

**PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 2013**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Jimenez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:**
 - a. Present: Commissioner Jimenez; Commissioner Gouveia; Commissioner Saltzman; Commissioner Holguin; Commissioner Ettinger
 - b. Absent: Commissioner Birk; Commissioner Jayne
 - c. Staff Present: Vanessa Carrera, Management Analyst II; Kim Scarlata, Recreation Manager
 - d. Recorded By: Stephanie Garcia, Executive Assistant
3. **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Robert Tanner, 1371 Rusher Street, stated that he is against the idea of consolidating the Parks Commission with other City commissions. He expressed that each Commission is dedicated to a specific area, such as parks, arts or youth related topics. Robert added that it makes sense for a Senior Commission to be formed to concentrate on the senior community.
4. **Discuss and Provide Feedback on the Potential Formation of a Senior Advisory Commission** – Staff provided an overview on the staff report.

The general consensus gathered from the Parks and Community Services Commission was to add a youth advisory member to the Parks Commission, but refrain from adding a senior commission or consolidating the Arts, Parks and Youth Commissions.

Staff encouraged the Parks Commissioners to take their comments and or concerns to the City Council on July 2, 2013, as a member of the community.

Commissioner Saltzman stated that Council will make the decision based on their needs. Given that, she is not afraid to lose her “volunteer” position to be on a combined commission. She expressed that it would be unfortunate to combine very distinct groups that deal with different issues. Commissioner Saltzman stated that senior representation is absolutely important, and perhaps there is a way of doing so without having to spend \$27,000 annually to develop a new senior commission, but rather change the existing Parks Commission structure. Staff said that could be considered by amending the Parks Commission Ordinance and the by-laws.

Commissioner Gouveia spoke as a Representative of Tracy Unified School District. He asked staff if the Commissions consolidate, will a representative from the Tracy Unified School District still have a seat on the Parks Commission? Staff stated that this would be up for discussion. Commissioner Gouveia added that with an 11-person commission there may be challenges with group dynamics as well as personal agendas and political positions. He added that if the City is having a difficult time supporting the various commissions with staff (considering the organizational downsizing that has taken place), the City should invest funds into another position dedicated to support the commissions.

Commissioner Holguin asked if staff researched other surrounding cities regarding the consolidation of commissions. Staff stated that over 10 regional cities had developed senior commissions and numerous California cities have undergone commission consolidation. Commissioner Holguin supported having youth representation on the Parks Commission, but felt that consolidating the Arts, Parks and Youth Commissions can present challenges related to time commitment and project execution.

Commissioner Ettinger expressed that consolidating the commission would compromise the value of what each commission is striving to accomplish, especially because there are different objectives and goals that each commission is striving to accomplish. She stated her support for adding a youth representative to the Parks Commission, and added that maintaining the status quo would not rectify the problem of increasing community representation.

Commissioner Jimenez asked staff for clarification on the staff report, as it relates to previous board/commission recruitment challenges. Staff stated that the City Clerk has had difficulty recruiting for City commissions. Staff has had to make several attempts to recruit community members to apply, and that the process would be easier if there was a single commission to recruit for. Commissioner Jimenez felt that the same recruitment challenges would exist with a consolidated commission. Commissioner Jimenez also stated that senior representation already exists on the Parks and Arts Commissions. She explained that three seniors serve on the Arts Commission and four seniors serve on the Parks Commission, and that should provide adequate senior representation without creating the need for a separate senior commission. Commissioner Jimenez supported the idea of adding a youth representative to the Parks Commission, but was not in support of consolidating commissions or adding a senior advisory commission.

5. **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Mr. Tanner stated that staff should explore the option of having the commissioners volunteer their time and not pay them a stipend for attending meetings.
6. **ADJOURNMENT:**
 - a. Motion: Commissioner Gouveia
 - b. Second: Commissioner Saltzman
 - c. Vote: Unanimous
 - d. Time: 7:55 p.m.