

**CARMICHAEL RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES: ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 8, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING**

Directors: Arredondo-Carroll, Borman, Dax-Conroy, Rockenstein, and Younger

CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District Advisory Board of Directors was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chairman Rockenstein.

ROLL CALL:

Directors Present: Arredondo-Carroll, Borman, Dax-Conroy, Rockenstein and Younger
Directors Absent: None
Staff Present: Smith, Kerth, Maddison and Penney
Staff Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Rockenstein led the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST WITHIN DISTRICT JURISDICTION ON ITEM(S) SCHEDULED ON THE AGENDA – Joan Komaromi reiterated her request made 1 ½ years ago for a bridge for Schweitzer Grove Nature Area to be considered for the District budget.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. LA SIERRA COMMUNITY CENTER – MURAL PROPOSAL (Kerth)

Tracy addressed the Advisory Board about a proposal submitted by the California Montessori Project School (CMP) to paint murals on the exterior west side walls of the La Sierra Community Center. She made a recommendation to approve their proposal as an opportunity to dress up the exterior of the Center, complimenting previous installation of mosaic murals on the south walls created by students from the Short Center. CMP has been a great tenant and will be responsible for all costs and maintenance associated with the project.

Gary Bowman, Executive Director of CMP, spoke about their education program and their appreciation of working with the District on various projects at the Center; to restore and develop a highly usable, aesthetic space. The proposal consisted of five murals to be painted over the next three to five years.

Director Carroll inquired about the number of students that will be enrolled once CMP occupies the 300 Wing. Bowman replied that 700 students will be served.

Director Borman shared her concerns with regard to Mural #2 which depicts a Native American in a historical setting. She cited an experience she had while principal of a San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) school that they were required to paint over a Native American because of an issue over stereotype.

Bowman offered to share the proposal with the SJUSD to receive their input, since CMP is a SJUSD charter school.

MOTION 1

M: Carroll S: Borman – The Advisory Board voted to approve the proposal by CMP to paint murals on the exterior west side walls of the La Sierra Community Center; that at the time that CMP is ready to paint Mural #2 that they solicit review by the appropriate upper level administration of SJUSD.

Vote: Unanimous

Approved.

For the record: Prior to the presentation, discussion, and action on item #2, Director Conroy recuse herself from participation on account of a conflict of interest due to the proximity of Carmichael Park to her property. After her statement, she left the meeting.

2. CARMICHAEL PARK MASTER PLAN (Smith)

Administrator Smith provided a general background of the master plan process and then introduced Steve Canada, Senior Principal Landscape Architect with HLA Group, Inc. to share the master plan proposal.

Canada outlined the process that culminated in the proposal for the Carmichael Park Master Plan. Various community and committee meetings were held to develop concept alternatives. The alternatives retained the tennis courts, district office, Clubhouse, and Vets Hall; retained uses with adjustments for the maintenance shop, dog park, ball diamonds, and group picnic area, while creating additional picnic areas, an event space for community gatherings, additional parking areas, skate park, and aquatic/water park. Ultimately two concepts were shared for Board consideration, B and B-1. Key differences were the placement of some of the ball diamonds, picnic and parking areas, and the maintenance shop.

Public Comments and Advisory Board Discussion

Larry Campbell, non-district resident representing senior softball said many desirable changes were included; recommended that the District prioritize the improvements to accomplish new facilities which don't exist now like the skate park and save proposed changes for the adult softball fields for last.

Bob Kerr, district resident - supported the skate park and questioned how soon it could be built.

Chairman Rockenstein shared that it was too soon to tell; that approval of a plan would not mean allocation to spend; that the plan tries to address facility uses and needs. Implementation of the plan would involve project prioritization, and identification and budgeting of funds.

Director Younger indicated that the District does not have the funds to implement the plan.

Kerr was thankful that the skate park was included in the master plan and offered assistance to solicit donations.

Canada offered an estimate of \$25.8m using today's construction costs for re-development of the 38 acres. Phasing the projects would allow the District to accomplish the projects over time; would cost more since implementing the plan at one time would yield the benefit of economy of scale.

Chairman Rockenstein questioned staff about whether there had ever been a master plan for Carmichael Park. Staff responded that there was never an overall plan since the park was acquired and developed in segments.

Director Younger suggested that if the District uses a phasing approach, that some improvements would affect other existing structures and/or elements. He questioned whether parking areas are full. Both Canada and Keith responded that frequently every single space is used as well as over flow into the nearby neighborhoods. Director Carroll concurred, stating that even last week with the Food Truck event and three ball games in play, that parking was difficult to find.

Donna Owens, district resident – she preferred and recommended angled parking spaces rather straight, development of the community event space over the aquatic/water park.

Administrator Smith clarified the description of the aquatic/water park; that the project is included in the assessment, if passed.

Director Younger reiterated that the master plan is a concept plan and road map, not the design plan; that if the assessment passed, there would be a sequence of events before the funds would trickle in; the District will be approving a plan not funding.

Debra Desrosiers, non-district resident – stated that \$25m is a lot of money, questioned the number of parking spaces now and how many would be added.

Canada responded that there are 397 parking spaces now, the master plan proposal calls for 400 without including parking along the road.

Chairman Rockenstein said that the assessment could be one source for development while others could include foundation and private donations.

Tracy Kerth offered that the District needs a plan in order to apply for grants.

Ron Smith told the Board that he plays softball three times a week. He is concerned that there are not enough ball fields included in the plan; that the plan should include a 40' high fence because some players hit the ball out. Campbell with senior softball concurred.

Victoria Davi, non-district resident – Pointed out that since the 2008 adoption of the District-wide Master Plan, the District has made a tremendous effort without an assessment.

Chairman Rockenstein explained how the three parks developed since adoption of the District-wide Master Plan were funded, as follows: Jan Park – combination of a grant, donations and volunteer assistance, and in-lieu fees; Patriots Park – combination of land sale, grant and in-lieu fees; O'Donnell Heritage Park – combination of donations, volunteer labor, and in-lieu fees.

Director Younger liked the revisions reflected in the B-1 plan. It responds well to the input received with more opportunities than disadvantages; benefits to the entire community; preferred other than the cost.

Director Carroll agreed – the plan is a roadmap that can be implemented when and if funding becomes available; keeps many of the existing uses while allowing for so many more.

Chairman Rockenstein concurred – the plan will also accommodate existing users and bring in more and ties in with the County’s plan for Fair Oaks Boulevard. He shared how he and Director Younger had continued to meet in committee to try to incorporate the most; that the layout is the best use taking in account the land constraints. To design and build the plan, the District will need funding. The Advisory Board is tasked with prioritizing the funding. He encouraged the community to stay involved; it’s their parks.

MOTION 2

M: Younger S: Rockenstein – The Advisory Board voted to: Approve and recommend an updated master plan, Concept B-1, for Carmichael Park, as presented; to submit the Master Plan and CEQA documents to the Board of Supervisors for final approval and adoption. Prior to going forward, staff to bring back segments for design and to indentify funding. Vote: Unanimous of those present. Absent: Director Conroy had recuse herself.

Approved.

Chairman Rockenstein thanked HLA Group, Inc. and the public for being involved in the process.
Canada also thanked the public for their participation.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

1. Regular Meeting

Proposed: Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 6:00 pm, Community Clubhouse #2, at Carmichael Park

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid S. Penney,
Administrative Services Manager

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

MICHAEL ROCKENSTEIN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

BETTY PHILLIPS
Administrative Secretary
Clerk of the Advisory Board of Directors