Student Union Sleepover and the Family Campout at Horsethief Canyon Park. He also reminded everyone of the Bowser Bash and the various concerts in the park being conducted through August 3rd. Manager Raya informed the commission that July is Parks and Recreation month and the profession has adopted a slogan "Parks Make Life Better" therefore, the department is promoting this campaign.

B. Members of the Audience.

None.

C. Members of the Commission

Commissioner Margis – The City of San Dimas scored 10 out of 18 in the Sierra Club's recent water conservation scale.

Commissioner Neal – He has spent the month working with the Public Works Department on the Bicycle Master Plan. He participated in the "Race Across America" as a "crew member" for a bike team.

Commissioner Florentine – She is enjoying her participation in the deep water aerobics class at the Swim and Racquet Club.

Commissioner Smith – She encouraged everyone to attend the Bowser Bash on July 30. The Friends of the Dog Park is up to 2814 members on the email distribution list.

D. City Council Liaison

Councilmember Ebner commented that the Bicycle Master Plan is great and noted that biking is a wonderful way to exercise. He also thanked Commissioner Neal for his advocacy for biking.

He commented that staff needs to be credited for presenting a balanced budget for the City Council to adopt. He did indicate that there is still discussion at the State level that City Redevelopment Agencies will be eliminated in an effort to balance the State budget.

ADJOURNMENT

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:30 P.M.