

**CITY OF FULLERTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

City Council Chamber
Monday, October 13, 2008
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Dasney called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Vice Chair Dasney led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawna Adam, Sueling Chen, Kathleen Dasney, Craig Russell (at 6:37), Kathleen Shanfield, Nancy Spencer and Scott Stanford

Absent: None

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Felz, Parks and Recreation Managers Alice Loya, Dannielle Mauk, Judy Peterson; Parks Project Manager Hugo Curiel; Landscape Superintendent Dennis Quinlivan; Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley; Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard; Events Specialist Ashley Glass

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 1 – 3)

Vice Chair Dasney MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Spencer SECONDED the motion to approve the consent items with the minutes corrected as noted below.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

Recommendation to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2008 Commission Meeting.

Vice-Chair Dasney asked that the Minutes on Page 4, Commissioner Comments, second paragraph, first sentence, be corrected to include a reference to a Hillcrest Park meeting. She turned the meeting over to Chair Russell who came at 6:37 p.m.

2. LANDSCAPE DIVISION MONTHLY REPORTS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2008

Recommendation to receive and file the Landscape Division August and September 2008 Monthly Reports.

3. BUILDING AND FACILITIES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORTS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2008

Recommendation to receive and file the Building and Facilities Division August and September 2008 Monthly Reports.

Vice Chair Dasney asked Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley about the spray pool closings, saying there was no date given for Valencia's spray pool closing. Director Joe Felz explained that the spray pools remained open through September except Valencia's which closed a week earlier due to needed maintenance. Vice Chair Dasney said it was "great" the spray pools were open past Labor Day since it was often hot in September, and asked if the attendance was good. Family and Senior Services Manager Judy Peterson replied that it was fair but the September weather was sometimes cool, so there were a couple of days when the Lemon spray pool closed a little earlier because no one was there.

Vice Chair Dasney asked about the tree lighting planned at the Museum Plaza, and Cultural Arts and Events Manager Dannielle Mauk said it was planned for the first weekend in December at Winter Fest, and that further details would be forthcoming when available.

Vice Chair Dasney also asked about the new custodial services contractor, Priority of Brea, and where they were ranked in the bidding. Superintendent Otley said there were a total of five bids including the discharged company, Bell, but two others were disqualified due to lack of experience, and the highest bid was disqualified due to an incomplete bid. He added that Maintenance cleared Priority with City Manager and Council and that, so far, it is learning the City's procedures. When asked, he said Priority has contracts with the cities of Torrance and Buena Park as well as large companies like Charter and ATT.

REGULAR BUSINESS (Items 4 – 10)

4. NAMING OF RICHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER ADDITION

Director Felz introduced the agenda item on the naming of the new Richman Community Center addition. He said representatives from Cal State University Fullerton (CSUF) made the request that the addition be named after Dr. Don Castro, who passed away suddenly in 2007. Director Felz noted Dr. Castro's strong involvement and support of the Richman Park Community Center and programs, saying Dr. Castro was widely recognized for being a driving force behind many of the recent efforts at Richman. He introduced Sandra Sutphen from CSUF who would speak about Dr. Castro, and further noted that the naming of the Center addition would be in keeping with the requirements of the City's Resolution No. 6278.

Vice Chair Dasney confirmed the proposed naming was only for the addition, and Director Felz agreed, saying the building is distinct from the other main building. When Vice Chair Dasney asked about the actual wording on the sign, Director Felz said a final recommendation on the wording would be at the pleasure of the Commission.

Commissioner Stanford said he was sure Dr. Castro was worthy of such an honor, but asked if there were others who were involved and might deserve the honor, too. Director Felz said he knew Dr. Castro but wasn't there at the time the grant was obtained; however, he had since learned that others were involved. Nonetheless, Dr. Castro had a special interest in the Richman community area, and he affirmed that Dr. Castro initiated and obtained the HUD grant. Commissioner Adam asked if others were interested in a nomination, and if these names could be brought forward, and Director Felz said yes.

Chair Russell said he felt, in reading the resolution, one had to be very careful in naming a building after someone. He said Dr. Castro's case might fall under 2.B., but that the threshold for a "significant leader" might not have been met. Vice Chair Dasney asked that they look at 2.C. of the resolution, saying naming could be for individuals or groups that dedicate services, land, facilities or funds to the City of Fullerton. Chair Russell, said he didn't want to come across harshly, but said he believed the honor was intended for those who donate their own money or lands to the City rather than those "filling out an application" and getting funds from a government entity.

Commissioner Shanfield asked about other buildings named after individuals, and Director Felz provided the examples and history of Janet Evans Swim Complex and Reinhardt Hall at the Senior Center. Manager Peterson said the gym at Independence Park was named after Francis Wood, and Director Felz and Administrative Manager Alice Loya said trails had been named after trail advocates. Manager Loya also gave the example of a baseball field at Nicolas Park being named after baseball great Gary Carter's father. Other named facilities and fields were mentioned including parks named after astronauts, a park superintendent, facilities at the Police Department named after a police chief, and Duane Winters Field, named after a longstanding council member. Commissioner Shanfield asked if these were brought before Commission and then to Council, and staff said that was the process. A short discussion of Commission's involvement in naming facilities followed. Director Felz said there were some items that went directly to Council, but Parks and Recreation was trying to have these items reviewed by Commission first. When asked by Commissioner Chen, Director Felz said that the request came from Si Abrego of Cal State Fullerton, a longstanding member of the CSUF staff who is now in Dr. Castro's position.

Sandra Sutphen, a retired professor of political science at CSUF, said she was hired in January to help oversee the HUD grant Dr. Castro had obtained. She clarified that the request came from the President's Office through Dr. Abrego. She also noted Dr. Castro's long involvement with the Fullerton community as well as nationally, particularly with the Latino community. Dr. Sutphen also explained that getting the grant was a much more intense and rigorous process than just filling out a form, particularly in light of the fact that CSUF just got turned down for a continuing grant. Commissioner Shanfield asked if Dr. Castro was deeply involved with the Fullerton Collaborative, and Dr. Sutphen said that was true, and that he was one of the proponents of the "educational community" collaborative concept.

Commissioner Adam asked again whether the community should be notified of the opportunity to name the Center. Director Felz said, normally, individuals make the proposal rather than the City seeking out nominations. Commissioner Adam said she didn't know this was possible, and asked if there was a way to publicize this. Director Felz said naming was a process where it would be widely recognized that someone should have the honor bestowed upon them rather than the Department seeking out nominations. While the City

could change the process and seek nominations as Commissioner Adam suggested, he said, if he could speak for the Council, it was satisfied with the current process and that Dr. Castro's nomination was an appropriate request. He said Parks and Recreation was not trying to be in a position to advocate any viewpoint, but staff tries to bring forth an accurate portrayal.

Vice Chair Dasney MADE A MOTION to accept the staff recommendation that the new addition to the Richman Park Community Center be named "The Don Castro Center" after the late Dr. Donald Castro. Commissioner Spencer SECONDED the motion. Chair Russell called for discussion, and began by saying he felt the bar had to be set "extremely high" to name facilities after people. He said Janet Evans was a clearly appropriate honoree, but with Dr. Castro, this might open the flood gates for the public asking that other worthy individuals be named after many of the City's parks or centers.

Commissioner Stanford acknowledged Dr. Castro's good work, but said Chair Russell brought up a good point, and that there might be a run on people wanting to name City facilities after an affirmative vote tonight, and asked about the criteria for naming. Director Felz said the only criteria that can be used was the resolution itself, but there was a hesitancy naming facilities after people who are still living, although he understood that the naming was somewhat unusual due to Dr. Castro's position. Director Felz said regarding other nominations, staff would apply a screening process.

Commissioner Chen asked if the Richman Center addition project and programs would have happened if Dr. Castro had not intervened. Director Felz said many have said that without Dr. Castro's involvement, the grant would not have been awarded. Commissioner Stanford asked how the addition would be named, and Director Felz said there would be a sign with "The Don Castro Center" written on it, that the addition was about two-thirds the size of the original center, and that it was permanent and clearly an addition.

Chair Russell said he felt there were other measures that could be taken to acknowledge Dr. Castro, saying he would vote against the motion but would be willing to consider some kind of "plaqueing" dedicating the building to his efforts. He asked about the unsuccessful grant application mentioned by Dr. Sutphen, and Director Felz clarified that staff is continuously applying for grants, and that particular one was denied. Manager Peterson said that the original three-year grant approved by Commission had just ended Sept. 30, 2008. Director Felz said the next HUD grant was not successful, that they were seeking further funding, and that the honoring of Dr. Castro was for the facility that was built through grant monies. Chair Russell asked and was told \$217,000 of the \$600,000 grant was for the building, and the remainder was for programming.

Director Felz explained that, procedurally, the Commission is free to entertain other ideas and to provide staff with direction which would be reflected in a future recommendation to Council. He added that the wording is also open for discussion. Commissioner Chen asked if there were other options for naming the building, if it was not named the Don Castro Center, and how it could be easily identified by the public. Director Felz said the addition would be called something like "The South Building," "The Addition," or "Building #2" if it was decided not to name the center addition after Dr. Castro.

Hearing no other discussion, Chair Russell called for the vote.

AYES: Chen, Dasney, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford
NOES: Adam, Russell
ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED on a 5 to 2 vote.

5. MEMORIAL TREE AND BENCH DONATIONS

Director Felz introduced the Memorial Tree and Bench Policy, saying the item came up due to a recent request for a memorial bench and thus, staff had reviewed the policy which required occasional Commission review. He said that while the program has worked well, the allowable wording for plaques was rather restrictive, only "Donated By" or Dedicated To," hence, perhaps additional phrases should be allowed. While the entire policy could be up for discussion, Director Felz said staff was recommending that the portion of the policy regarding allowable wording be brought back to Commission next month for a vote. He stated further that the City Attorney had been consulted on this, and that Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard would be able to provide a summary.

Vice Chair Dasney asked about the phrase in the agenda letter, "viewpoint neutral," and what that meant. Specialist Pickard said the City Attorney said once a policy is set, the enforcement of the policy must be "viewpoint neutral; he gave the example of religious wording being allowed which would mean that all religious wording must be allowed regardless if the donor were Christian or Buddhist. Director Felz said, in light of this advice from the City Attorney, staff is recommending a very specific list of phrases but to allow for more warmth and emotion in the wording. Commissioner Spencer asked how many words could be put on a 3" x 5" plaque. Parks Project Manager said it depends on the plaques, but they were not meant to be read from afar so the font size would be sufficient. Director Felz said the proposed policy would only add a few more words to each phrase to make the plaques more personal so the relatively small size should not be impacted by tonight's proposal.

Commissioner Shanfield thought there might have been consideration of wording at a previous meeting, and Commissioner Adam said she remembered something like that, too. Director Felz said Commission approved a memorial bench application but, based on the resolution, the wording couldn't be changed. The commissioners asked about the status of the last memorial bench, and Parks Project Manager Curiel said the bench was in process, and was being manufactured along with a plaque.

Vice Chair Dasney asked about the wording, and if the Commission could recommend religious or poetic statements. Director Felz said Commission could give any direction it pleased, and staff would bring back an amended policy with those guidelines. However, he cautioned that it would be difficult to draw the line on religious and poetic wording; Vice Chair Dasney agreed, saying it was easier not to go there. She then asked if another 3" x 5" plaque could be set next to the first one and Commissioner Spencer thought it was a good idea. Director Felz said they could try to do this, but City Attorney might have some reservations about this. Commissioner Spencer asked about the City Attorney's recommendations on religious wording. Vice Chair Dasney reminded her of the "viewpoint neutral" requirement so that religious wording would have to be open to all religions.

Commissioner Adam said she was open to more freedom of expression as it was more personal, especially as the donor was paying for the donation. A discussion ensued where

commissioners agreed that one had to be more careful what one places in a public space. Director Felz said the City Attorney's recommendation would be to not go in that direction, but to find a balance that would allow for more emotion.

There was a discussion of memorial benches at other non-City locations with the clarification that the benches would only be placed on City property. Director Felz also clarified that after staff received direction from the Commission, they would develop an agenda letter with a list of phrases to which the Commission could review and respond.

Commissioner Shanfield said she would, at the very least, like to see other options, e.g. "In Loving Memory," as the current options appeared rather cold and terse. Commissioner Chen asked if the benches were for sale with more options rather than just memorial phrases, and Director Felz said it was, e.g. "Donated By."

Commissioner Stanford said they should limit the plaques to a finite number of phrases. Commissioner Chen agreed, saying there could be a choice within some options. Director Felz said a motion was not necessary if there was consensus from the Commission that staff would come back to Commission with some wording options for discussion. This was agreed to by Commission.

Vice Chair Dasney noted that the name "Community Services" should be changed to "Parks and Recreation" in Resolution 9701. Director Felz said he would consult with the City Clerk about this.

6. REVIEW OF CHANGES TO NIGHT IN FULLERTON

Director Felz introduced Cultural Arts and Events Division Manager Dannielle Mauk who said the historic Night in Fullerton (NIF) was in its 44th year but was beginning to lose participation and interest, so a sub-committee of the larger NIF Committee was formed to make recommendations on improvements to the event. She said, since then, the interest in participation has more than doubled including from smaller galleries and artists.

Manager Mauk introduced Events Coordinator Ashley Glass who provided a Power Point overview, saying the date was moved from April to November 9th, and the time was set earlier at 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. to accommodate families with young children. She said NIF will be centralized in Downtown, although some larger organizations couldn't participate through their sites due to scheduling conflicts; however, they would have booths in the Plaza to sell tickets or present short performances. Another change is that City vans will be used to transport participants instead of hired buses, reducing costs.

Now, commercial art would be allowed for sale, which had drawn more people to participate. Booths would be set up as they are done during the Market. She said rockabilly artist James Intveld, who is well known and has a large following, will perform.

A list of 11 participating sites and organizations was provided, as was a list of information and art booths, and activity and entertainment booths. Unlike previous years, a full color brochure would be provided with a program of NIF, art exhibits, public art, and a list of arts organizations, which will be published yearly. Chair Russell asked if the program and art information was new, and was told it was.

Vice Chair Dasney asked if the art projects were fee-based, and Coordinator Glass said one was and one wasn't. When asked about food, she said vendors would provide food, restaurants would be open, and the sites could provide free drinks. It was confirmed that the participants/vendors could sell their products such as CD's, tickets, and art, that night.

Commissioner Shanfield asked about the Fox Theatre, and Coordinator Glass said people would be allowed to enter the Fox, and Director Felz said that there was a one-time exemption by the Fire Department.

Commissioner Stanford asked about liability with transportation, and Director Felz said the City Attorney had allowed it, the City was insured, drivers were certified, and it was further noted that there were several other events that utilize City transportation. Manager Mauk noted the cost savings in school buses not being used and in not using large lights at every site - only four large searchlights this year.

Commissioner Chen asked about attendance, and Manager Mauk said, in the last several years, it had been about 5,000 to 7,000; Director Felz said in previous years it had been 12,000. Manager Mauk said that the programs and sites became very repetitive, hence the new change and fresh approach. Commissioner Chen asked about closing streets, and Manager Mauk said Wilshire would be closed, and the goal was to make it bigger and better each year.

Chair Russell said allowing vendors to sell products changes the equation, adding he didn't mind the change, but wondered if the vendors should pay more. Manager Mauk said each site can't charge for entrance; hence there was a trade-off. She said the booths are paying a fee and that the long-term goal was to raise funds. She said this year, they need to raise \$9500 to meet the budget. Director Felz said selling is a long-standing issue with NIF and that they have discussed a percentage of profits going to NIF, making some distinction between for- and non-profits. Vice-Chair Dasney noted that historically, the founders and purists saw the event as solely for the arts, hence, no sales should be allowed; thus, the big change was to allow some sales to attract more people.

Manager Mauk agreed vendors could be charged a percentage of profits, although non-profits and for-profits would be treated different, with for-profits charged \$150 for a booth this year while non-profits were only charged \$35. Some long-standing participants who couldn't use their sites were allowed to use booths free of charge. Vice Chair Dasney asked, and it was confirmed that donations were requested through the water bill, and that a report would be provided soon.

7. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Director Felz discussed the following Council items:

- Approval of an amendment to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Grant for Laguna Lake, providing for an additional \$120,000 to the original \$500,000 grant amount to cover increases in landscaping costs.
- Appointment of the two at-large members of the Hillcrest Park Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee, Katie Dalton and Debra Richey. Director Felz noted Debra Richey wrote the document that put Hillcrest Park on the National Registry.

- Public Comments: A citizen reported an unsafe condition located adjacent to the City undeveloped park site at the Amerige Heights development. The City Council directed staff to investigate and take steps to correct the problem. Director Felz said the Parks Project Manager Hugo Curiel and Specialist Doug Pickard took care of the problem.

8. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Felz provided updates on the following:

- Capital Project Updates

Entry Monuments and Public Art - Tabled by the Council due to the lateness of the evening. Director Felz said this would be reviewed after the new year. However, Council directed the Public Art Committee and Mural Committee to make a recommendation to Commission regarding the overpass mural which has already been reviewed by the Public Art Committee and the entry monuments.

Hillcrest Park – As noted earlier, the Hillcrest Park Committee has been named, and background work and documentation is being prepared.

Lemon Park – Staff has met with the two Commission appointees to the Ad Hoc Committee, with recommendations for committee members coming to the November Commission meeting. Preliminary designs will be started soon.

Civic Center Update – The City has received applications from seven or eight big, qualified firms with Commission members appointed to this committee.

Lions Field – Staff has taken two big steps with the Redevelopment Design Review Committee looking at architectural style per Commission direction with final approval to be sought December 16th at Council. There is one more informal meeting regarding the hillside and slope failure with renderings.

Vice Chair Dasney reminded Director Felz that she had requested that Commission be made aware of meetings like the RDRC. Director Felz apologized, saying there was a meeting last week. He provided an overview of the renderings of Lions Field, noting that the new design would make a “bold statement.” He also reviewed the plans for the new fields, landscaping, and retaining walls to address the slope failures. He also noted the City would be able to re-establish a trail connection within this project.

Director Felz said the City is on track for the December 16th Council at which they will be asking for approval of “65% plans,” i.e., completion of 65% of the plans when they sign a contract with the program management at-risk manager.

Director Felz said the other major items before Council on Lions Field is a creative solution to the parking lot problems, hill and slope failures being addressed, architectural features, and synthetic versus natural turf, which staff is trying to demystify. He said heat build-up is one factor.

Director Felz then showed a site plan and the new trail connection and a strongly-recommended architectural style, supported by Fullerton Heritage and the RDRC, which staff likes it because it uses sturdy materials. He added that any recommendations by Commission would be completed before December 16th, and that staff was looking forward to the construction project.

- Fall Program Updates

Manager Mauk announced the Fullerton Market was closing November 20th and the new exhibit on women's purses would be opening this Friday.

All the after school programs are open and running at capacity with waiting lists, and the new Gilbert Park Community Center will be opening in four to six weeks, and the Richman Community Center Addition is scheduled for November 4th.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Dasney asked if there would be a response or rebuttal on the artificial turf issue reported in the Observer, and Director Felz said he had spoken with the Observer editor, but the item would come to Council on December 16th. He noted that the turf staff is looking at it completely lead-free.

Vice Chair Dasney thanked Parks Project Specialist Pickard for the Hillcrest tour and historical information provided. She asked about Fire Marshal and fire zones, and Director Felz said he inquired last week but hadn't heard back. He said this was probably part of the legislation that had been approved, and hoped to get a response soon.

Vice Chair Dasney asked about the re-naming of the Red Cross Building, which had nothing to do with the Red Cross, and suggested naming it after the first use of the building, which was a library. For example, she said it could be named after the first children's librarian, Mary Campbell. Director Felz said the history of the building could be researched and a discussion could begin on this.

Chair Russell said, regarding Lions Field, that it bothered him that Council was making the decision on artificial turf instead of Commission, even though there had been an opportunity for the public to comment on some of the issues which, instead, came up afterwards. Director Felz responded that staff could bring forward some new information on artificial turf in November although there wouldn't be much, and that the Commission's recommendation and minutes are going in the 65% plan to Council. He said Commission could also hear the issue and make another recommendation if they wanted. Chair Russell said he was comfortable with his decision and didn't want to bother staff. Director Felz said the main reason this issue came up was that the State Attorney General filed a Prop 65 violation lawsuit against some artificial turf manufacturers after Commission had reviewed the matter.

Chair Russell commented on the naming of facilities, noting there were three council members, Winter, Wood, and Ward honored.

Chair Russell also commented on the funding, asking what the funding for programs at the Castro Center was since the original grant was over and a continuing grant request was not approved. Director Felz said there is no new City funding at Richman but there is funding from some other non-profits as well as Independence Park programs expanding to Richman. Commissioner Chen asked what the difference was with and without Dr. Castro's involvement. Due to the lack of HUD funding, Director Felz said one-fourth of a staff's salary would have to be paid by the City and the programming was reduced although budgeting was allotted for this over a year ago. He said he couldn't predict if Dr. Castro would have

been able to bring in the funding were he alive although he was a skilled negotiator and the project management after his passing was lacking.

Commissioner Chen asked about the programming at Richman Park, and Director Felz said there is City, school district and YMCA programming currently, and they will also be involved with CSUF. When asked, Manager Peterson said CSUF provided the building, but didn't really provide the programming.

Chair Russell said this was another example of staff telling Commission a structure on the park was needed for programming, but the programming didn't happen; however, now there was a permanent building on the park with a name on it. Director Felz said it was a difficult situation, but in the last five years, Commission was being consulted more on grants.

Commissioner Spencer said the City calls itself the education community, but there seem to be legitimate concerns that CSUF, Fullerton College and the City don't collaborate enough, adding that she's part of a group trying to foster this connection. She said the Richman grant was an example of a step in that direction with a cooperative venture. Chair Russell said the City cooperated, but CSUF didn't.

Director Felz made a request to move the next Commission meeting to November 17th because he would be out of town on November 10th, and the commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Shanfield said grants seem to be funded more when there are collaborative efforts; however, in the last year, fewer grants were being awarded. She wondered if this was a trend due to the economy. Director Felz said government lags two or three years behind private entities, and that the fewer grants was probably due to the state budget not being passed, there are fewer earmarks and funding of special projects on the federal level. He said the poor economy meant fewer bonds were being approved, and there was less revenue and lower property values. Director Felz noted that Fullerton has a very healthy reserve but the economic downturn will affect everyone.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Felz, Secretary

JF:pf