



**APPROVED**

## MINUTES

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL RETREAT November 27, 2007 Lucie Stern Community Center

**Commissioners Present:** Deirdre Crommie, Joel Davidson, Carl King, Paul Losch, Pat Markevitch, Alex Panelli, Daria Walsh

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Others Present:**

**Staff Present:** Daren Anderson, Greg Betts, Catherine Bourquin, Rob de Geus, Lester Hodgins, Robert Ward

**Roll Call Conducted by:** Catherine Bourquin

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, and DELETIONS:** None

**BUSINESS:**

**1. Approval of Draft Minutes of October 23, 2007 Meeting –**

The draft minutes of the October 23, 2007 meeting were approved as written.

**Approved: 7:0**

**2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Special Meeting on November 7, 2007**

The draft minutes of the November 7, 2007 Special Meeting were approved with 4 corrections. **Approved: 6 Abstention: 1 (Commissioner King)**

**3. RETREAT**

Introductions were made to introduce staff members present. Daren Anderson, Senior Ranger –Open Space, Lester Hodgins, Supervisor, Open Space, and Robert Ward, Supervisor – Parks.



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Commissioner Chair Losch enlisted feedback from the Commissioners on how they thought the Joint meeting with Council went.

- Commissioner Markevitch: She didn't feel that the meeting was very different from the past joint meetings with Council.
- Commissioner Davidson: He was given the impression that the Commissioners were there to listen and he said he wanted to participate more in the discussion.
- Commissioner King: He got the impression that the Commission was used as a sort of "venting" mechanism in the Council's eyes. He said he sensed a little frustration amongst the Council members on the direction that the Commission might move in.
- Commissioner Panelli: He didn't get a collective understanding from Council that they understood the Commission's priorities. Commissioner Panelli thought that maybe in the future the Council should be provided a written copy of the Commission's proposed priorities and what has been accomplished in the previous year.
- Commissioner Crommie: Thought it could have been more organized. She did, however, like the free brain storming atmosphere.
- Staff Betts: He also didn't feel that there was a consensus from the Council on feedback on the Commission's priorities.
- Commissioner Losch: Left the meeting feeling that the Council had confidence in the Commission's work and initiatives and that the Commission is doing a good job.

The Commissioners had some discussion on when a joint meeting with Council should take place. The consensus from the Commission was that it would be best to meet soon after the annual retreat and when the priorities were agreed upon. A motion was made by Commissioner King.

***Motion: The Parks and Recreation Commission will request from Council a meeting date to occur no later than three months after the Commission sets their annual priorities. This should occur after December and no later than February 28<sup>th</sup> of the year the priorities are being set for. This motion is to be implemented no later than February 2009. The Commission will politely request to meet with the Council again in March of 2008, if possible. If the Council is unable to meet, the priorities will be communicated in writing with a request for feedback from the Council.***

***Approved: 7:0***

After a detailed discussion on looking back over the past year's priorities, the Commission moved forward with brainstorming ideas for setting their new priorities for the coming years. Some discussion was given to understanding the Brown Act policy and how to set up committees and ad-hoc committees.



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Commissioner Chair Losch suggested using the categories of *Passions* and *Key Factors* for the Commissioners to think of in considering ideas for their priorities. The following was charted for consideration:

<b>PASSIONS</b>	<b>KEY FACTORS</b>
Gardens	Shifting Age Demographics
Playing Fields Capacity	Palo Alto a Magnet
Baylands Access	Housing Development in S. Palo Alto
10,000 steps	Healthier lifestyles
Bicycle	Green Movement
Open Space protection use	Pet Advocacy
Community Appreciation	Teen youth needs
CSD budget – Understand	Flat city revenues
Partnerships/Partnering	Demands on staff
	Regional pressures/planning

The Commissioners then selected their 4 top items and narrowed it down to 5 items to have developed for consideration as their 2008 priorities. These will be discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting in December. They agreed on the following with the named Commissioners taking the lead on developing a plan to be considered further in December:

1. Playing Fields Capacity – *Commissioner Panelli*
2. Open Space protection use – *Commissioner Walsh*
3. Partnerships/Partnering – *Commissioner Davidson*
4. Palo Alto a Magnet/Regional pressures and planning – *Commissioner King*
5. Healthier lifestyles – *Commissioner Crommie*

Adjourned 10:00pm

