CITY OF FULLERTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting City Council Chamber Monday, April 13, 2009 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dasney called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Vice Chair Stanford led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawna Adam, Sueling Chen (7:15 pm), Kathleen Dasney, Scott Hayes

(6:55), Kathleen Shanfield, Nancy Spencer, Scott Stanford

Absent: None

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Felz; Parks and Recreation Managers

Grace Carroll Lowe, Hugo Curiel, Alice Loya, and Judy Peterson; Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard; Landscape Superintendent Dennis Quinlivan; Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley, Water System Manager/Assistant City Engineer Dave Schickling, Water Quality Specialist

Chad Blais

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 1 - 3)

Commissioner Adam MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Spencer SECONDED the motion to approve the consent items with corrections as noted.

AYES: Adam, Dasney, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chen, Hayes

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2009 COMMISSION MEETING

Recommendation to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2009 Commission Meeting.

Chair Dasney noted that on Page 7, under "Program Highlights," third paragraph, first sentence, the word "with" should be replaced with "about." In the same paragraph, last sentence, "Manager Peterson" should be added between the words "but" and "said."

2. LANDSCAPE DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2009

Recommendation to receive and file the Landscape Division March 2009 Monthly Report.

Landscape Superintendent Dennis Quinlivan was asked by Chair Dasney about the 466 trees noted in his report, and he agreed some were replacement trees but were substantial: 24-inch boxes 6 to 10 feet tall to better ensure survival. Commissioner Spencer asked if the division was using the Master Street Tree Plan and he affirmed this.

Chair Dasney also asked about "flailing" and was told it involved a mowing unit which creates a rough cut and was not for precision cutting.

Commissioner Spencer asked if the City was receiving reports on bees or if there was a scarcity of bees as she had been reading recently, but Superintendent Quinlivan said he wasn't seeing a shortage and, in fact, there was a swarm recently over the Maintenance Yard so everyone had to go inside.

Chair Dasney asked if the pressure washing at the parks was the same as what was done in the Downtown Plaza and Superintendent Quinlivan confirmed this. Commissioner Spencer congratulated him on Arbor Day, saying it was a beautiful day and a good turn out, and that his crew of seven worked really hard.

3. BUILDING AND FACILITIES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2009

Recommendation to receive and file the March 2009 Building and Facilities Division Monthly Report.

Chair Dasney asked about Facilities Specialist Dennis Hittle's upcoming retirement and what the status of his position would be. Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley said he wouldn't be able to fill the position due to budget cuts and a hiring freeze, so he's having qualified staff, trained by Building and Facilities Supervisor Rick Stock, fill in for three months each in an acting position. In addition, Superintendent Otley said he would try to have the position title changed to Lead Worker which is a more generalized position and could save money. When Chair Dasney asked, he said Supervisor Stock would supervise the workers and oversee the reports.

REGULAR BUSINESS (Items 4 – 10)

4. FULLERTON AQUATICS SPORTS TEAM (FAST) ANNUAL REPORT AND PROPOSED FEE INCREASES

Recreation Manager Judy Peterson introduced the FAST agenda item and the FAST Annual Report, and provided background on the FAST contract to operate the Janet Evans Swim Complex, saying the City just entered into another agreement last fall for five years with a five-year option to renew. She said FAST provides and runs the programming for the Swim Complex, and the City pays for the maintenance and utilities. Per the agreement, FAST provides an annual report which the FAST Advisory Committee, appointed by City Council, reviews along with the actual programs.

Manager Peterson noted that FAST also has a competitive swim team, but it is the other part of FAST - the swim program - that the report covers. She said the Advisory Committee determined that FAST had been meeting and, in fact, exceeding its contractual obligations. She also noted that the Complex now supports a year-round swim program, which was not the case prior to FAST's management. Manager Peterson said that FAST has done an "outstanding job," and then introduced Bill Jewell, FAST's coach, saying the community programs were under his direction. She added that both FAST and staff are recommending some slight fee increases. When asked by Chair Dasney, Manager Peterson listed the Aquatics Advisory Committee members: Lynn Rogers, Deborah Sanchez, Don Hitzeman, Tony Bushala, Joe Felz, Judy Peterson and Bill Jewell.

Coach Jewell presented a Power Point presentation regarding the 2007-08 program. He explained that he came onboard last year "very suddenly" due to the death of Coach Kevin Perry, but because he received a lot of support, FAST was able to provide a great service and value to the community. He said the Annual Report reflects the good work of FAST, but couldn't be done without the support of the City and FAST staff including Chip Lance, Director of the Aquatics Program. Coach Jewell also thanked the City Council and Commission for their support, and said he especially wanted to thank the City facility and maintenance workers.

Coach Jewell provided an overview of the many programs from FAST, noting that there were successful programs that were added since FAST took over including the Masters and Adult Fitness programs and Adult Lessons. He also noted FAST's special programs and said he was most proud of the outreach programs including the Special Olympics which they support with pool use and training as well as raising funds and resources for organizations such as the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society, Secret Pals Program through the City (\$12,000 donated from FAST's budget), and the Swim Safe Program which works in partnership with Fullerton School District 4th and 5th graders at Richman. He said they hope to expand Swim Safe tp other schools, but transportation was an issue. He noted FAST sponsors including a new one, USA Swimming Foundation, which encourages swimming with inner city youth and which provided a small grant to FAST. He compared the swimming hours prior to and after FAST took over, which now better meet the needs of the community.

Coach Jewell then presented FAST's proposed fee increases, which he estimated at less than 10% over two years. He also noted increases in revenues (20%), member passes, pool admissions (96% due to Brea's swimming pool being out of operation last year), rental revenue from private schools, and attendance (11%) in the past year.

Coach Jewell then opened up the presentation for questions. Commissioner Adam said Fullerton High School aquatics program parents have asked her why the City can't accommodate high school students in a short-term swim instruction program so they can become competitive. Coach Jewell said it could be accommodated, but FAST was in the service business which depends on the expertise of the individual giving the instruction whereas high school coaches were tending to be less well-trained and experienced. He said the school could join FAST and contract with FAST to provide clinics to the coaches and students. He said Fairmont School is contracting for the use of the pool and FAST has voluntarily provided two clinics.

Commissioner Adam said while some elementary school students get involved in swimming, there's "a disconnect" when it comes to high school, but parents would like to keep their children involved. Coach Jewell said FAST has a variety of swim teams that anyone can join, but high schools, if interested, would have to contact FAST.

Swim School Director Chip Lance also noted there is a Janet Evans swim clinic during the summer that is "great" for high school students, but also noted that, to prevent "stepping on toes," the high school coach needed to invite FAST to come to their school. Commissioner Adam said she would inform the aquatics board at the school, but also opined that any programs conducted at one school should be conducted for the whole community.

Commissioner Adam asked and was provided information on expanded programs for seniors and those with medical needs. Swim School Director Lance said FAST had been approached by numerous therapy programs but their pools can't support this type of indoor water therapy. However, he said those are goals for the future, noting that the Cal State Fullerton Gerontology Department is also interested in doing studies at FAST's pool. Commissioner Adam said she wanted to know FAST's goals as the planned community center could support a pool for seniors. Director Felz said FAST is a potential partner in that venture for both design assistance and pool operations, and that FAST had already helped the Boys and Girls Club in the past.

Commissioner Shanfield, a rehab therapist at St. Jude, said St. Jude is planning on building three pools, and Coach Jewell said St. Jude would probably want to have those pools for their medical needs. He also noted that Fullerton College had a brand new 50 meter pool that would open soon.

Vice Chair Stanford asked if Coach Jewell could walk him through the fee increases which, while not large, could impact families struggling financially. Coach Jewell said FAST needs to retain its mature, experienced instructors and be competitive with their swim instructor pay, but it is losing them to places like La Mirada which is hiring staff at \$15/hr. versus FAST at \$10 - \$12/hr; hence, the rate increases. He also noted that while the percentage increase may look large, the dollar amount is not that large, e.g., a \$52 class will be increased to \$55. Manager Peterson said that the Secret Pal program also assists low-income children, but Vice Chair Stanford said it's often the families just above the low-income level, who may also have lost job, that are struggling. Swim Director Lance said that there had been no fee increases since 2006, i.e., three years, and that FAST lessons were less expensive than other cities. When asked about other cities' rates, he cited La Mirada group lessons at \$8 or \$9 versus FAST's at \$6.50. He also noted that FAST's charitable programs had to be supported as well.

Manager Peterson said she couldn't stress enough how important having very good staff was, particularly in a pool setting where safety was paramount. Commissioner Spencer said she used to do the City's hiring, and safety and competitive salaries was extremely important. Swim Director Lance said their average instructor age is 23, not 15 years old, as was the case with some swim programs.

Director Felz said the City is committed to an affordable but quality program, plus teaching all Fullerton fourth and fifth graders to swim, but looking at costs and fee increases was a good idea. Vice Chair Stanford said he understood these issues, but

also felt it would have been better if FAST had asked for a fee increase last year rather than this year when many were facing financial difficulties, particularly when FAST is showing a profit. Director Felz expressed appreciation for Vice Chair Stanford's comments, noting that the proposed fee increases are counter to what the Department is doing with its other programs, and that when staff goes to Council on this item, staff will include his comments and be better able to address this concern.

Commissioner Adam asked about the bussing for the Swim Safe program since the Fullerton School District was experiencing budget cuts, and was told by Coach Jewell and Swim Director Lance that FAST was trying to get grant funding or a donation for transportation through a bus company. Swim Director Lance described the pilot program at Richman and Pacific Drive schools, noting that FAST is paying for all the instruction plus donors are paying for swim suits, goggles, etc. Chair Dasney asked about a Police and Fire Association donation listed in the FAST report, and was told it was a donation made in the first year of the contract. She added that she believed all the commissioners would agree Swim Safe was a "fabulous,...worthwhile...and valuable" program.

Commissioner Chen acknowledged the City's partnership with FAST, and asked if the proposed fee increase would benefit the City financially. Director Felz said there was a clause in the contract on shared revenue if FAST had more than a certain level of revenue. He noted that while the fee increase request runs counter to all the Department's other programs, there had been no fee increases for FAST in three years. He also mentioned the desire to keep the programs open for low-income families, and to also be competitive with La Mirada and school programs, thus staff felt the small fee increase was justified. Commissioner Chen asked if the City and FAST would split profits 50/50 but was told this was not the case, as FAST was still laying the groundwork to establish a quality program in the community; hence, the City was providing it with additional support.

Vice Chair Stanford MADE A MOTION TO approve the FAST report and fee increases and Commissioner Adam SECONDED the motion. Chair Dasney called for the vote.

AYES:

Adam, Chen, Dasney, Hayes, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES:

None

ABSENT:

None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Chair Dasney thanked Coach Jewell for his "wonderful" and "positive" presentation. Coach Jewell said there were 90 students enrolled for the Swim Safe program with plans to increase this, and said there was a slight increase in overall students which was enabling FAST to generate a little profit. Vice Chair Stanford asked how much of the increase was from the Brea pool closure, and was told there was a \$23,000 increase in gate fees.

Director Felz noted that the Commission recommendation would go to Council April 21, 2009.

*5. WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Director Felz introduced the water supply update agenda item, saying tonight's goal regarding the water supply update agenda item, especially given the fact that the parks are the single highest user of the City's water, was to help the Parks and Recreation Commission understand where the City stands regarding the current water shortage, where the water comes from, and to discuss development of a possibly mandatory plan to cut back on water usage. He said this issue would eventually require mandatory action to cut back on water, and that by about July, the Commission might have to decide on either an overall cut on water usage at parks or selection of certain parks for water cutbacks.

Director Felz also noted that the City's average consumption rates were determined by 2004 and 2005 water usage figures when water usage was greatly reduced due to a few unusual projects including Laguna Lake when the entire lake had been drained and when the reservoir at Hillcrest Park was out of commission due to the reservoir replacement project.

He then introduced Chad Blais, Water Quality Specialist, who said he conducts the City's water conservation program and that he would be providing a brief synopsis regarding the City's water supply, the effects of the lack of rain fall and its future impact.

Specialist Blais provided a Power Point overview of the water supply including the two primary sources of local groundwater overseen by the Metropolitan Water District of Orange County and imported water from the MWD state water project and the Colorado River. He said the MWDOC protects the groundwater by allocating a set amount of water to be pumped each year, and that 64% of the City's water may come from that source. The rest comes from the MWD which obtains water from the State Water Project; however, the MWD is only able to get about 20% of its allocation because of the dry conditions/lack of stored water and environmental issues which limit the pumping allowed at the delta. However, the Colorado River source will be able to provide 100% of its contracted amount, unlike in previous years.

In anticipation of cutbacks, Specialist Blais said the City was "looking at its own house" to determine where it could save water. The City prepared a Water Conservation Shortage Plan in four phases to implement restrictions by encouraging the community to save water. The City Manager also asked staff to review all facilities and meters to reduce water use by 10%. They are working with Maintenance and Landscaping, Building and Facilities to install low flush toilets, and low-use irrigation systems. He said the MWD will soon issue an ultimatum on water cuts and will also implement both higher costs and steep penalties if water is not conserved as required.

Specialist Blais showed a graph of City usage of water from 2004 - 2006 (with parks consuming approximately 80% of water), well above the target goal of 10%. He noted that City landscaped areas use the most water by far as opposed to the buildings; however, the City is also looking at reducing water usage in the medians. He added that the Water Division is looking at individual meters to see where they can make cuts. He noted Laguna Lake as having the highest water usage with last year's usage of 27 million gallons versus the MWD average of under 12 million gallons due to the lake being drained in 2004 and 2005. However, he said MWD is looking at one raw water usage number for the whole City so there is some flexibility within the facilities. Specialist Blais

also mentioned the Sports Complex as the second highest user which has to reduce from 17 million gallons to about 13.5 million and Hillcrest Park which will require a reduction of 1.5 million acres. He said the Water Division is working with both Maintenance and Parks and Recreation to assist them in meeting their water savings goals.

Commissioner Spencer asked about all the grass in the parks, and if the City is going to just let them "go brown." Director Felz said a decision would be made by the MWD that staff will react to and present with recommendations next month; however, staff would like to get some general direction tonight from Commission on how to respond.

Chair Dasney noted the water reduction options were listed on Pages 3 and 4 of the related agenda letter, and asked if the choices were either 10% across the board, or different cuts at different parks for an overall 10% reduction. Director Felz noted that staff and Commission would have to try to forecast the public's reaction, but that once the issue is publicized, there could be a strong public reaction. He pointed out that the City does have a focus on youth, but couldn't say that this would color all decisions on which parks would remain green or which would go a little brown. He said this could impact commercial areas as well as geographic areas.

Commissioner Shanfield asked about the water loss at Laguna Lake and was told it has a direct connection to the City water service, and that it loses water through percolation and evaporation, i.e. it is essentially being filled constantly. Vice Chair Stanford noted that any large body of water would be subject to evaporation, and asked about the Janet Evans Swim Complex and how much water was used there. Specialist Blais said about 8.8 million gallons was used there in 2008 and 9.3 million gallons in 2007, and would need to be reduced to 6.7 million gallons.

Director Felz said that regarding Laguna Lake, a determination would have to be made regarding the impact of water reductions on the lake water level as well as the fish and the environment, and if it's acceptable to the public.

Commissioner Adam confirmed that there was one set number for water consumption requirements for the entire City including residents. She also had concerns that residents would not be happy if they saw their water bills increase due to water use at Laguna Lake and other parks. Director Felz agreed with her basic assessment but noted that these same citizens use the parks, i.e., it isn't just the City as a separate entity using the water for parks. She said, nonetheless, especially due to the economic crisis, the City is "going to hear it." Director Felz agreed, saying the City doesn't want to pass increased water rates to the citizens without their approval. Commissioner Adam asked how much it would cost, if the fields were allowed to go brown, to bring them back up to par.

Landscape Superintendent Dennis Quinlivan said a 10% reduction shouldn't make fields really brown, that there were ways to use the water more efficiently, and that it would be expensive to bring a brown field back. He felt staff could handle the 10% reduction without too many problems. However, he said some of the irrigation systems, especially the older ones at schools, will show the lack of good design in the sprinklers where some fields have been overwatered to compensate for sprinkler heads set too far apart.

He felt confident, since staff was already cutting back, that the 10% was doable although it would not be quite as lush as it was previously. Commissioner Adam asked if the

schools and the City are working on a plan to reduce water use at the parks, and Superintendent Quinlivan said they had already been doing this for the last couple of months, and that the Maintenance Department controls the school field watering and is installing Cal Sense controllers, so they were "ahead of the game." He noted that the water had been reduced at Duane Winters Field already, and although the turf could not be characterized as "plush green," it is still playable, safe and very green but not overwatered. He said his goal would be to have all the turf that shade of green.

Commissioner Adam asked about a reclaimed water system at the City and Superintendent Quinlivan said they don't have such a system. Director Felz said the potential development at Coyote Hills had reclaimed water. Water System Manager Dave Schickling said they were getting recycled water from out of state, but a recycling plant in Fullerton would be extremely cost prohibitive.

Commissioner Hayes asked about drought resistant turf, and Superintendent Quinlivan said no one had it yet as the technology of hybridizing grass was not advanced enough. He said he visited a site that was growing it, but it wasn't applicable for use, noting the only drought resistant turf would be synthetic turf.

Vice Chair Stanford asked about the 10% cut, and asked if the fields could be kept in shape for recreational use. Superintendent Quinlivan said he felt "pretty confident" that the City could do this and it was worth trying. He added that if other measures needed to be taken, this could be done when needed and determined by the Commission, and that perhaps some parks could have less water and the "high end sports fields" could use more water. Chair Dasney agreed, saying they didn't want to lose their investment in those sports fields. Superintendent Quinlivan said the City could also save water by not cutting the grass so low.

Chair Dasney asked if the Independence Park grass could be allowed to die since it would be master planned in a different direction, but Superintendent Quinlivan said it wouldn't be his call but that Commission could make such a recommendation. He again emphasized the 10% cut could be managed with new irrigators and support from the Water Division.

Commissioner Chen asked Superintendent Quinlivan if the City was watering during or after rainfall, and he said they shouldn't be and that they were much better about this than before. He said there were gauges that could be adjusted for rainfall or very hot days. Commissioner Chen said she liked his plan for maintaining the turf while also conserving water, but said broken pipes should be monitored and repaired. Superintendent Quinlivan said the Cal Sense monitors can be programmed to sense when there's too much water flowing due to a broken pipe and would shut down the valve automatically.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if the golf course and Arboretum were on the same system, but Director Felz said they were on their own meters and essentially private businesses subject to water limits like other businesses. He agreed with Commissioner Shanfield that they must use a lot of water, also. Commissioner Shanfield asked if the residents limited their water usage so that there were savings, if the parks could receive more water. Specialist Blais said the short answer was "yes," but that staff would have to monitor the consumption carefully on a monthly basis as any financial penalties would have to be passed onto the residents.

Chair Dasney asked about when they would hear again about the City's water usage. Director Felz said staff will wait to hear from the MWD this week and will react to that report. He said although 10% is what is being discussed, because of some of the City's unique water usage situation, the cuts may be deeper, and staff would need to get direction from commission to make recommendations on how to approach water conservation. Chair Dasney said it was more like a 30% reduction because the water usage was based on 2004 - 06 water usage, which Director Felz confirmed. He said this was why staff needed Commission direction to make a solid plan to prepare for the July 1 implementation date. Superintendent Quinlivan said the City is already meeting its 10% reduction goal, and that everything would be carefully monitored so there wouldn't be drastic water cuts to turf which would be "counter productive."

Specialist Blais said this was just a first step, that no one knew how long the dry conditions would last, and that there could be even greater and more painful cuts which the Commission would have to decide on. He said the Commission can recommend and Council can approve water fee increases to improve compliance. However, he said the Commission needed to look at the big picture while reviewing the data, to remember the City can't force residents to save water; but that it can look internally to fix water usage and that the biggest thing it can control is its parks. Furthermore, he said, it's important for the City to do whatever it can to reduce water and to provide a good example and leadership to the citizens, especially if it can reduce water usage without increasing rates, besides reducing instances where citizens complain about water increases while some parks might be over watered. Thus, he said staff needs the Commission's guidance to ascertain the vital areas and where cuts could be made.

Chair Dasney asked about the MWD decisions, and Manager Schickling said tomorrow the MWD board would make decisions on water cuts which are projected at a 10% regional cut although most communities only receive about 50% of their water from MWD, hence the cut will actually be more like 5% for most communities. He said their fee increases were expected to be about 40% in the next two years, which had already been raised 15% last year.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if the spray pools would be reduced, and Director Felz said they would be open although with some reduced hours at Valencia Park. He said except for Valencia Park, they have recirculating systems, and that staff was looking at reducing hours and usage.

Commissioner Chen asked if it's possible to change the park landscaping or convert it into basketball courts to reduce water usage. Director Felz agreed this option would be part of any discussion of any new development, noting that Lions Field will now have artificial turf. He thanked the Commission for its review of the matter.

6. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) REVIEW

Director Felz said the budget and capital improvement program presentation would be a brief overview with the budget returning to the Parks and Recreation Commission in May after Council reviews the budget next month. He noted that, as has been recent Department practice, staff had provided the Commission with ongoing highlights of

budget decisions throughout the year which would be included in the upcoming budget. He said Parks and Recreation staff had completed a lot of work on the internal budget, and that they had achieved the City goal of a 5% cut overall in the Department.

He said the biggest issue was one-time funding that had been used for ongoing salaries for the last several years, which was not a sound way to budget. In addition, the CDBG allocations of \$100,000 were diverted from Parks and Recreation and given to non-profits so the Department had to fill in that deficit as well

Director Felz said the Department did provide a balanced budget with some flexibility to handle changes. There was a shift from pooled funding for all programs to identify specific neighborhood centers, e.g., Gilbert, Garnet, Richman, Maple and Independence Park, as budget items, and then building the budget to support those centers. Also as Gilbert Community Center came on, this required funding, too. He said they used the state mandated student to staff ratios, i.e. 20:1, as a budget unit, which would make later adjustments easier to implement. Although there were some cutbacks, the Department was able to maintain its core services, he said, adding that staff hoped to fill a \$70,000 two-year funding budget gap with stimulus money.

Director Felz said, overall, Fullerton was in "fairly good shape," and that the State report showed retail revenue for Fullerton was down 8.4%, which was a lot better than many other cities. The City still had a fairly healthy reserve although it was shrinking as time went on. However, he said the Department had a good two-year plan, where further cuts, if needed, could be made in a reasonable fashion without a lot of panic.

He said there were few changes to the Capital Budget as the funds were mostly Redevelopment bond funds, and that the projects the City was involved with would continue. However, there were some projects that needed to be formalized and, hence, were placed on the capital projects lists, e.g., Pooch Park to be made a permanent facility, rubberized surfacing that required a budget because it has to be replaced every several years, Tri-City Park Master Plan funded by the County, potential projects of Bastanchury Tennis Center and Brea Dam Nature Center. The Valencia Park recirculating pump is included as is a revised Muckenthaler master plan. However, he said 99% of the work would be on projects the Department currently has. He added that the Commission could continue to review the budget and priorities after it got approved, and make any further needed changes.

Commissioner Chen asked about maintenance and operations costs after a capital project was completed. Director Felz said Lions Field had about a \$40,000 place holder for maintenance costs with synthetic turf, which will require a mid-budget adjustment as the project will be completed then. The remainder are renovation projects so there is existing funding for maintenance. Commissioner Chen asked about the new Community Center and Director Felz said while that project won't come into play for a few years, increased maintenance costs would definitely be included in the budget, although there would be some existing budget for it, plus maintenance fees from the Boys and Girls Club facility. Vice Chair Stanford suggested there should be additional user fees for the new Center that could assist with maintenance, and Director Felz agreed.

7. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

The KaBOOM! grant funding for Truslow Park was approved, which was essentially a technicality. The City had to donate \$15,000 upfront and hardscaping of about \$70,000. The opening was still slated for April 25.

A donation of \$2,000 was accepted from the Fullerton Collaborative in memory of Dave Johnson for the Gilbert Community Center. He was influential in getting the community center established.

The Richman Field lighting award of a bid was approved. The project is moving forward although there are some funding technicalities with the federal government, but a very reputable contractor, who assisted when the fields experienced copper wire thefts, will provide services soon with a good price. When asked, Director Felz said the copper thefts have pretty much stopped, partially due to proactive measures taken by Maintenance and Parks and Recreation staff. He said someone was arrested and charged on the copper wire theft at Bastanchury Park.

Vice Chair Stanford asked about sharing the field at Richman, and Manager Grace Carroll Lowe said it was going pretty well, and that the Rangers were also using the field so the Scouts were getting the idea that they needed to share the field.

8. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Felz said there wasn't much else to report on the budget, but the Department was wrapping up the year.

Regarding Capital Projects, he said the KaBOOM! playground project was "a big event" with a short timeline that would be wrapped up on Saturday, April 25. The schedule of activities was outlined and it was noted that breakfast, water, lunch and kids' activities would be made available for free for the volunteers.

Bids would be opened next week on Lions Field, and the groundbreaking was planned for May 5th. The hillside renovation would be addressed first, which could be shocking, and some negative reaction could be expected but there had been a great deal of public outreach and the work was absolutely necessary.

Other smaller projects at Laguna Lake and Lemon Park/Maple Center are also going ahead.

Many programs have kicked off including the Market which is now open, the summer programs are gearing up, and final paperwork has been obtained and completed to get the Richman Annex open. The opening was delayed due to the bankruptcy of the company manufacturing the modular unit.

Committees of the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission are ongoing including the Trail Ad Hoc and Community Center. The architect for the latter, Robert Coffee, has been selected, and staff was very excited about the "amazing work" he had done in the past on renovations of older building with new square footage and joint use.

The first two meetings of the new Hillcrest Master Plan Committee involved mostly reviewing and understanding the old master plan and the park, but were very positive. Its recommendation is to look at what existed in 1996 and then make a new Hillcrest master plan to move forward. As with the Community Center project, there will be a representative from Commission and staff to help choose an organization to create the master plan.

The Pooch Park Dog Park will be undergoing its annual renovation and open up again June 6th.

The 3rd Annual Kids' Fishing Derby is this Saturday, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Director Felz said the Commission would be having a special hearing May 18th to hear from residents and staff regarding the Puente Street Trail issue which Commission heard before. The new meeting will include essentially the same presentation but some residents will feel they have had more of an opportunity to speak.

Regarding ad hoc and advisory committees, including the Hillcrest Master Plan Committee, they will all report back to Commission and make recommendations to Commission. There will be some changes in how the announcements and meetings will be handled to ensure inclusiveness.

It was confirmed that the May 18th meeting was being held in addition to the regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on May 11th.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Shanfield reported on the Trail Committee, saying they had two meetings and that it was a good cross section of trail users: hikers, bikers, joggers, horse riders and new and long-time users. Issues included park hours and speed limits for cyclists on trails. She felt the group reached consensus and said that trail closure hours were recommended for 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. Although the Committee understood it wasn't easy to enforce the rules, they would provide something for law enforcement to use. The speed limit would be recommended as "safe control of the bicycle not over 25 miles per hour."

Chair Dasney asked if the memorial bench issue had returned to Council yet, and was told it had not yet gone back.

She also asked about Bastanchury Park parking, saying it appeared to her that the additional parking at the nursery seemed to help, and Manager Lowe agreed that that problem had been taken care of.

Commissioner Adam thanked Superintendent Quinlivan for allowing his staff, Grounds Maintenance Lead Worker Dave Bishop, to take her around the trails to show where mulch would be spread for her church's service project. When her truck was stolen along with her notes, he forwarded all his notes and pictures. She appreciated his outstanding efforts, and felt he would have done this for any member of the community.

Commissioner Shanfield noted signage at Laguna Lake and wondered if there was any reduction in litter and cigarette butts. Director Felz said the new rules just started so they

didn't have any feedback yet, and Manager Lowe noted the signage color will change in a couple of weeks to keep the public's attention.

The Commission recognized Commissioner Nancy Spencer's service, and she remarked that she had enjoyed her eight years with the Commission, that she had learned a lot about Parks and Recreation, felt it worked very well and that she was "very impressed." Chair Dasney said the Commission couldn't thank her enough for her expertise and knowledge, and that she would be receiving a tile plaque at a future City Council meeting. Director Felz also noted that former Commissioner and Chair Russell was applying to return as an at-large member but also applying for Planning Commission. When his status was determined, both he and Commissioner Spencer would then be recognized at a Council meeting.

Commissioner Spencer said she enjoyed her service, but had just been appointed as a trustee at CSUF.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stanford MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Spencer SECONDED the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Felz, Secretary

IF of