

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
JOINT MEETING OF THE
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL COMMISSION
&
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
TUESDAY JANUARY 8, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Alberg at 6:36pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Commissioner Alberg

ROLL CALL Commissioners present:

Parks Recreation and Cultural Commission

Commissioner Silver, Commissioner Hartl, Commissioner Abel, Vice Chair Falltrick and Chair Alberg.

Planning Commission: Commissioner Huntington absent, Commissioner Willman absent, Commissioner Lombardo, Vice-Chair Goodpaster, Chair McKoy

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action Motion: **Move to approve the agenda of the January 8, 2008 Joint Parks, Recreation & Cultural Commission & Planning Commission meeting**

Move: Abel 2nd Silver Vote: 5 -0-0-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

2. MINUTES OF PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2007

Recommendation: **Approve minutes as presented.**

3. RECREATION REPORT

Recommendation: **Move to receive and file the Recreation report for December 2007**

3. YOUTH COMMISSION

Recommendation: **Move to receive and file the Youth Commission report for December 2007**

4. MUSEUM REPORT

Recommendation: **Move to receive and file the Museum report for December 2007**

All items listed on the consent calendar are considered to be routine or non-controversial matters. The items listed on the consent calendar may be enacted by one motion and a second. There will be no separate discussion of the consent calendar items unless a member of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission or Town Staff requests discussion on specific consent calendar items at the beginning of the meeting.

Action Motion: **Move to adopt Consent Agenda items 2-5 (PRC Commission only)**

Move: Abel

2nd Silver

Vote: 5 -0-0-0

STAFF REPORTS

6. FIRST DRAFT – PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Director Schooler reported on the first draft of the Park Master Plan update. Director Schooler stated that the commissioners' input will be noted and passed along to assist the Town Council in their upcoming strategic planning session.

Director Schooler introduced Jim Pickel from Moore, Iacofano, Goltsman, Inc. (MIG). Mr. Pickel introduced the team from MIG: Maxine Surks, Pam Wooldridge and Ron Hagan. MIG staff gave a power point presentation with regard to the information gathering process and the resulting recommendations presented in the draft Parks Master Plan. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission Chair Alberg opened the public comment.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley, stated she found it difficult to down load the Park Master Plan Draft form the Town web site. Stated she would have paid for a copy of the document.

Eric Mueller, stated he has been involved in the Parks Master Plan meetings and is concerned that he did not hear about centralization. He mentioned that special interest interviews never happened. Mr. Mueller inquired about who was being interviewed in the telephone survey, residents that have been in the area a long time or new to the area. MIG representatives responded that the centralization concept has been incorporated into the recommendations, and provided details about the random selection of survey participants.

Robert Sturges, Yucca Valley asked for information about the sale of the swap meet property. Staff redirected Mr. Sturges to the Town Manager for information.

LuJuana Millett, Joshua Tree, gave thanks for the recommended provision of dog parks in the Parks Master Plan. Inquired if the recommendation includes a bridge across the Yucca Creek wash. MIG responded that a bridge is indeed part of the concept.

Ray Pessa Yucca Valley, inquired whether MIG has taken into consideration the ages of the residents in the projected growth over the next 20 years. Mr. Pessa mentioned that he not hear about a motor sports elements.

Gideon Smith, Yucca Valley spoke in favor of the Parks Master Plan draft and thanked the consultants for recognizing and being fair to the tennis community.

Margo Sturges, Yucca Valley, spoke in favor of the Parks Master Plan process.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Chair Alberg closed the Pubic Comments

PRC Commissioner Abel inquired about the phone survey and asked how the questions where presented. MIG representative Wooldridge responded and gave an example. Abel asked Mr. Hagan if there was anything that surprised him in the survey. Mr. Hagen stated that the amount of interest in a cultural component and the public's awareness of the Hi Desert Nature Museum were unexpected findings. Mr. Abel stated that he was reassured that the survey was well done.

Planning Commissioner Lombardo stated that he is in favor of the artificial turf that is included as an element for consideration in the plan. Mr. Lombardo stated the Master Plan has the best of both worlds with regard to the issue of centralization.

PRC Commissioner Silver stated that she felt that MIG did a good job. She inquired about a dedicated Senior Park area. MIG representatives responded with a more detailed explanation of how the multi-generational complex would provide for the active and passive activities preferred by seniors. Silver is glad to see that the need for a dog park is addressed in the plan. Ms. Silver talked about possible transportation concerns.

PRC Commissioner Hartl inquired if specific parcels have been identified for the development of the new proposed parks and facilities. MIG representatives responded that much of the land in question is already owned or controlled by the Town, and there is flexibility with regard to the specific park sites. He stated he is in favor of using the land on 247 (Section 11) and partnering with the County for a regional park. Mr. Hartl questioned the selling of acreage on Joshua Lane (former South Side Community Center site). He inquired on the estimated cost of the aquatic center. MIG responded that cost estimates will be provided in future drafts.

Planning Commission Vice Chair Goodpaster inquired on what a dog park is. He also asked for a definition of Class 3 bike routes. Commissioner Goodpaster inquired where the cost estimates for "green construction" came from. MIG representatives provided answers to his questions. He stated some concern with the proposed new location of the Library and Nature Museum, that the Cal Trans project of widening Highway 62 might slow things down. He stated that the plan lays out lofty goals and it is good to have a Master Plan.

PRC Commissioner Vice Chair Falltrick stated she has been here since 1953. Ms. Falltrick inquired what should happen first, do we upgrade current parks or build new ones. Falltrick stated that we need splash pools.

Planning Commission Chair McKoy suggested that law enforcement be involved with the site planning of new parks. He stated that water is always a concern. He likes the idea of the extreme park. Commissioner McKoy stated this was a great plan and complemented the comprehensiveness of the document.

PRC Chair Alberg questioned the idea of a new civic center as a first priority. Mr. Alberg inquired about the TOT tax. He asked for clarification of the trailheads markings. Chair Alberg inquired on the life span of the shade coverings. Mr. Alberg questioned the asset management opportunities. MIG representatives provided explanations and responses to his inquiries.

The members of both commissions agreed that they have no concerns or objections to the recommendations presented in the draft plan.

Action **Motion: That the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission receive and file the report, and forward commission comments regarding the draft plan to the Town Council for consideration in upcoming strategic planning discussions**

Move: Hartl 2nd Silver Vote 5-0-0-0

Action: **Motion That the Planning Commission receive and file the report, and forward commission comments regarding the draft plan to the Town Council for consideration in upcoming strategic planning discussions.**

Move: Goodpaster 2nd Lombardo Vote 3-0-0-2

(CHAIR ALBERG CALLED A 5-MINUTE RECESS TO EXCUSE THE MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION)

7. APPROVAL OF PRIVATELY MAINTAINED OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES. CREDIT FOR PRIVATE OPEN SPACE. PROPOSED TRACT NUMBER 17862

Community Development Director Tom Best stated that ordinance number 175 authorizes the Town of Yucca Valley to approve private open space in a proposed subdivision and apply a credit of up to twenty-five percent of the requirement for dedication of land for park and recreational purposes. In a planned development subdivision, the subdivder is required to provide park and recreation amenities for residents of the subdivision. Copper Hills Homes is proposing a sixty-three acre planned development subdivision with one hundred and five single-family lots. In

this kind of development the developer is required to provide open space with amenities for use by residents of the proposed subdivision.

Commissioner Silver stated that there is not enough for families; there are no amenities for the children.

Commissioner Abel inquired about the grade of the hillside in the proposed recreational area. Director Best stated 20%. Commissioner Abel stated his concern that no one from the developer's office is in attendance. Commissioner Abel stated he is not in favor of the park credit.

Commissioner Silver stated she would like to see more play equipment and that the grade of the slope at 20% is unacceptable.

Vice Chair Falltrick concurred that there needs to be more for the families in the development. She suggested a tot lot play area. She inquired about parking near the proposed recreational areas.

Commissioner Hartl agreed that there needs to be more for the family to do than what is shown in the proposed areas.

Chair Alberg inquired if these proposed recreational areas would be open to the general public. Director Best stated normally these areas are for the occupants of the development.

ACTION: Commissioner Falltrick moved to recommend the credit of twenty- five percent provided that the developers include sufficient play equipment. Commissioner Silver seconded. Motion carried 3-2-0-0 on a roll call vote.

AYES: Commissioners Falltrick, Hartl, Silver

NOES: Commissioner Abel, Chair Alberg

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

8. FEES IN-LIEU OF PARK LAND DEDICATION – TRACK MAPS 17378 AND 17379

Community Development Director Best reported on ordinance number 175 which authorizes the Town of Yucca Valley to require the dedication of land for park and recreation facilities or payment of in-lieu fees as a condition of approval of a tentative tract map for subdivisions five lots or greater. It has been determined that five acres of useable land for each one thousand persons is an appropriate amount of land required to be dedicated. When in-lieu fees are collected in place of land dedication, the value of land area subject to dedication is calculated.

Director Best stated that in this case considering the small size of this acreage, that staff recommends the Town collect in-lieu fees that may be applied to an area that complies with the Parks Master plan.

Commissioner Abel inquired whether a representative was here from the developer's office. Director Best stated no.

ACTION: That the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission recommend to the Planning Commission payment of in-lieu fees for proposed Tract Maps 17378 and 17379

Move: Hart

2nd Falltrick

Vote: 5-0-0-0

STAFF INFORMATION

None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

1. Chair Alberg: Chair Alberg stated he has many notes marked in the Draft Parks Master plan document that he will give to Director Schooler.

2. Vice Chair Falltrick: Vice Chair Falltrick stated she is glad we are on the way with the Master Plan

3. Commissioner Silver: No comments.

4. Commissioner Abel: Commissioner Abel stated his disappointed that the developers did not attend tonight's meeting. He was disappointed that the commission would approve this request when the developers where not at the meeting. He stated he was disappointed that we are giving away funds for a dirt hill. Commissioner Abel stated that the Parks Master Plan meeting was outstanding and we can move forward.

5. Commissioner Hartl: Commissioner Hartl stated it was a long meeting. He enjoyed the Master Plan portion of the meeting. Commissioner Hartl will give his comments on the Master Plan to Director Schooler.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hi Desert Nature Museum

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Alberg adjourned the meeting at 9:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Randall, PRCC Secretary
Community Services Department