# CITY OF ORANGE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Minutes of Regular Meeting Held November 09, 2006 Council Chambers

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Remland called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

# 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Gilmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 1.2 Roll Call

Present

Chair Remland

Vice-Chair Blanc

Comissioner Hairston

Commissioner Gilmer

Commissioner Davidson

## 1.3 Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Gilmer Second: Vice-Chair Blanc

Ayes: Remland, Blanc, Davidson, Hairston, Gilmer

# 1.4 Approval of the Minutes for the regular meeting of October 12, 2006

Motion: Vice-Chair Blanc

Second: Commissioner Hairston

Ayes: Remland, Blanc, Davidson, Hairston, Gilmer

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### III. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chair Blanc commended staff for their successful Treats in the Streets event, and she noted that Ricci Realty enjoyed participating in the event with their "Spooky" trolley.

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### IV. ORAL REPORTS FROM STAFF

None

### V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

5.1 Hart Park Pool/Deck Renovation (Capital Improvement Plan #0025).

Ms. Galera reported that the City is moving forward on the last phase of the renovations to the Hart Park Pool. The pool structure is continuing to experience structural degradation and the pool edge is in constant need of support. The purpose of the renovation is to bring the facility into compliance with health, ADA and title 24 codes. The facility is currently out of health code compliance for the following reasons:

- Pool drains to the creek instead of draining into a sewer system
- The facility does not have adequate showers and these showers do not drain to the sewer system
- The pool does not have floor inlets to ensure adequate levels of chlorine is distributed throughout the body of water.

The pool was renovated in the 1970's and the original pool was filled in with the pool that the City uses today. A replacement pool deck was poured on top of the original deck. The entire pool and deck system will be demolished and removed during this renovation, but the historic walls will be protected.

The pool equipment, including the heaters and filters have been replaced and the renovations to the pool building are presently being completed. The City has hired Aquatic Design Group, to design the renovation of the Hart Park Pool and Deck. Aquatic Design Group designed the replacement of the pool equipment in 2004. Staff has also hired Robert Chattel who will ensure that the City is in compliance with the historical resources guidelines. Rengel Co. Architects has been hired for additional minor renovations to the building and exterior wall.

Ms. Galera added that, at this time, the City was not planning to expand its program, but to design the facility to be more functional.

Ms. Galera introduced Dennis Berkshire from the Aquatic Design Group to present the conceptual design.

Mr. Berkshire reported that at present the City had six primary programs

- 1.) Swim Class
- 2.) Parent and Me
- 3.) Aqua Aerobics
- 4.) Recreational Swimming
- 5.) Special Events
- 6.) Pool Party Rentals

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Mr. Berkshire said that some of the considerations pertaining to the design included ADA compliance, capital and maintenance costs, programming costs and options, and revenue generation opportunities. Working with the staff, Aquatic Design Group came up with a (2)-two-pool option and a (1)-one-pool option.

The two-pool option was selected based on lower capital costs and the functional and flexible configuration. The two-pool concept includes:

- A shallow instructional pool
- A traditional 75' pool, 6-lane swimming pool, a walk-in stair area, there is also a 12 ft. deep end which meets high school standards with a 1 meter diving board.

\*The configuration of the two pools is more conducive to programming different levels of instruction along with other activities that can occur simultaneously such as lap swimming or water aerobics.

\*Each pool can maintain a different temperature, which saves heating costs and allows the younger children to swim more comfortably in a warmer pool and the older children and adults can exercise and swim in a cooler pool.

\*One pool can remain operational even if the other pool is contaminated.

\*There is the option to program, heat and maintain only one of the two pools, which will save heating and maintenance costs. This will be particularly beneficial in the future if the City decides to extend the aquatic season.

\*The two-pool configuration has less capital costs due to the reduction of water surface area. Concrete decking is less expensive to build and maintain than pool and water surface area. Some options that may be considered for the pool deck is the placement of portable bleachers or shade structures that would go around the facility.

\*The reduced water surface area of the two smaller pools allows for a less expensive skimmer water surface collection system rather than a continuous perimeter configuration required by code for larger pools.

Ms. Galera added that the approved conceptual plan will be taken to the Staff Review Committee and Design Review Committee for approval. The City will adhere to the environmental review process predicated through CEQA.

The construction document phase will begin in January 2007 and construction will commence on September 1, 2007 for project completion in time for the 2008 aquatic season.

Commissioner Gilmer asked if the program would be expanded after these renovations are made. Ms. Galera said that at this time the City does not expect to expand its current program. If at some time in the future the City decides to move forward with an expanded

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program, further evaluation will be made. Ms. Hagan noted that there is potential to increase the programming with this new configuration.

Commissioner Gilmer asked if the pool would support competitive water polo. Mr. Berkshire said it would not support a full competitive water polo because the pool would not be wide enough.

Commissioner Gilmer asked if the wall around the pool is historical. Ms. Galera said the wall and building are considered historical. Commissioner Gilmer asked if the City would be able to meet ADA standards and still retain the integrity of the walls. Ms. Galera affirmed that the City would be able to retain the integrity of the walls.

Chair Remland said that he liked the concept. He asked if there was a need to have a diving board and if the diving board was an optional item. Mr. Berkshire said that it was an optional item, but that a diving board offered more entertainment for older children and adults. In terms of safety, 99.8% of all spinal injuries from diving occurred from diving in shallow waters. In this pool, there is no chance of someone diving and hitting the bottom. Ms. Hagan added that for recreational swim the diving board is the most popular feature.

Chair Remland said he was satisfied with the diving board; he wanted to know why it was not centered in the plan. Mr. Berkshire said placement of the diving board had to do with the location of the drains and making sure that there would not be a problem of suction entrapment. There has to be at least 4ft. of separation between drains, and the California Health Code states that a diving board cannot be directly aligned with the drains.

Ms. Hagan noted two additional elements as to why the diving board's placement was not centered:

- 1. Staff has discussed having two diving boards and there is potential to add another diving board at a later date.
- 2. The life guard staff prefers that the diving board be near the edge for children who become scared after diving.

Chair Remland asked if the equipment that was replaced a few years ago would be functional for the new pools. Mr. Berkshire said that they would only have to add one more tank to the number of tanks and filters that already exist to facilitate a higher flow rate, and they would not have to change out the existing pump.

Mr. Berkshire emphasized that there would be ADA access to each of the pools, handrails and low riser stairs as well as ADA lifts.

Vice-Chair Blanc said that she approved of the two-pool system and felt it would help with the contamination factor in the summer.

Commissioner Gilmer asked if it would be possible to expand the program since it was unknown when a pool will be built at the Grijalva Extension.

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Marie said that an expanded program has been considered and it will be discussed during the next budget process. If there was year-around swimming, staff would explore the potential for competition swimming and lap swimming, but it will not happen unless we have the revenue to do it.

Chair Remland asked about the filtration system. Mr. Berkshire said it would have a sand filtration system and chlorine distribution.

Commissioner Gilmer moved to approve the conceptual plan for the proposed renovation of the pool and deck at Hart Park.

Motion: Commissioner Gilmer Second: Commissioner Hairston

Ayes: Remland, Blanc, Davidson, Gilmer, Hairston

5.2 Community Services Department's Priority of Projects Fiscal Year 2007-08

Ms. Knight presented the Community Services Priority of Projects for the Fiscal Yr. 2007-08. Ms. Knight referred to the lists that were provided to the Commissioners in their packets. These lists were based on the direction that the Commissioners provided in September. The projects have been divided into two lists one for Parks and one for Trails.

Ms. Knight noted that several projects in the Park Project List were highlighted in yellow and those were projects that were newly added. These projects are considered urgent due to public health and welfare or where structural impact is anticipated. These projects are:

- Hart Park Tennis Court Renovation
- Shaffer Park Trash Enclosures

The projects identified as "Current Projects" or "Urgent" are slated for inclusion in the draft FY 2007-08 C.I.P. which will be presented to City Council for approval. Due to staff time and funding constraints, projects identified as high or medium are not included in the FY 2007-08 C.I.P. draft.

Developer projects that have not been included, but require staff's time are:

- 1.) Steve Ambriz Memorial Park designed and built by SunCal,
- 2.) East Orange Parks and Trails designed and built by the Irvine Company,
- 3.) Grant research, writing, administration, and management.

Chair Remland noted that all the trails project had a medium priority. The only project offered is the Santiago Bike Trail Project. Ms. Knight concurred that the City did not have funds to further other trail projects at this time.

Commissioner Davidson said that there was potential for the Irvine Company to fund trails in east Orange, but the Irvine Company has not made plans to build in the east area any time soon.

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Commissioner Gilmer asked about funding and the potential for grants. Ms. Galera reported There are grants for Class I Bike paths. The main funds are federal T-funds and Bike Trails M funding. As far as recreational trails especially along the creek and natural areas, there are Land and Water Conservation funds. There are grants available for recreation trails if the City is able to show a connection with the Santiago Creek and parks. Ms. Galera added that many grants are changing their rules in that they require the City to have a conceptual plan.

Commissioner Gilmer asked what the Commission could do to aid Community Services in acquiring grants. Ms. Galera said that the work the Commission has done in setting priorities is very important for the criteria in obtaining grants. Commissioner Gilmer said that currently many of the trails are listed as a medium priority and he wanted to know if there was anyway they could be pushed up to a high priority. Ms. Galera said that in the summer the Commission worked on setting priorities and during that time, the Santiago Bike Trail was classified as the most important priority as it would connect to regional trails and also has great funding potential.

Commissioner Hairston asked about the staff time that was spent trying to obtain grants. Ms. Knight reported that staff was currently researching the expenditure of staff time, and emphasized that staff has a heavy workload with existing projects and there is currently no one available to attend to grant funding. Last summer Ms. Galera was working with an intern, but that position is now vacant. Staff will be meeting with the City's lobbiest next week to work with staff in finding potential grants for some of these projects Ms. Knight added that the department was looking into reorganizing staff activities for some of its projects in order to free up some time for grant research.

Commissioner Hairston said that the issue is that the City portends a commitment to trails, but the City has not obtained funding either through grants or through City funds and nothing ever gets done. The City does not have money for trails and it does not even have someone to look for grants. What is needed is for someone to step up and commit to doing the trails or admit that it can't be done. There are many people throughout the City who have spent an enormous amount of time on trails, and yet, there is no sign of real support from the City.

Commissioner Davidson said that their best source of funding for trails will be through developers. Commissioner Hairston said that in the absence of having City Council support he agreed with Commissioner Davidson, but he wanted to know why the City has not allocated any money toward trails. Commissioner Hairston commended Ms. Galera who has spent a lot of time on this project, but he feels there has to be tangible evidence of the City's commitment in the form of money.

Commissioner Gilmer concurred with Commissioner Hairston in that so many of the projects pertaining to trails have been given a "medium" priority. If the public were to look at this list, they would see the same projects listed for the last three years with no progress.

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Ms. Knight said that staff could try to reprioritize some of the projects but as discussed previously there are many factors involved in trying to complete these projects including the new guidelines for obtaining grants.

Commissioner Hairston said it is a moot point to try to reprioritize these projects unless the City hires staff that can concentrate their time and effort in obtaining these grants. Staff has been stretched so thin with limited time and money that it is ludicrous to think you could do any more.

Commissioner Gilmer asked if there was any kind of estimate on the Santiago Trails. Ms. Galera said that the City would need to hire a consultant, research the right-of-way and develop a scope. Ms. Knight added that they would be looking to fill the vacant intern position to assist in finding funding. Staff does feel that there are grant opportunities that the City has a very good chance of obtaining.

Commissioner Hairston suggested that staff define a job description. Exactly what is it that this person will be expected to do. Ideally, the responsibilities should be dedicated toward attending trail meetings, finding sources for funding, etc. A job that is created solely for trails. Ms. Knight said in order to procure a position for this fiscal year, staff would have to work on that today. An alternative would be to create a job description and submit it for the next fiscal year's budget. Commissioner Hairston said he wanted to see improvement over the next year.

Chair Remland said that the frustration for the Commission is that everyone wants to do something but there is no movement in this area. The Commission would like to see a more aggressive approach.

Commissioner Blanc moved to approve the Community Services Department Priority of Projects for Parks for the Fiscal Year 2007-08.

Motion: Blanc Second: Hairston

Ayes: Remland, Blanc, Davidson, Gilmer, Hairston

Commissioner Hairston moved to approve the Community Services Department Priority of Projects for Trails for the Fiscal Year 2007-08.

Motion: Hairston Second: Blanc

Ayes: Remland, Blanc, Davidson, Gilmer, Hairston

#### Amended motion:

Commissioner Gilmer asked that the motion be amended to include that the Santiago Creek Bike Trail segments be reclassified to high priority and the remainder of the list approved as presented.

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Motion: Gilmer Second: Blanc

Ayes: Remland, Blanc, Davidson, Gilmer, Hairston

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Commissioner Davidson mentioned that there is a new development the "Rossiter Ranch Estates" being developed at 6100 block of Santiago Canyon Road. There are trails that are supposed to be connected with that development. Commissioner Davidson said that he sat in on several Council meetings and has not heard anything else about the trails.

Ms. Galera said that staff was made aware of the project several years ago, but was not aware that the project had progressed to this level. She said that she believed there was a trail alignment that should be going through the project. Ms. Knight said staff would look into it and come back to the Commission at the December meeting with a report.

## VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Veterans Day Celebration – November 11, 2006

Ms. Callahan-Litfin reported that the Veterans Day tribute will take place on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the Veterans Memorial at Depot Park at 2:00 p.m. Keynote speaker is Brigadier General James P. Combs.

7.2 Tree Lighting Ceremony – December 3, 2006

Ms. Callahan-Litfin reported that the Tree Lighting Event will begin at 3:30 p.m. this year. The actual program will begin at 5:30p.m at Plaza Park.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Blanc Second: Hairston

Ayes: Remland, Blanc, Davidson, Gilmer, Hairston

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, December 14, 2006.

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Marie Knight Gary Remland, Chairman

Park Planning and Development Commission

Attested on

/vm

