



Hayward Area Recreation and Park District

1099 'E' Street, Hayward, CA 94541

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MINUTES

Castro Valley Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

June 25, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The Castro Valley Ad Hoc Advisory Committee (CVAC) Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Martin Carpon at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 in the Conference Room of the Administration Building at 1099 'E' Street, Hayward.

ROLL CALL

Present: Andrade, Capron, Jameson, Linney, Loss, Stavosky, Waespi, Gouveia, Lepore, Hamid

Absent: Crawford, Hersch, Keyser, Metzler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes –
5/28/08

It was moved by Mr. Dennis Waespi, second by Ms. Jo Loss and unanimously carried to approve the Wednesday, May 28, 2008 meeting Minutes of the Castro Valley Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. (Abstain: Linney).

ESTABLISH SUB-COMMITTEES (PARK SITE VISITS)

A copy of the Castro Valley Facility List was distributed for Committee review, which included the amenities of each park site. A map of the Castro Valley area was also presented for information of the Committee. The Committee discussed establishing subcommittees that would conduct informal park and school park site visits in Castro Valley to survey needs/improvements, and to report back any findings to the CVAC and/or HARD Staff. Discussion was also held on the selection process of the subcommittees and various strategies to conduct the site visits.

Selection
Process &
Strategies of
Subcommittees
& Purview of
CVAC
Discussed

A brief debate was held on the purview of the Committee as it relates to park visits. Some Committee members expressed that while they support the Committee's decision to conduct the site visits, doing so would not fall under the original purposes of the CVAC. Other comments expressed were that the Committee acts as the "eyes and ears" of the community and that conducting the visits would be a worthwhile project and within the scope and purposes of the Committee.

Governor
Schwarzenegger
Declares
Official
Drought

For information of the Committee, Mr. Gouveia explained that Staff conducts routine site visits to keep apprised of maintenance/repairs and improvements/amenity needs; however, it would be helpful to receive input from the community's perspective, who may be able to identify park needs other than those known to Staff. Mr. Gouveia noted that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared an official drought for the State of California and, subsequently, the District will begin cutbacks on field irrigation to conserve water, i.e. the Castro Valley Water Park, which does not use recycled water.

ESTABLISH SUB-

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to conduct informal

**COMMITTEES
(PARK SITE
VISITS)** (Continued)

Report on
Subcommittee
Findings –
7/28/08

site visits/surveys of the parks outlined in the Castro Valley Park list, following which each member selected a site(s) of their choice. It was noted that each subcommittee would not exceed three (3) members, in order to comply with the Brown Act, and any absent members would be contacted to select a subcommittee(s) of their choice.

In closing, Vice-Chairman Capron stated that the subcommittees would report any findings during the next meeting of the CVAC scheduled on July 23rd, and as suggested by Ms. Loss, accompanied by Google Earth Technology.

STAFF REPORT

Fairmont
Terrace
Property –

Report on
Meeting With
Alameda County
Suprv. Alice
Lai-Bitker
& Seth Kaplan
of Supv. Nate
Miley's Office

Mr. Gouveia reported that Staff met with Alameda County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker and her staff, along with Mr. Seth Kaplan of Supervisor Nate Miley's office to receive input on identifying the Fairmont Terrace property as part of EBRPD's Measure AA extension, which was discussed by the Committee during their May 28, 2008 meeting. Mr. Gouveia said that the proposed project was well received and Supervisor Lai-Bitker seems to be very supportive of the project, and stated that she would explore the status of the property, with plans to meet on the subject again following further research. It was noted that the County has designated one (1) acre of parkland on that site, with various other vague plans including an office building and a possible parking lot.

Discussion On
Identifying
Fairmont
Terrace
Property
For Measure AA
Extension

Discussion was held on the feasibility of including this site as a selling point for the Measure AA extension. In general the Committee felt that the site has great potential, including serving a multi-community area such as the Ashland, El Portal Ridge and Fairmont communities, and could offer a trail/equestrian system, and opportunities for a joint-venture project with Fairmont Hospital. However, given the time constraints of placing the project on the ballot, it may not be feasible to include it as a sellable property for the Measure AA extension. Mr. Waespi commented that although the project cannot be included on the ballot, it should be noted that funds from the additional \$375 million that would be made available following successful passage of the bond could be solicited for this project.

Director Andrade noted that the Committee must keep in mind that it may take some time before the park is complete, as with Hillcrest Knolls Park which took almost seven (7) years before it became a reality.

Comments –
Mr. Neil
Linney

Mr. Linney expressed that although the project seems to be a good idea, the project is out of the parameters of the CVAC and may deter focus from Castro Valley and receive opposition from Castro Valley residents as well. He said that rather than being overseen by the CVAC, the project should be absorbed by the District-wide Citizens Advisory Committee and that it doesn't seem feasible for the Measure AA extension. He said that the \$3 million set aside for Castro Valley could be better utilized in other Castro Valley neighborhoods such as those lacking a park, or projects like revitalizing Earl Warren Park.

**STAFF REPORT
(Continued)**

For clarification, Vice-Chairman Capron stated that the purpose of the meeting

Comments – Mr. Capron was to find out if it would be possible to identify the Fairmont Terrace property as a “sexy” park for the Measure AA extension, and although the project seems to be a great vision, it may not be a viable site for Measure AA at this time. However, he said that the CVAC has at least opened the doors for Staff to continue to work with Supervisor Nate Miley.

PROJECT UPDATES

CVUSD/HARD MOU The CVUSD/HARD Master Facilities Use Agreement was distributed for information of the Committee. Mr. Gouveia reported that the joint-committee was established for oversight of the CVUSD/HARD MOU and held their first meeting on Tuesday, June 24th, where they discussed various park projects between the two agencies. He noted that the MOU specifies how the Committee is to work and the responsibilities of each agency.

Report on First Meeting Of MOU Joint Staff Committee Mr. Larry Lepore, Superintendent of Parks, reiterated that the first meeting of the joint-committee was to review the language in the agreement, as well as shared and specific priorities of both agencies. He outlined various parts of the agreement, including provisions of the priorities and responsibilities of both agencies as it relates to site improvements and explained that the CVUSD is responsible for maintaining all School District sites and that the CVUSD contracts with HARD for minor mowing.

Marshall School Field Renovation Director Andrade commented on the CVAC’s recommendation to renovate the Marshall School fields. He said that while the HARD Board can re-negotiate decisions made between the two agencies, as the CVUSD/HARD MOU is a joint staff effort, the project does not appear to be a priority for the School District and are more concerned with other joint projects such as the Adobe Park project and the parking lot at the Castro Valley Community Center next to Chabot Elementary School. Director Andrade stated that although the HARD Board may approve the project, an agreement must be reached from both agencies and said that he will present the issue to the Board to receive input from the Staff and the community in an open forum.

Comments – Jo Loss, CVAC Member & President of CVUSD Board of Trustees Ms. Jo Loss, President of the CVUSD Board of Trustees, stated the amount of funds available through Measure B funds is very limited and that the School District is focused on academic achievement, safety and lifetime fitness for their students. She expressed that revitalizing dirt fields such as those at Marshall would not be a priority for the School District, rather than green fields that provide maximum use and space for all-around physical education, noting the substantial increase in the number of students using the fields over the years. Ms. Loss also stated that it is laudable that the School District no longer uses deferred maintenance funds for academic achievement and 100% of those funds will now be used to maintain school fields. She concluded by stating that the CVAC’s recommendation to renovate the Marshall School fields is valid; however, it is not currently a priority for the School District. Mr. Lepore commented that Staff supports greening the fields.

PROJECT UPDATES
(Continued)

In response to Committee questions, Staff and the Board commented that the demand of sports fields in Castro Valley has been a long-term issue.

Adobe Park Renovation Mr. Lepore gave a brief report on the renovation of Adobe Park. He reported that prospective contractors are scheduled to attend the job walk on Thursday, June 26, 2008 and Staff anticipates a large turnout, which will make for a better bidding climate. He said that bids are scheduled to be opened on July 10, 2008, followed by approval of plans and specifications on July 14, 2008, and if all goes well, construction will begin on August 1, 2008.

Castro Valley Library/Park Renovation Mr. Lepore also reported on design of the new Castro Valley Library, which is 65% complete and includes the addition of a small, "postage-stamp" park, with a play area that will provide an outdoor learning center.

EBMUD Property Additionally, Mr. Lepore reported that East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) removed the 24-acre property in Castro Valley from the market and it is uncertain how long the property will be kept off the market. In response to Committee questions, Mr. Lepore stated that there is currently no public access to the property.

OTHER BUSINESS

EBRPD Measure AA Campaign Discussion was held on the Castro Valley Fall Festival scheduled for September 2008 and CVAC representation on behalf of the Measure AA extension campaign. Mr. Gouveia commented that following EBRPD's formal decision to place the Measure on the Ballot, members of the CVAC could not support the campaign as a Committee, but could do so as individual citizens. Vice Chairman Capron said that final report of EBRPD decision will be presented during the next meeting of the CVAC.

Eden Hospital Proposed Project Director Andrade suggested that with the renovation of Eden Hospital, there may be an opportunity for a joint-venture project such as a community center/exercise, therapy and recreation room and be included as part of the Healthy Living Initiative. He suggested that the Hospital be notified of the community's and HARD's interest in the project. Mr. Lepore stated that he would meet with HARD Staff to receive input on the best way to proceed with the suggested collaboration.

Willow Park Golf Course Brief discussion was held on the Willow Park Golf Course. Mr. Waespi commented that the lease for Willow Park will expire in five (5) to six (6) years and since the District has excellent experience in the golf industry, it may be an opportunity to purchase or lease the land and operate it as a golf facility. Mr. Gouveia stated that the golf industry is currently at a low, and the District would only consider the project if it promised to be a profitable golf operation.

At the request of the Committee, Mr. Lepore reported that Director Paul Hodges underwent surgery and is recovering well and attended the Burbank School Tour.

OTHER BUSINESS
(Continued)

For information of the Committee and HARD Staff, Ms. Loss reported that as of August 1, 2008, which is the California State budget deadline, the State will no longer be permitted to borrow funds from lenders due to the State's current

CA State
Budget Deficit
& Subsequent
Suspension
of Loans
To State

budget deficit. She urged that now would be the opportune time to submit funding requests to State before the deadline. She said that in meeting with Governor Schwarzenegger, he appeared to be completely entrenched with the budget crisis, with no projected fiscal relief in the near future. Ms. Loss stressed that the County of Alameda will also be suspending bridge loans and urged that California Legislators be contacted prior to the budget deadline. It was noted that the District borrows funds from the County of Alameda on an annual basis.

Comments –
Director
Andrade

Director Andrade commented that with the grim look of the State budget, it needs to be reorganized from “ground zero” and that the public is unaware of the true state of the budget.

Youth and
Recreation
Needs In
Castro Valley

Mr. Waespi briefly suggested that the Committee discuss youth and adult recreation needs within Castro Valley as well as physical fitness, and suggested that the Committee view the District’s website to see what’s offered in Castro Valley, noting that he would like to see a compost class offered.

**FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS**

Following discussion, Vice-Chairman Capron reviewed proposed agenda items for the next meeting of the CVAC, which included report on Subcommittee Site Visits (accompanied by Google Earth Technology), Review Committee Tasks and Accomplishments; Measure AA Final Report. Mr. Gouveia commented that as the CVAC is Ad Hoc, the Committee must begin thinking of forwarding any unfinished business to the District-wide Citizens Advisory Committee.

NEXT MEETING
7/23/08;
6:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Castro Valley Ad Hoc Advisory Committee is scheduled on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the H.A.R.D. Administrative Offices, 1099 ‘E’ Street, Hayward.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Vice-Chairman Capron declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.